



18th World Youth Teams Championships

Veldhoven, Netherlands • 31 July - 7 August 2023

DAILY BULLETIN

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CONGRATULATIONS!



UNDER 26
NETHERLANDS



UNDER 21
DENMARK



WOMEN UNDER 26
POLAND



UNDER 16
POLAND



UNDER 31
FRANCE

Congratulations to all those who have fulfilled their goals at these championships, whether that means winning a medal, finishing as well as or better than realistic expectations coming into the event, or even just having fun.

The Blue Riband event, the U26 Open Teams Championship was won by Netherlands, who defeated Singapore in the final by 157-88. Poland trailed Israel by 37 IMPs with a set to play in the play-off match, but came back to take the bronze medal by 93-87.

The new U16 World Team Champions are Poland, who defeated USA2 by 98-53 in the 42-board final (The remaining finals were played over 56 boards, and the play-offs over 42.). Meanwhile,



BAM

GREECE U26



U16 BAM

CHINA



BAM - FINAL B

USA2 U26W + JACOB

USA1 pipped Estonia for the bronze medal by a single IMP, 97-96, in the third-place play-off.

In the U21 Championship, the gold medallists are Denmark, who beat USA2 by 150-111. Israel defeated China by 160-104 in the bronze medal play-off.

The new U31 champions are France, who defeated Belgium in the final by 159-136. India won a very tight match to win the bronze medal, defeating China by 112-104.

The U26W champions are Poland, who defeated France in a tight final by 102-91. Norway won the bronze medal, beating Netherlands by 125-54. The match was decided in the first set, which Norway won by 68-2.

The winners of the Youth BAM Final A, were Greece U26, narrowly, from USA1 U21s, with Turkiye U26 in third place. USA2 U26W + JACOB won the Youth BAM B Final. The U16 BAM was won by China, from Hungary then Israel.

All award winners were presented with their awards at the prize-giving and closing ceremony on Monday evening.



JOAN GERARD - U26

Sibrand VAN OOSTEN



JOAN GERARD - U21

Nicolai HEIBERG-EVENSTAD



JOAN GERARD - WU26

Ella ROSTHOEJ



JOAN GERARD - U16

Costa Theodore BEN GUIGUI



JOAN GERARD - U31

Martin MAASIK

UNDER 26

Jaime Ortiz-Patiño Trophy



UNDER 26, 1st

NETHERLANDS

1

NETHERLANDS

Youp CARIS
 Pim DUPONT
 Oscar NIJSSEN
 Stefan THORPE
 Tim VAN DE PAVERD
 Sibrand VAN OOSTEN
 Agnes SNELLERS (captain)
 Wubbo DE BOER (coach)



UNDER 26, 2nd

SINGAPORE

2

SINGAPORE

Heng GAO
 Linus LEE
 Xue Heng TEO
 Timothy Jian Zhong WU
 Nuoyi XU
 Bryan YANG
 Jiening XU (captain)
 Shen Ting ANG (coach)



UNDER 26, 3rd

POLAND

3

POLAND

Jakub BAZYLUK
 Krzysztof CICHY
 Maciej KEDZIERSKI
 Tomasz KIELBASA
 Kacper KOPKA
 Blazej KRAWCZYK
 Marek MARKOWSKI (captain)



Finals - U26

M A I N	SINGAPORE	88
	NETHERLANDS	157
3 r d P L A C E	ISRAEL	87
	POLAND	93

UNDER 21 José Damiani Cup



UNDER 21, 1st

DENMARK



UNDER 21, 2nd

USA2



UNDER 21, 3rd

ISRAEL

1

DENMARK

Nikolaj HAMMELEV
Christian LAHRMANN
Andreas ROLF-LARSEN
Aron TYLVAD
Daniel TYLVAD
Nikolaj Alexander ZEEBERG
Jan JORGENSEN (captain)

2

USA2

Michael HAAS
Michael HU
Samuel PAHK
Rory XIAO
Jonathan YUE
Arthur ZHOU
Aaron SILVERSTEIN (captain)

3

ISRAEL

Or MANZUR
Ido MOSKOVITZ
Daniel MSIKA
Ofek SABBAH
Yonatan SLIWOWICZ
Snir ZUR
Danny LOONSTEIN (captain)

Finals - U21

M A I N	USA2	111
	DENMARK	150
3 r d P L A C E	ISRAEL	160
	CHINA	104



WOMEN UNDER 26

Gianarrigo Rona Trophy



1 POLAND

Milena GRYZLO
 Magdalena KAPALA
 EWA MORAWSKA
 Maria NIKLAUS
 Dominika OCYLOK
 Joanna ZALEWSKA
 Rafal MARKS (captain)

WOMEN UNDER 26, 1st

POLAND



2 FRANCE

Constance BELLOY
 Ninon BENS
 Eulalie BONIN
 Clara BOUTON
 Margaux KUREK BEAULIEU
 Wilhelmine SCHLUMBERGER
 Wilfried LIBBRECHT (captain)

WOMEN UNDER 26, 2nd

FRANCE



3 NORWAY

Kaja BREKKE
 Thea Hove HAUGE
 Thea Lucia INDREBO
 Agnethe Hansen KJENSLI
 Ida Marie OEBERG
 Sofie Grasholt SJODAL
 Sven Olai HOYLAND (captain)
 Kristian ELLINGSEN (coach)

WOMEN UNDER 26,

NORWAY

Finals - WOMEN UNDER 26

M A I N	POLAND	102
	FRANCE	91
3 rd P L A C E	NETHERLANDS	54
	NORWAY	125



UNDER 16 Koç University Trophy



1

POLAND

Aleks BUKAT
Szymon GRABALA
Kacper KISIELEWSKI
Milena KLIMIUK
Jan LUCZECZKO
Jakub MICHALSKI
Roland LIPPIK (captain)
Marcin KUFLOWSKI (coach)

UNDER 16, 1st

POLAND



2

USA2

Daniel BALOF
Jack BOGE
Claire CAO
Ethan DERMAN
Avery SILVERSTEIN
Jeffrey YIN
Kent MIGNOCCHI (captain)

UNDER 16, 2nd

USA2



3

USA1

Andrew CHEN
Charlie CHEN
Kayden GE
Eric XIAO
Jeff XIAO
Brian ZHANG
William WATSON (captain)

UNDER 16, 3rd

USA1

Finals - U16

M A I N	USA2	53
	POLAND	98
3 r d P L A C E	ESTONIA	96
	USA1	97



UNDER 31

Robert A. Howes Trophy



UNDER 31, 1st

FRANCE

1

FRANCE

Raphael BASLER
 Pierre BEDOUET
 Luc BELLIKAUD
 Colin DEHEEGER
 Melic DUFRENE
 Romaric GUTH
 Herve FLEURY (captain)



UNDER 31, 2nd

BELGIUM

2

BELGIUM

Sam BAHBOUT
 Dennis DE WIT
 Clovis DEHAYE
 Robert KHOMIAKOV
 Jens VAN OVERMEIRE
 Emiel VANDEWIELE
 Wouter VAN DEN HOVE (captain)
 Guy VAN MIDDELEM (coach)



UNDER 31, 3rd

INDIA

3

INDIA

Wrik CHAKRABORTY
 Swarnashish CHATTERJEE
 Pritam DAS
 Souvik KAR
 Sayantan KUSHARI
 Sagnik ROY
 Shibnath Dey SARKAR (captain, coach)



Finals - U31

M A I N	BELGIUM	136
	FRANCE	159

3 r d P L A C E	INDIA	112
	CHINA	104

YOUTH BAM



1st

GREECE U26

1

GREECE U26

Dimitrios KAPIRIS
 Filippos KRITSALIS
 Iasonas-iraklis PAPASPYROU
 Ioanna-Aikaterini POLLATOU
 Panagiotis SKORDAS
 Michail SOUMPLIS
 Marilena BOMPOLAKI (captain)
 Nikos DELIMPALTADAKIS (coach)



2nd

USA1 U21

2

USA1 U21

Arthur GONG
 Nathan GONG
 Harrison Anders LUBA
 Olivia SCHIRESON
 Michael XU
 Bo Han ZHU
 Roger LEE (captain)



3rd

TURKIYE U26

3

TURKIYE U26

Hamza COBAN
 Muhammed Furkan EKER
 Cem Barkin GULEZ
 Metecan KALAYCI
 Hakan KUSCU
 Tugrul Utku SARI
 Mehmet Isin KANDEMIR (captain)

RANKING

1	GREECE U26	62.56	13	NORWAY U21	49.52
2	USA1 U21	62.17	14	ENGLAND U26	49.41
3	TURKIYE U26	59.65	15	INDIA U26	47.78
4	ENGLAND U21	56.13	16	SWEDEN U26	45.48
5	TURKIYE U31	55.74	17	GERMANY U21	45.39
6	CROATIA U26	55.10	18	CHINESE TAIPEI U3	44.43
7	NETHERLANDS U21	55.00	19	CHINA U26	44.04
	ROMANIA U31	55.00	20	USA1 U26	42.22
9	ITALY U26	53.57	21	GERMANY U26	39.09
10	CANADA U21	51.87	22	JACK OF HEART	34.83
11	FRANCE U26	51.61	23	JAPAN U26	34.35
12	USA2 U26	51.30	24	BANANAS	29.26

YOUTH BAM U16



1 CHINA

Sirui CHEN
 Xuchen TANG
 Haoran WANG
 Haoxuan YU
 Zixuan YUAN
 Ziqi ZHANG
 Jichao HU (captain)
 Yinghao LIU (coach)

2 HUNGARY

Bernadett BIBORKA
 Mirko JUHASZ-MOLNAR
 Artur KOVACS
 Georgina SZABO
 Denes TOKES
 Zsofia ZABRADI
 Leo SZUCS (captain)
 Gergely KOVACS (coach)



3 ISRAEL

Eitan GISIN
 Itamar HERBST
 Yoav SHOR
 Hadasa VINEVICH
 Aviv Leonardo ZAIDENBERG GATT
 Sophie ZAIDENBERG GATT
 David HOCHMA (captain)



1st
 CHINA

2nd
 HUNGARY

3rd
 ISRAEL

RANKING

1	CHINA	121.80	9	CHINESE TAIPEI	103.80
2	HUNGARY	118.80		CZECH REPUBLIC	103.80
3	ISRAEL	118.40	11	GREECE	100.80
4	FRANCE	117.80	12	THAILAND	100.40
5	NORWAY	114.80	13	HONG KONG CHINA	99.80
6	ENGLAND	111.80	14	INDIA	96.10
7	TURKIYE	106.80	15	NETHERLANDS	76.80
8	DENMARK	105.60	16	CANADA	35.00

YOUTH BAM - FINAL B



1 USA2 U26W + JACOB

Cecilia EHRlichman
 Jacob FREEMAN
 Katherine HWANG
 Morgan JOHNSTONE
 Katie SULLIVAN
 Phuong Khanh TRAN NGUYEN
 Jessica UDOMSRIRUNGRUANG
 Michael SHUSTER captain

1st

USA2 U26W + JACOB

RANKING

1	USA2 U26W	42.00	10	ITALY W	32.00
2	AUS NZL 1	40.00	11	THAILAND U26W	31.20
	LATVIA U31 + NED	40.00	12	INDIA U21	30.00
4	SERBIA U31	38.80	13	1345	28.00
5	ENGLAND W	38.00		GERMANY U31	28.00
6	JAPAN AUS NZL	37.20	15	FRANCE U21	27.00
7	ARGENTINA U26	35.00	16	USA1 U31	23.00
8	CROATIA U31	33.00	17	CHINESE TAIPEI U2	22.00
9	CHINESE TAIPEI W	32.80	18	AUS NZL 2	18.00

THANK YOU!



Marc van Beijsterveldt



Jacques Beljaars

U31 Semi-final, Segment 4

Belgium v China

By Brian Senior

With 14 boards to go in the U31 semi-final match between Belgium and China, the score was 119-107 in favour of China. That had moved on to 125-108 when our first board hit the table.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Dehay</i>	<i>Jin</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>You</i>	<i>De Wit</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	1♥	All Pass

For China, Minghao You opted to treat the West hand as a balanced hand outside his NT range (11-13), so opened a potentially short club rather than 1♠.

Minghao Huang responded 1♦, transfer to hearts, and Emiel Vandewiele doubled to show diamonds. Redouble showed three-card heart support, and when Huang bid a simple 1♥ You left it there. Huang won the spade lead, cashed two top hearts, then played two more spades. The third round was ruffed, but he came to an overtrick for +110. However, 4♠ is a trivial make and You's choice of opening bid meant that the suit was never mentioned.

Sam Bahbout, for Belgium, opened 1NT, and Clovis Dehay used Stayman then jumped to 3NT, which ended the auction. Bahbout won the diamond lead,

unblocked the spades, and came back to hand with a diamond to cash the remaining spades. By the time he had finished doing that, the other three hands had discarded a heart, so there were three heart tricks and 10 in all for +430 and 8 IMPs to Belgium; 116-125.

China gained 4 IMPs on Board 18 for making and beating 1NT, stretching their lead to 129-116, but then Belgium moved a lot closer.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Dehay</i>	<i>Jin</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>You</i>	<i>De Wit</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

China via a pre-emptive jump raise, Belgium via a simple raise, both N/Ss bid comfortably to the spade game without giving away anything about declarer's side-suit distribution.

Dehay led the queen of hearts against Chenyu Zhu, who won dummy's ace and led a spade to the jack and queen. Zhu ruffed the heart continuation and played ace and another spade to Bahbout's king. Bahbout returned the queen of clubs. Zhu won the ace and played ace and another diamond, and lost to the two minor-suit kings; down one for -50.

Huang also led the queen of hearts but, having won the ace, Dennis De Wit took the diamond finesse at

trick two, the queen losing to the king. De Wit ruffed the heart return and played ace and another spade, You winning the ten and cashing the king before returning a third heart. But that wasn't good enough, because De Wit could ruff the heart and dummy's club loser went away on the fifth diamond; 10 tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to Belgium; 126-129.

You simply had to switch to a club upon winning the ten of spades. Cashing the ♠K gave up control of the hand to declarer.

The next two boards were flat, then:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bahbout	Zhu	Dehaye	Jin
–	–	2♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
You	De Wit	Huang	Vandewiele
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Dble
Rdbl	2♦	Dble	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Dehaye opened 2♥, weak with at least four-four in the majors, and Bahbout saw no reason to bid on. Dehaye won the diamond lead and played a heart, won the diamond continuation, pitching a spade, and drew trumps ending in dummy then ran the jack of clubs successfully. That resulted in 10 tricks for +170.

Huang did not have the weak opening in his bag so passed, and You opened 1♣. The 1♦ response showed hearts and the redouble three-card support. Huang showed extras by doubling 2♦ and, when he next competed with 3♥, You went on to game.

The same defence as in the other room would, of course, give the game a chance to make. Vandewiele led the queen of diamonds, won in dummy, and Huang played the ♥Q, which was ducked, followed by the ♥J. De Wit won that and played king and another

spade, and that was a quick one down for –100 and 7 IMPs to Belgium, who had taken the lead by 133-129 with six boards remaining.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bahbout	Zhu	Dehaye	Jin
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1NT	Dble
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♦	3♣
3♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
You	De Wit	Huang	Vandewiele
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1NT	Pass
2♣	Dble	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Neither N/S pair found the four-four spade fit, but that was OK as it was a partscore deal and they had a good fit elsewhere.



Dennis DE WIT



De Wit was allowed to play in 3♣ from the North seat. It takes a heart lead to beat this, but Huang chose a low trump, so De Wit could win in hand and lead his singleton diamond up. It didn't matter whether Huang won or ducked – either there would be a discard for a heart loser on the ♠K, or there would be no diamond loser. In practice, Huang played low, so the king won and De Wit next played a trump, coming to nine tricks for +110.

Zhu and Jin also reached 3♣, but Bahbout competed to 3♦ and that ended the auction. There were two aces and the king of diamonds to be lost, so 10 tricks for +130 and 6 IMPs to Belgium; 139-129.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Jin</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♥	5♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>You</i>	<i>De Wit</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>
Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
2♣	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Jin showed extra values via his redouble, then showed the diamond support, and that was enough to persuade Zhu to bid game. Alas, there were three unavoidable loser, so Zhu was down one for -50.

Huang doubled the opening bid, so Vandewiele started the South hand off with a redouble. De Wit introduced his second suit, Vandewiele showed his diamond support, and De Wit invited game. With so many soft values, queens and jacks, Vandewiele judged correctly not to go on to game. De Wit just lost the three top tricks in 4♦, so that was +130 and 5 IMPs to Belgium; 144-129.

China pulled back 7 IMPs over the next three boards, to close to 136-144. And so to the final deal, which

proved to be just what a trailing team would desire to give them a chance to steal the match at the last gasp.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Jin</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦(i)
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

(i) Hearts

West	North	East	South
<i>You</i>	<i>De Wit</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

There was the possibility to play slam in any denomination other than spades, with 12 tricks possible in any of 6♣, 6♥ or 6NT, but not in 6♦ due to the combination of five-one trumps and singleton club in the East hand.

As it turned out, Belgium closed the door on China by bidding to 6NT, where De Wit won the diamond lead with the ace and played ace of clubs followed by a club to the eight, and could set up a fourth club trick to go with the eight top tricks in the other suits; +1440. Banging out hearts from the top would also be successful when the suit was three-three, as at the table, or there was a doubleton honour.

The fact that Jin only invited slam and Zhu declined the invitation therefore became irrelevant. Plus 690 meant 13 IMPs to Belgium, who had won by 157-136 and were in the final of Youth World Championship for, I believe, the first time. In that final they would face France, who had defeated India in the second semi-final by 116-91.

U26 Semi-finals, Segment 4

Singapore v Poland Netherlands v Israel

By Jos Jacobs

With only the final 14 boards to be played, both Poland and the Netherlands were enjoying a lead. Poland were 18 IMPs up and the Netherlands even 19 IMPs. These margins were by no means big enough to guarantee either team a berth in the final.

Already on the first board of the set, things started to happen in both matches. In the Singapore v Poland match, both teams reached 3NT by East. At both tables, South led a heart.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

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

In the Open Room, Kielbasa for Poland overtook dummy's ten with the jack and immediately played a club to the jack. He went on to cash the remaining clubs and then played the ♠AK, hoping to drop the queen, before falling back on the diamond finesse. This line looks OK but it did not work for him when North produced the ♦K and returned a heart. Down two for Singapore +100.

Closed Room

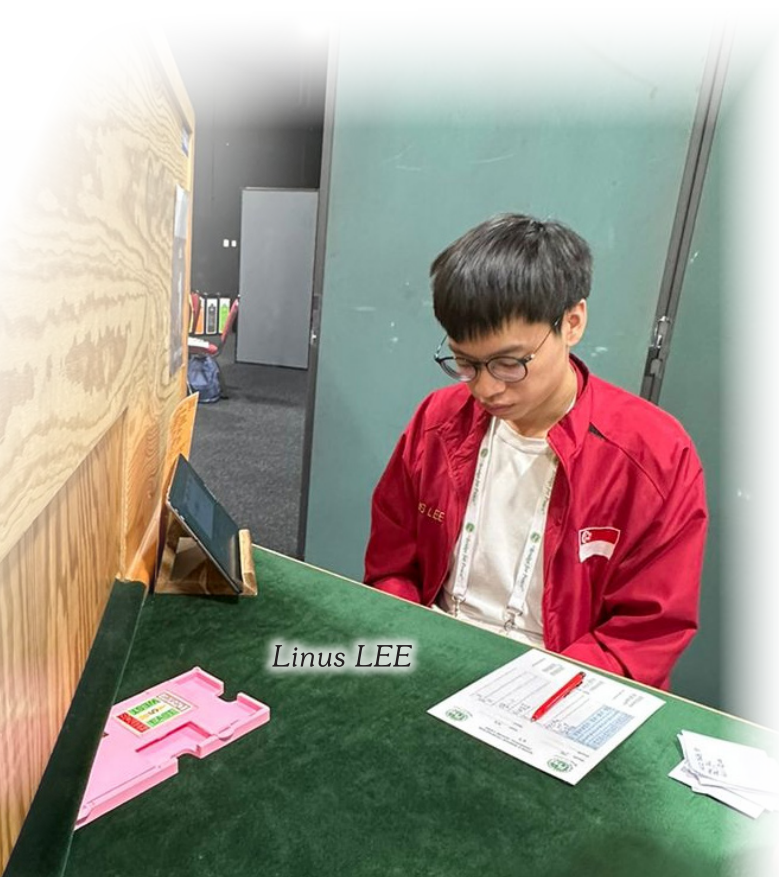
West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Kopka</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the other room, dummy's ♥10 was allowed to win the first trick. Declarer then cashed the ♣A and crossed to the ♠K to take a winning club finesse. He next cashed the remaining clubs, ending in his hand, and played a spade to the jack. Both defenders had discarded a diamond on the last club, South's discard in fact had been the ♦J. Against this defence, the spade finesse looks the logical line. Anyway, when the ♠J held the trick, declare had nine tricks for +400 and an immediate swing of 11 IMPs to Singapore. The Polish lead had gone down to 7.

In the Netherlands v. Israel match, the Israelis produced an interesting auction.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>V.d. Paverd</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Dble	2♥	Pass	3♥
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		





East was looking at a flat distribution and did not want to get past 3NT so he introduced his three-card spade suit and could only hope for the best. His hopes were fulfilled when South led a top heart and shifted to the $\diamond J$. Dummy's queen was taken by North's king but, when North returned a diamond rather than a heart, South could ruff, but that also marked the end of the defence. Forcing the dummy would probably have beaten the contract but how could N/S know that East had introduced a three-card suit? Israel +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Toledano</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Zamir</i>
–	–	–	1♥
Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the other room, the Dutch reached 3NT and declarer played the same way as his Polish counterpart in the other match: $\spadesuit AK$ and diamond finesse. Down two here as well for another +100 and 11 IMPs to Israel. The Dutch lead had gone down to 8.

Poland had recouped 5 IMPs on the next three boards when the board shown below arrived.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bazyluk</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Kielbasa</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Tiredness was beginning to play a part, it looked to me when I saw this defensive mistake. Declarer should lose a club and a diamond and also two trump tricks because he cannot cross to South to play a trump through West at any time. However, declarer won

East's $\heartsuit Q$ lead with dummy's ace and played the $\spadesuit 9$, covered by ten, jack and queen. East returned a heart, ruffed by declarer who, still unable to get to dummy, of course, next played $\spadesuit A$ and a spade. West then returned the $\clubsuit Q$ but declarer took the ace and played $\diamond A$ and another. East won the king and, rather than cashing a club as the setting trick, he continued yet another heart for declarer to ruff with his last trump. Suddenly, declarer had made his contract because dummy's losing club now went on the 5th diamond; Singapore a shock +590.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Kopka</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, declarer also won the heart lead but he went on to play $\spadesuit A$ and another. West won the $\spadesuit 10$ and returned a heart on which declarer shed his losing club, thus accepting defeat when the diamond finesse did not work later on. That gave Singapore another +50 and 12 IMPs to them to level the scores.

A series of quiet, unspectacular boards was to follow, at least it looked that way in the Singapore v Poland match. In the other semi-final, this was not the case. Take for instance this board:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>V.d. Paverd</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♥	3♦	All Pass	

In the Open Room, the Israeli E/W came close to the par result when they decided to defend 3♦. Three Hearts for +140 would have been their own maximum but a double would have netted +300 rather than the +100 they got now when the contract went two down.

In the other room, the support double helped the Dutch to a good denomination.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Toledano	Van Oosten	Zamir
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)	2♦
Dble	3♦	4♥	All Pass

Yes, playing in hearts is OK for E/W but, as you can see, there are four top losers: three spades and the inevitable ace of trumps. Declarer won the ♠Q lead in dummy and played trumps. North won the second round and duly continued a spade. Apparently his choice of the ♠9 confused South. Declarer played the ♠10 on the nine and South won the jack and continued...another diamond. Declarer won dummy's king and seized his now legitimate chance: he ran the ♣J. When this held, he was home. Netherlands +620 and 11 IMPs to them. Suddenly, the Dutch were looking at a lead of 26 IMPs with six to play.

Two boards later, the Israelis once again increased the tension.

Board: 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	V.d. Paverd	Zeitak	Nijssen
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Dble	3♦
All Pass			

The Dutch reached a solid partscore for +130 in the Open Room.

In the replay, the Israelis had other ideas:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Toledano	Van Oosten	Zamir
Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
1NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♣	Dble	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Diamonds were never bid and East led the ♣A and another. Declarer won and played a trump. East ducked the first round, thus giving up the last chance to lead a diamond and prepare a ruff for his partner. As I suggested above, how could he possibly know? From here, declarer could not lose more than the ♠AK and thus made his contract for a score of +420 and 7 IMPs to Israel, who were only 21 down now with four to go. It still was not over yet.

On Board 25, Israel got another 4 IMPs back but, on the remaining three boards, they managed just one overtrick somewhere. The final score thus became 115-99 to Netherlands.

Talking about overtricks, Poland had taken the lead by 1 IMP with only the last two boards to play. This was the first.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 8 3	♠ Q 8 3
♥ A Q 5	♥ A Q 5
♦ Q 10 8 7 5 3	♦ Q 10 8 7 5 3
♣ 6	♣ 6

At both tables, E/W were in 4♥ after N/S had competed in diamonds.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bazyluk	Teo	Kielbasa	Wu
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	3♦	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room, West was the declarer and North led a spade to the queen and declarer's ace. Over to the $\diamond A$ and a heart up. When South played low, declarer went up with the king, in view of South's opening bid. This way, he lost two trump tricks, so Poland +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Cichy	Yang	Kopka
-	-	-	1 \diamond
Dble	4 \diamond	4 \heartsuit	5 \diamond
Pass	Pass	5 \heartsuit	All Pass

At the other table, East was the declarer and South led his club to North's king and declarer's ace. Declarer continued a low trump, inserting dummy's six when South also played low. This way, he made an overtrick for +480 and the 1 IMP needed to level the scores with one board to play; 102-102. Would we get a tied match and if so, how would the tie be broken?

Here is the last board.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

\spadesuit A 5 2		\spadesuit Q 7 6 4									
\heartsuit 4		\heartsuit Q 8 7									
\diamond K J 9 5		\diamond 10 6 4 3 2									
\clubsuit K 10 9 8 2		\clubsuit J									
\spadesuit J 10 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										
\heartsuit J 6 2											
\diamond 8											
\clubsuit Q 7 6 5 3											
\spadesuit K 9											
\heartsuit A K 10 9 5 3											
\diamond A Q 7											
\clubsuit A 4											

Bryan YANG

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bazyluk	Teo	Kielbasa	Wu
Pass	1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \diamond (\heartsuit)
Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \diamond (GF)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 \clubsuit
Pass	5 \clubsuit	Pass	6 \clubsuit
All Pass			

The Singaporeans did not produce an ideal sequence and thus reached 6 \clubsuit on a hand where 6NT is the top spot. This slight mistake might have been crucial in view of the state of the match. The club slam made when the clubs behaved. In fact, declarer could play as if he were in 6NT but scored only +1370.

So it was up to the Poles to get to 6NT and here is their sequence.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	Cichy	Yang	Kopka
Pass	1 \diamond	Pass	1 \heartsuit
Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass	2 \spadesuit
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 \heartsuit
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 \diamond
Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass	6 \diamond
All Pass			

Due to the system, it was not clear which of North's minors was the longer. South thought he had settled for a 5-3 fit but when this turned out to be only a 4-3 fit, the diamond slam failed on the 5-1 trump break. So no tie-break was necessary because Singapore had won the match by the 17 IMPs gained on this deal; 119-102. They would have to face the hosts on Monday.

Krzysztof CICHY

U31 Final Set One

Belgium v France

By Brian Senior

We are used to seeing French teams in world finals, but this was a first for Belgium. Would their dream continue, or would they be brought back down to earth with a bump?

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Khomiakov</i>	<i>Guth</i>	<i>VOvermiere</i>
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	3♠	4♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Deheeger</i>
-	-	-	1♥
1♠	3♠	4♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

Both Norths showed their spade shortage and heart support and both later were prepared to take the push to 5♥ over 4♠ as a two-way shot in case either contract was making. Five Hearts was doubled by one or other of East and West at both tables.

Both Easts had bid an intelligent 4♦ rather than an immediate 4♠, and that paid off now as the respective Wests both kicked off with the ten of diamonds. Now, duck or win, with the contract on the line?

For France, Colin Deheeger feared a singleton lead so won the first diamond, which left defensive communications open so that he lost two diamond

tricks after Sam Bahbout won the ace of clubs; down one for -100.

Jens Van Overmiere, for Belgium, ducked the diamond, won the continuation, and after drawing trumps could knock out the ace of clubs and there was no way for the defence to get at their second diamond trick; just made for +650 and 13 IMPs to Belgium.

A couple of smaller swings meant that Belgium led by 22-1 after four boards, but then France took over.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Khomiakov</i>	<i>Guth</i>	<i>VOvermiere</i>
-	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	7NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Deheeger</i>
-	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

There is no detail on their convention card, but the Bedouet/Deheeger auction looks like a Kokish sequence which was completed by North's 3♦, showing hearts and diamonds. Four Spades was presumably asking, with the 5♦ follow-up asking for the queen of trumps. There was nothing to the play of 6♥, and Pierre Bedouet soon chalked up 12 tricks for +1430.



The Belgian auction could also be taken for Kokish at first glance but, in fact, 2♣ was either a weak two in diamonds or most game-forcing hands, 2♦ was to play facing the weak variety, and 2♥ showed the strong type with four-plus hearts and a second suit. I don't have an explanation for the subsequent auction but, even without the benefit of hindsight, I don't like it. I'm not sure why a jump to 3NT was right with the North cards, and we can all see that the next jump – 7NT by South – was a disaster. Romaric Guth doubled then cashed his ace, and that was down one for –200 and 17 IMPs to France.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Khomiakov</i>	<i>Guth</i>	<i>V Overmiere</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Deheeger</i>
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Van Overmiere opened 1NT then broke the transfer to hearts. Three Diamonds looks like a retransfer but, after that, I'm afraid you are on your own. The outcome was a second consecutive slam disaster for Overmiere/Khomiakov, 6♥ being two down for –100 as there were two trumps and the ♦A to be lost.

In the other room, there was no transfer break, so Bedouet could show his second suit but then quietly raised Deheeger's 3♥ to game, concluding the auction. There were the same three loser so +420 and another 11 IMPs to France, who had the lead at 29-22.

France gained an overtrick IMP on Board 7 then, unbelievably, the Belgian N/S were down in another poor slam on Board 8.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Khomiakov</i>	<i>Guth</i>	<i>V Overmiere</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT	2♥
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Deheeger</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT	2♥
Dble	2♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Deheeger cuebid to show a spades/minor two-suiter, and Bahbout contented himself with a double rather than actually rebid his long heart suit. Bedouet competed gently with 2♠ then signed off in game when Deheeger showed a powerful hand by jumping in his second suit. Facing a free bid, albeit only of 2♠, Deheeger did quite well not to go on over 4♠. Bedouet discarded on the jack of hearts lead, so lost the ace of hearts and two trumps; just making +420.

After the same first round to the auction, Bellicaud bid 3♥ where Bahbout had doubled, and Khomiakov competed with 3♠. He signed off in 4♠ over Van Overmiere's heart cuebid, but the damage had been done by that free bid at the three level, and Van Overmiere went on to slam. After all, as little as queen to three spades would give at least some play for the slam. Once again, the opening lead was the jack of hearts. In slam, Khomiakov had to ruff the heart. He crossed to the queen of diamonds and led a spade to the jack. That lost to the ace and a diamond came back, so Khomiakov won and paid down the king of spades, praying for the queen to drop. It didn't, so the slam was down one for –50 and another 10 IMPs to France.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Khomiakov</i>	<i>Guth</i>	<i>V Overmiere</i>
–	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Deheeger</i>
–	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Both Norths opened with a gambling 3NT, long solid suit with little outside.

Van Overmiere took it out into 4♣, pass or correct, and Bellicaud waited until his opponents had unwound before doubling for take-out. Four Hearts can be made on the E/W cards but, with such an uninspiring eight-count, Guth chose to play for a penalty – there was no guarantee that Bellicaud would have four or more hearts. Guth cashed the ace of hearts and, on sight of dummy, switched to a spade. Bellicaud won the ace and switched back to hearts, leading the queen to dummy's king. Khomiakov came to hand with a diamond to lead a club to the king, ducked by Bellicaud. Khomiakov cashed all the rest of the trumps, but had to concede the last two tricks to the ace of clubs and king of spades, for down one and –100.

Sam BAHBOUT



Deheeger passed his partner's 3NT opening and stuck it out when Bahbout doubled. Dehaye followed the time-honoured approach of leading his ace to take a look at dummy, and it was then easy to switch to a spade; down one for –100 and no swing.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Khomiakov</i>	<i>Guth</i>	<i>V Overmiere</i>
–	3♣	Pass	3NT
Dble	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Bedouet</i>	<i>Dehaye</i>	<i>Deheeger</i>
–	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Khomiakov opened 3♣ as dealer and Van Overmiere responded 3NT – it might make if clubs were running, while if not maybe it would talk E/W out of a major-suit game. Bellicaud doubled, Guth cuebid 4♣ in response to ask his partner to pick a suit, and Bellicaud's pick of 4♠ suited Guth very well. Khomiakov led the ten of hearts, which Bellicaud won in dummy to lead the ten of spades. Van Overmiere rose with the ace and returned a heart, hoping that his partner could ruff, but in practice this merely cost the overtrick, as Khomiakov was not ruffing and declarer's club loser eventually went away on the long hearts; 11 tricks for +650.

Bedouet also opened 3♣ but Deheeger passed and Bahbout overcalled 3♠. Dehaye cuebid 4♣ to show a hand too good to just raise to 4♠, and now Deheeger saved in 5♣, which Bahbout doubled on his essentially strong balanced hand. Dehaye led the king followed by a low heart, which Bahbout won with the ace then switched to the king of spades. Bedouet could win that and draw trumps, but there was a slow diamond loser and the contract was down one for –200. However, that was worth 10 IMPs to France, who closed out the first set ahead by 56-23 IMPs.

U21 Final Set, Segment 2

Denmark v USA2

By Brian Senior

Set One of the U21 final saw just one double-figure swing to each team as Denmark eked out a modest 27-20 IMP lead. Set Two was rather different, with seven of the 14 deals resulting in double-figure swings – and here they are..

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Hu</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Haas</i>	<i>A. Tylvad</i>	<i>Pahk</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
–	–	–	1NT
Dble	4♠	All Pass	

For USA2, Michael Hu opened 1♣ and rebid 3♦, mini-splinter, over Arthur Zhou's 1♠ response. Zhou jumped to game, against which Christian Lahrmann led the jack of hearts and continued with a second heart when that scored. Zhou ruffed, played a diamond to the bare ace, and a low spade to the queen and king. Back came a low club, but Zhou got that right, calling for the king. He played a low spade to his jack, and the even trump split meant that he could ruff out the diamonds and get back to cash them; 11 tricks for +650.

At the other table, Nikolaj Hammelev opened an off-centre 1NT and Michael Haas doubled, presumably showing a four-card major and longer minor. Aron Tylvad jumped to 4♠ on the North cards, and that silenced everyone. Pahk too led the jack of hearts, but

he switched to a low club at trick two and Tylvad got it wrong, putting in the jack. Tylvad ruffed the ♣Q and led a diamond to the ace followed by a low spade to the queen and king. Back came a spade and, to succeed, declarer had to win in hand and start ruffing diamonds. But Tylvad won dummy's ace, ruffed a club, then ruffed a diamond. But his next club ruff was with his last trump so, having set up the diamonds with a second ruff, he had no way back to cash them, and was no fewer than three down for –300 and 14 IMPs to USA2.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Hu</i>
<i>Haas</i>	<i>A. Tylvad</i>	<i>Pahk</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Identical auctions saw the two Souths at the helm in a thin 3NT.

Daniel Tylvad led the nine of spades to the seven, six and ten. Hu played the jack of hearts, which was ducked, so took the diamond finesse and, when the queen scored, went back to hearts. Lahrmann won the ace of hearts and returned the ten of clubs, on which Hu played the jack, which held the trick. He now had nine tricks had he cashed them, but instead he returned a low club. Lahrmann won that and cashed the ace of clubs before exiting with the nine of diamonds to the ten and ace. Hu could cash the hearts, but then had to concede the last two tricks to Tylvad so was down one for –50.

Haas led his singleton two of clubs, Pahk winning the ace and continuing with a low club. Hammelev put

in the jack and next played the jack of hearts, which held the trick, followed by the jack of diamonds to the king and ace. Hammelev cleared the hearts, and Pahk returned a spade. Hammelev put in the queen, cashed the ♠A and ♣K, and crossed to the queen of diamonds to cash heart winners, making 10 tricks for +430 and 10 IMPs to Denmark.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Hu</i>
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Haas</i>	<i>A. Tylvad</i>	<i>Pahk</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♥	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Lahrmann bid out his shape nicely and had Tylvad had nothing more to say over 4♥, so that was where he played. Zhou led the jack of clubs against 4♥, declarer ruffing to lead a heart to his king and Zhou's ace. Zhou returned a club for Hu to ruff, and Hu returned the king of spades. Zhou ruffed that, gave Hu a second club ruff, and that was a quick one down for -50.

Samuel Phk opted to support hearts at his second turn and then was tempted to bid on over Haas's sign-off in game. Haas signed off again, but 5♥ looked dangerously high. What do I know? Tylvad led the queen of diamonds, and Haas won the ace and led a heart to the king and ace. Back came the two of diamonds, so he won the king and ruffed a diamond low. That passed off peacefully, so Haas ruffed his low club, led a heart to the ten and, when that held the trick, cashed the ♥Q and crossed to the ace of spades to cash the established diamonds; 12 tricks for +480

and 11 IMPs to USA1.

With the running score at 53-38 in favour of USA2, we come to the last four deals.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Hu</i>
-	1♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Haas</i>	<i>A. Tylvad</i>	<i>Pahk</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
-	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Hammelev responded 2♥ but quickly signed off in game over Tylvad's splinter. After a spade lead he had 12 tricks for +480, winning the spade, drawing trumps, and only then being prepared to risk a second round of spades. He had two spade winners for diamond discards, but had to concede one club at the end.



Arthur ZHOU



Hu responded 3♥, natural and invitational, and Zhou just closed his eyes and punted 6♥, giving Tylvad a blind opening lead. Tylvad chose the obvious – the ace of clubs. Hu ruffed and played three rounds of spades, ruffing high. When that brought in the suit thanks to the even break, Hu could draw the missing trump and discard both his diamonds on the spades, then ruff a diamond to hand and take the ruffing club finesse; 13 tricks for +1010 and 11 IMPs to USA2.

hearts then cashed the ace and king of spades before leading the ten of clubs to the ace and ruff. He drew the outstanding trump then discarded his diamonds on the hearts, and just conceded two clubs at the end, so 10 tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs to Denmark.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Hu</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Haas</i>	<i>A. Tylvad</i>	<i>Pahk</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Dble	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Pahk came into his opponents' auction with a take-out double to show hearts and clubs, while Lahrmann stayed silent, but it made no difference, as both Norths were soon declaring 4♠.

Lahrmann led the singleton queen of diamonds and, when that was allowed to hold the trick, switched to a heart. Zhou won the bare queen and played the queen of spades and a spade to the jack, then took two diamond discards on the ace and king of hearts. Next he ruffed a diamond then led a low club towards the bare jack. But Tylvad won that and returned the ten of spades, and declarer was left with two diamonds and a heart to be lost at the end for down two and –200.

Pahk too led the singleton diamond, but he switched to a low club at trick two, looking for a quick kill. This was not a success. The two of clubs went to the jack, queen and king, and Tylvad cashed the queen of

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Hu</i>
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣
4♣	5♣	5♥	Dble
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
6♦	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Haas</i>	<i>A. Tylvad</i>	<i>Pahk</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
–	–	–	1♣
Dble	1♥	Pass	1NT
2♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	All Pass



Michael HU

On this wild board the third spade is an entry to dummy to take the diamond finesse. Obviously, that doesn't work when diamonds are trumps so, sadly, 6♦ doubled had to go one down for -100, while 5♠ made an overtrick for +480 and 11 IMPs to USA2.

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tylvad</i>	<i>Zhou</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Hu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♠
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Haas</i>	<i>A. Tylvad</i>	<i>Pahk</i>	<i>Hammelev</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Christian LAHRMANN



Tylvad opened a multi 2♦ and Hammelev asked him to transfer to his suit so that Hammelev could be declarer. However, when the Danes had settled in their spade game, Pahk added a penalty double, to complete the auction. Haas led a trump against 4♠ doubled, Hammelev ducking to Pahk's king. Pahk switched to his club, which went to the king and ace, and Haas played back the three of clubs for his partner to ruff. Correctly reading that as being suit-preference for diamonds, Pahk returned that suit and Hammelev played low, losing to the king. Another club back saw Pahk get a second ruff, though these ruffs were, of course, with natural trump tricks. The contract was down two for -500.

Zhou did not open the North hand, not believing in doing so with empty ace-high suits. When Lahrmann opened 1♠ in third seat, Zhou must have been well pleased with his own silence. Hu made a Michaels Cuebid and Zhou responded 3♣, pass or correct, and played there. Lahrmann led the king of spades against 3♣, Zhou winning and immediately playing three rounds of hearts, ruffing the third round. Next, a diamond to dummy allowed him to take a second heart ruff, establishing the fifth heart in the dummy. Zhou led his last club next and ran it, losing to Tylvad's jack. Tylvad cashed the king of diamonds then played his remaining spade, but dummy ruffed that and played on trumps and, in the ending, Tylvad had to either allow dummy's long heart to be cashed, or give a trick to the ♦Q. All that came to 10 tricks for +130 and 12 IMPs to USA2.

A wild set had gone 67-24 in favour of USA2 and, at the midpoint in the match, they led by 87-51.

Daniel TYLVAD



U26 Final, Segment 1

Singapore v Netherlands

By Jos Jacobs

On the opening board of the final, Singapore scored an overtrick in a routine 3NT to immediately take the lead: 1-0.

The next board was a little more substantial.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

In the Open Room, East could open a mini 1NT (10-13) as dealer. West bid 2♠ to play, and only then it was North's turn.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Caris	Lee	Dupont	Yang
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

His more standard 1NT opening bid being taken away, he could hardly do anything else but double. With South holding the poorest hand of the four, N/S landed in a miserable 4-3 fit and were lucky that trumps were 3-3, the likely reason they escaped the penalty double. Still, two down brought the Dutch +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	V.d. Paverd	Wu	Nijssen
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♥(♠)	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

At the other table, East found a light opening bid, but here West had an invitational 2♣ at his disposal, a transfer to 2♦. After West's 2♠, North knew that the hand belonged to the opponents and thus he passed. The contract went one down when South led the ♥ J, ducked to declarer's king. Later on, South got his heart ruff; Netherlands another +50 and 6 IMPs. This way, the lead changed hands immediately.

On the next board,

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Caris	Lee	Dupont	Yang
–	–	–	1♥
1♠	3♠	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

Helped by partner's double (don't lead spades), Youp Caris found the good lead of the ♦ 10, giving declarer a big problem. Should he play West for a singleton or not? When he called for dummy's ace, he was quickly one down because West had a diamond left upon winning a trick with his ♣ A; Netherlands +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	V.d. Paverd	Wu	Nijssen
–	–	–	1♥
1♠	3♠	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

No double so West had no special reason to lead anything but a spade. With the diamonds intact, declarer could ruff the spade lead in dummy, draw trumps, and

concede a trick to the ♣A before discarding his losing diamonds on the clubs. Netherlands another +480 and 11 IMPs more to them.

Board 5. Dealer North. Ns Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Caris</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Dupont</i>	<i>Yang</i>
–	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The Singaporean approach of rebidding 2NT with a six-card suit and any distribution did not work out well here when North rebid 3NT over partner's 3♥ – an ambiguous bid as to South's strength. Twelve easy tricks, Singapore +680.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>V.d. Paverd</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
–	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

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The Dutch showed a more natural approach. South's 2NT established the heart fit and North's repeated spade bids not only showed the void but were also intended to extract any club cuebids from partner, if possible. No success in this respect, so it came to rest in 6♥ for +1430 and 13 more IMPs to Netherlands.

A few boards later, modern bidding technique caused an unusual problem.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

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

Once South could open 1NT, the Singaporeans were out of trouble. There was one overtrick, so Singapore +450.

In the Closed Room, the 1NT opening was not possible because of the agreed NT ranges.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Teo</i>	<i>V.d. Paverd</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

The combination of a 1♣ opening bid and the 2NT rebid on any 4-3-3-3 obstructed the view on the size of N/S's heart fit. When West led the ♥J, the club game was quickly down two. Singapore another +100 and 11 IMPs back to them.

The match progressed quietly until the penultimate



board the, for the superstitious, always tricky Board 13.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Caris	Lee	Dupont	Yang
–	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

When South passed partner's pre-empt, the Dutch E/W had a free ride to wherever. When South opted to defend rather than sacrifice, the Dutch registered an easy enough +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	V.d. Pavverd	Wu	Nijssen
–	4♣	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

At the other table, North started negotiations one level higher so the Dutch found the sacrifice before E/W had said a mumbling word. Defending against this sort of contract, however, is an art in itself, as we shall see.

East led the obvious ♥K on which West contributed the seven. He switched to the ♠10, taken by dummy's ace, East playing the ♠3. Trumps were drawn and declarer's next move was to advance the ♦10. East covered with the king but declarer ducked in dummy, so East had to find out which suit to lead next. When he chose another spade, declarer ruffed and established the diamonds to get rid of his remaining heart loser for another +750 to Netherlands. This way, an already secured gain of 9 IMPs was transformed into an even bigger gain of 16 IMPs.

After the first quarter, the Dutch were thus leading 49-23.

U26 Final, Segment 2

Singapore v Netherlands

By Jos Jacobs

The first board of the second set was a push in 4♠, made with an overtrick for N/S, but on the next board the Singaporean declarer played a little carelessly, I think. Tired after a week's play? We will never know.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Wu</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the normal contract of 3NT, West's ♠4 lead went to the king and ace and the ♥J came next. When this held the trick, declarer tried the ♦J, covered by king and ace. Dummy's continuation of the ♥K was taken by East's ace and the ♠6 came back. Rather than playing low, declarer went up with his ♠Q. He went on to duck a diamond to East. This enabled East to cash the ♣A and play another spade, letting partner score two more tricks in the suit for one down and Netherlands +50

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>V.d. Paverd</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The same lead against the same contract at the other table, too. Here, declarer overtook his ♥J with dummy's king which held the trick. The ♥Q came next, but now East took the ace and returned a spade. Declarer played low so West's ♠8 won the trick. West was sort of endplayed at this point, with any return helpful for declarer. When West chose a low diamond, declarer ran it to his jack and immediately repeated the diamond finesse. With the clubs also well placed for him, he finally emerged with an overtrick. Netherlands +430 and 10 IMPs to extend their lead to 36. Not quite the start Singapore wanted...

There was little in the next five boards but then, a slam came by:

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Teo</i>	<i>Van Oosten</i>	<i>Wu</i>
–	–	1♥	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Dble	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

South's 3♠ identified the second suit of South's Michaels cuebid as diamonds. West did not believe in the chances of the final contract, holding an ace and a partner who could open the bidding, but it turned out that the stripe-tail ape variety was with us again. One overtrick, Singapore +650.

As we saw, there was no way to keep declarer away from making 12 tricks, so why not bid it as well?



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	V.d. Paverd	Yang	Nijssen
–	–	1♥	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Nijssen could show exactly this two-suiter with his 2♥ so South could start cuebidding immediately. I gathered they were not on 100% firm ground during the auction but the outcome was quite satisfactory. Six Diamonds made for +920 and 7 IMPs to Netherlands.

Cautious bidding cost Singapore a vulnerable game on the next board.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Teo	Van Oosten	Wu
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

I can see the problem for North here. Not really a suitable hand for a 1NT response but not strong enough for any forcing diamond bid. There were four overtricks, so Singapore +210.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	V.d. Paverd	Yang	Nijssen
–	–	–	1♥
Pass	3♦!	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Dutch North had a simple solution available, 3♦ as natural and invitational. South was looking at the ideal hand to convert to game. Ten tricks on a spade lead; Netherlands +630 and 9 more IMPs to them. They had scored 29 unanswered IMPs in this

set to lead by 55.

Two more quiet boards and then the apotheosis of the round: three big swing boards in succession. Here is the first:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Teo	Van Oosten	Wu
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	1NT	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East duly led the ♦Q in reaction to partner's double but the only other defensive trick was his ♣A. Two diamond losers would disappear on the ♥AK. That meant one overtrick, and Singapore +990. The defence could have saved the overtrick by overtaking the ♦Q and giving East a ruff but no more than that.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	V.d. Paverd	Yang	Nijssen
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	1NT	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Same contract and same lead at the other table. Declarer did not worry too much here and just made his contract. Netherlands +620 but 9 IMPs to Singapore, their first IMPs of the set.

Then, West was looking at a pointed 6-6.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Teo	Van Oosten	Wu
–	–	–	1♣
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Since 1♣ does not necessarily show a suit, 6♣ was out of reach for N/S once West immediately jumped to 4♠. That's why they doubled the opponents in 5♠ for another stripe-tail ape effect. One overtrick, Netherlands +750.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	V.d. Paverd	Yang	Nijssen
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

When West overcalled only 1♠ at his first turn, N/S got much more room to exchange information. In the end, West had to prefer a certain plus over a doubtful slam experiment. The contract was down two, so Singapore +300 but yet another 10 IMPs to Netherlands.

And the last board of the set:

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Teo	Van Oosten	Wu
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

South showed hearts by bidding 3♣ and North's 3♦ made it clear to N/S in which denominations they did NOT belong. South's jump to 4♠ was no good either, even less so when East expressed an opinion about it. Two down, Netherlands +500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lee	V.d. Paverd	Yang	Nijssen
Pass	Pass	2♦	Dble
3♦	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

The Dutch managed to find the only playable trump suit. They, too, became the victims of bad breaks, though the outcome of the board might have been different. West led a low diamond and had declarer called for dummy's ♦Q rather than the ten, he would probably have made the contract. As it was, he had to go one down for +100 to Singapore, but the board still gave the Dutch a 9-IMP gain. They had won the set 50-9 to lead 99-32 at half-time. It looked all over...

U26 Final, Segment 3


Singapore v Netherlands

By Jos Jacobs

Because Singapore were trailing by 67 IMPs at half-time, their best chance would be to get a few big swings as quickly as possible. Maybe, the boards also were in a swingy mood, which might be useful to them...

Well, the opening board already was a slam hand but, alas for them, it was mainly routine. Two boards later, however, something happened.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Lee	V.d. Paverd	Yang
–	–	–	1♠
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South found a Precision-style very light opening bid. West lacked the usually required double spade stopper but he overcalled 1NT nevertheless, thereby making the wrong hand declarer in 3NT. North led the ♠9 which ran to declarer's king. Double dummy, the contract still makes because ♥KJ are bare with South, but declarer played ♥A and ♥7 to South's king. When South returned a club, declarer played low from his hand and thus went two down when North, unexpectedly in view of South's opening bid, won the ♣K and played another spade through; Singapore a fine +200.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Teo	Caris	Wu	Dupont
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

At the other table, West opened 1NT and E/W then settled in 3NT in spite of their known 5-3 fit in hearts after West's 3♥ bid. North led a diamond and declarer easily made 10 tricks. Singapore another +630 and 13 IMPs to them.

Four flat boards came and went, and then, on Board 8, Singapore let a non-vulnerable game through for a 6-IMP loss.

On the next board, however, we were into double figures again.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Lee	V.d. Paverd	Yang
–	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Understandable or even automatic, South's raise to game, but not in the 21st century pre-empting style One down, Singapore +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Caris	Wu	Dupont
–	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♠
Dble	All Pass		

At the other table, South immediately made a cuebid over partner's pre-empt. East led the ♣K and only then it became clear that even 4♠ had no play. Down three, Singapore +500 and 10 IMPS more to them.

Next came:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nijssen	Lee	V.d. Paverd	Yang
–	–	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	1♠
3♣	4♠	Dble	All Pass

It must have been disappointing for East to find out that he could not defeat 4♠ even with a hand like this. Declarer's ♥109 proved useful cards. Singapore +790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	Caris	Wu	Dupont
–	–	1♦	Pass
Pass	1♠	3NT	4♠
5♦	5♠	Dble	All Pass

At the other table, E/W did well to take the sacrifice against 4♠. It became even better for them when North decided to bid one more. Dummy must have been a disappointment for North, even more so when the ♠K was with East...One down, Singapore another +200 and 14 IMPs. Suddenly, we seemed to have a match again.

One more IMP was scored on the four remaining boards, so the final segment would begin with the score at 106-74, a lead of 32 to the Netherlands.



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U26 Final, Segment 4

Singapore v Netherlands



By Jos Jacobs

The second board of the final segment definitely put the match out of reach for Singapore, one would think.

Board 16. Dealer: West. E/W Vul.

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



♠ A 9
 ♥ K 8
 ♦ A K J 6 3 2
 ♣ J 7 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Thorpe	Lee	Van Oosten	Yang
Pass	2♥	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North's 2♥ was just a weak two, not a Polish two-suiter. That's why South saw no reason to lead anything but a heart. Declarer took the ♥9 with his king and quickly ran for home; Netherlands +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Teo	V.d. Pavverd	Wu	Nijssen
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After this auction, North found a nice club lead. He knew that West, from his double, was holding hearts, so there would be no future in that suit. Well judged for one down, Netherlands another +100, and 12 IMPs to increase the lead to 44 with 12 to play. That should probably do and so it turned out as well.

Congratulations to The Netherlands for winning the U26 Youth World Championship for the third time!

