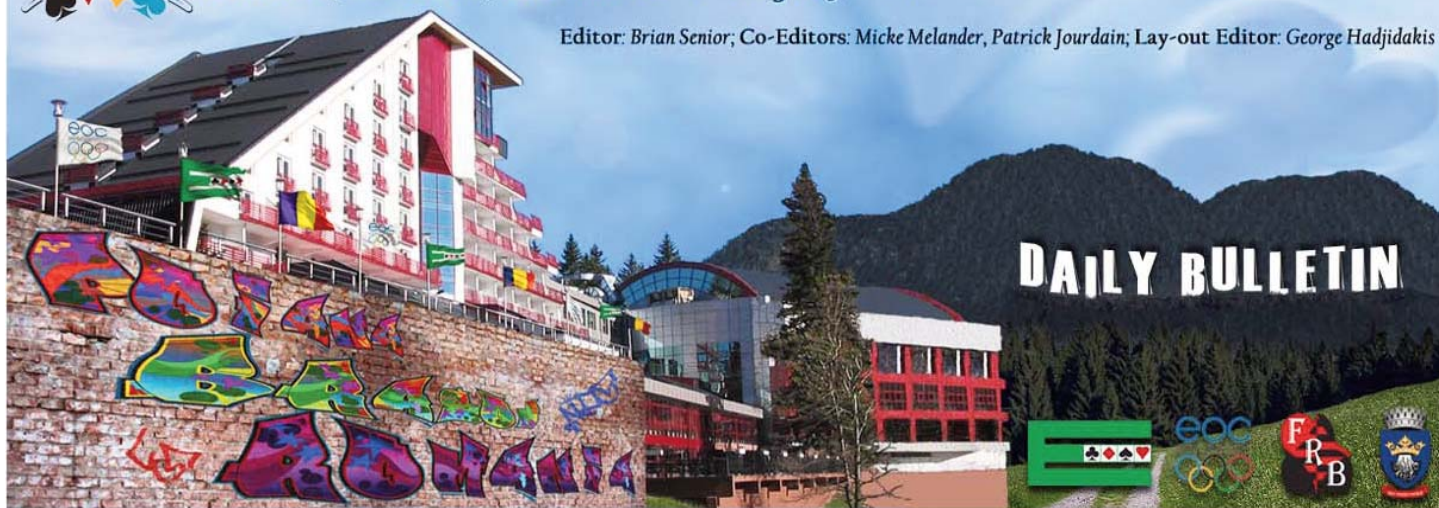


# 22<sup>nd</sup> EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



Poiana, Brasov, Romania 8-18 July 2009

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Issue No. 10

Saturday, 18 July 2009

## One Match To Go



Peles Castle

With one match to go Israel and Poland are separated by just 1 VP in the U-21 Championship. Both are streets clear of the rest of the field. The battle for the bronze medal and third and fourth qualifying spots for the World Championships is wide open. Germany are third on 193, followed by France 192, Norway 191, Hungary 190 and Sweden 184.

In the U-26 Championship, France leads Norway by 8 VPs, 411 to 403. Israel has 393 and these three will take the medals unless something remarkable happens as Italy are 20 VP behind with 373 in fourth. Germany has 367, Netherlands 358, Sweden 355 and Russia 354.5. One would imagine that only Germany has a serious chance of grabbing fourth spot.



### Today's Vugraph Matches (also on BBO)

10.00 England - France  
(Open U-26)

### Additional BBO Matches

10.00 Norway - Czech Republic  
(Open U-26)



## UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS



### RESULTS



### TODAY'S PROGRAM

#### ROUND 20

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	RUSSIA ISRAEL	52 - 55	13.5 - 15.5
2	HUNGARY AUSTRIA	26 - 41	12 - 18
3	ITALY BYE		18 - 0
4	NETHERLANDS ROMANIA	56 - 44	17 - 13
5	GERMANY LATVIA	39 - 36	16 - 14
6	BULGARIA ENGLAND	53 - 38	18 - 12
7	DENMARK POLAND	20 - 47	9 - 21
8	BELGIUM NORWAY	45 - 69	10 - 20
9	FRANCE SWEDEN	30 - 45	12 - 18
10	CROATIA TURKEY	19 - 69	5 - 25
11	CZECH REP. IRELAND	70 - 22	25 - 5
12	GREECE FINLAND	45 - 39	16 - 14

#### ROUND 23

1	ISRAEL	AUSTRIA
2	ITALY	NETHERLANDS
3	HUNGARY	GERMANY
4	RUSSIA	BULGARIA
5	ROMANIA	DENMARK
6	LATVIA	BELGIUM
7	ENGLAND	FRANCE
8	POLAND	CROATIA
9	NORWAY	CZECH REP.
10	SWEDEN	GREECE
11	TURKEY	FINLAND
12	IRELAND	BYE

#### ROUND 21

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL HUNGARY	67 - 25	24 - 6
2	AUSTRIA ITALY	30 - 51	11 - 19
3	RUSSIA NETHERLANDS	51 - 27	20 - 10
4	ROMANIA GERMANY	48 - 40	16 - 14
5	LATVIA BULGARIA	76 - 41	22 - 8
6	ENGLAND DENMARK	44 - 40	16 - 14
7	POLAND BELGIUM	48 - 23	20 - 10
8	NORWAY FRANCE	64 - 57	16 - 14
9	SWEDEN CROATIA	32 - 49	11 - 19
10	TURKEY CZECH REP.	34 - 57	10 - 20
11	IRELAND GREECE	19 - 85	2 - 25
12	FINLAND BYE		18 - 0

#### RANKING AFTER ROUND 22

1	FRANCE	411
2	NORWAY	403
3	ISRAEL	393
4	ITALY	373
5	GERMANY	367
6	NETHERLANDS	358
7	SWEDEN	355
8	RUSSIA	354.5
9	AUSTRIA	344
10	POLAND	343
11	ROMANIA	328
12	BULGARIA	327
13	CZECH REPUBLIC	326
	DENMARK	326
15	ENGLAND	320
16	GREECE	316
17	LATVIA	314
18	HUNGARY	308
19	CROATIA	301
20	TURKEY	293
21	FINLAND	288
22	BELGIUM	250
23	IRELAND	182

#### ROUND 22

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ITALY ISRAEL	21 - 80	4 - 25
2	AUSTRIA BYE		18 - 0
3	NETHERLANDS HUNGARY	26 - 37	13 - 17
4	GERMANY RUSSIA	44 - 46	15 - 15
5	BULGARIA ROMANIA	15 - 39	10 - 20
6	DENMARK LATVIA	31 - 70	7 - 23
7	BELGIUM ENGLAND	34 - 65	9 - 21
8	FRANCE POLAND	47 - 27	19 - 11
9	CROATIA NORWAY	15 - 49	8 - 22
10	CZECH REP. SWEDEN	37 - 39	15 - 15
11	GREECE TURKEY	41 - 30	17 - 13
12	FINLAND IRELAND	66 - 52	18 - 12

## UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS



### RESULTS



### TODAY'S PROGRAM

#### ROUND 10

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 ISRAEL	ITALY	74 - 19	25 - 4
2 NORWAY	POLAND	39 - 66	9 - 21
3 ENGLAND	TURKEY	51 - 42	17 - 13
4 ROMANIA	DENMARK	67 - 39	21 - 9
5 FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	57 - 55	15 - 15
6 HUNGARY	CZECH REP.	53 - 42	17 - 13
7 GERMANY	SWEDEN	44 - 59	12 - 18

#### ROUND 13

1 ROMANIA	ENGLAND
2 FRANCE	NORWAY
3 HUNGARY	ISRAEL
4 GERMANY	ITALY
5 CZECH REP.	POLAND
6 NETHERLANDS	TURKEY
7 DENMARK	SWEDEN

#### ROUND 11

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 TURKEY	DENMARK	42 - 80	7 23
2 POLAND	NETHERLANDS	82 - 12	25 2
3 ITALY	CZECH REP.	91 - 40	25 5
4 ISRAEL	GERMANY	31 - 41	13 17
5 NORWAY	HUNGARY	81 - 19	25 3
6 ENGLAND	FRANCE	46 - 62	12 18
7 ROMANIA	SWEDEN	49 - 60	13 17

#### RANKING AFTER ROUND 12

1 ISRAEL	254
2 POLAND	253
3 GERMANY	193
4 FRANCE	192
5 NORWAY	191
6 HUNGARY	190
7 SWEDEN	184
8 NETHERLANDS	181
9 ENGLAND	159
10 TURKEY	150
11 CZECH REPUBLIC	145
ITALY	145
13 DENMARK	135
14 ROMANIA	119

#### ROUND 12

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 POLAND	TURKEY	53 - 36	19 - 11
2 ITALY	DENMARK	29 - 49	11 - 19
3 ISRAEL	NETHERLANDS	46 - 30	18 - 12
4 NORWAY	CZECH REP.	29 - 34	14 - 16
5 ENGLAND	GERMANY	39 - 62	10 - 20
6 ROMANIA	HUNGARY	61 - 43	19 - 11
7 FRANCE	SWEDEN	34 - 64	9 - 21

#### Prize-Giving Ceremony and Victory Banquet



The Prize Giving Ceremony and Victory Banquet for the Under 26 and Under 21 Teams Championships will be held today at 7 pm in the Favorit Theatre (same venue as the U-26 Opening Ceremony).



#### Today's Schedule

10.00	Under 26 Open (23rd Round)
10.00	Under 21 Open (13th Round)



# UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 9



**POLAND**

**v**

**HUNGARY**



Midway through the Under 21 Championship, three teams had broken away and were a full match clear of the rest. In Round 8, two of those teams, Poland and Hungary, met in a vital match for both.

Poland led by 12-2 after four boards, thanks to three small swings in and only one out. The match was decided over the next five deals, starting with:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ J 10 7 3 ♥ Q 3 ♦ Q 6 4 ♣ Q 10 6 4											
♠ Q 8 2 ♥ 9 7 6 4 ♦ 5 ♣ K 8 7 3 2	<table 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		♠ 6 5 ♥ K J 10 8 2 ♦ K J 3 2 ♣ A 9	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ A K 9 4 ♥ A 5 ♦ A 10 9 8 7 ♣ J 5											

West <i>Jassem</i>	North <i>Ormay</i>	East <i>Tuczynski</i>	South <i>Lazar</i>
	Pass	1♥	Dble
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West <i>Wagner</i>	North <i>Mroczkowski</i>	East <i>Konkoly</i>	South <i>Smieszkol</i>
	Pass	1♥	INT
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

For Poland, Adam Smieszkol overcalled INT, to show four spades and a longer minor. When Mateusz Mroczkowski competed with 2♠ Smieszkol could in turn re-raise to 3♠, ending the auction.

Csaba Konkoly led the jack of hearts. That ran round to declarer's queen and Mroczkowski led the queen of diamonds to the king and ace, cashed the ace and king of spades, and gave up a diamond. Konkoly won the jack of diamonds and returned a diamond for Zsolt Wagner to ruff with the queen. Wagner played king and another club and that meant nine tricks for +140.

Kornel Lazar doubled the opening bid, my own preference. When the pre-emptive 3♥ came back around, he doubled again. Of course, the world plays that as a second take-out double, but it seems that the inexperience of some of the U-21 players had an effect here as

Krisztina Ormay passed when she had a normal 3♠ response.

Lazar cashed the ace of spades then switched to ace and another trump. Piotr Tuczynski won and led a spade towards the queen and had nine tricks for +530 and 12 IMPs to Poland.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ J 10 3 ♥ 6 5 ♦ A K 8 7 4 2 ♣ 5 3											
♠ A K 8 4 ♥ Q ♦ J 10 9 3 ♣ A 10 8 2	<table 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 9 7 6 5 ♥ J 10 9 4 2 ♦ Q ♣ K 9	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 2 ♥ A K 8 7 3 ♦ 6 5 ♣ Q J 7 6 4											

West <i>Jassem</i>	North <i>Ormay</i>	East <i>Tuczynski</i>	South <i>Lazar</i>
		2♣	2♥
4♠	All Pass		

West <i>Wagner</i>	North <i>Mroczkowski</i>	East <i>Konkoly</i>	South <i>Smieszkol</i>
		Pass	1♥
Dble	2♦	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♦	3♠	All Pass

Tuczynski had a toy for the East hand, 2♣ to show a weak hand with both majors. Lazar overcalled 2♥ anyway, and Pawel Jassem closed matters with a jump to 4♠.

Ormay cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to the ♣5 for the nine, jack and ace. Jassem cashed the ace and king of spades then led the ♥Q to Lazar's king. He returned a club to dummy's ace and now Tuczynski drew the last trump before ruffing out the ace of hearts. His next move was to sneak through the nine of diamonds, pitching the four of hearts when Ormay failed to cover. That was the overtrick; +650.

Konkoly did not have a method to open as East so Smieszkol had the opportunity to open the South hand with 1♥. Wagner doubled and Mroczkowski bid his diamonds. He competed with 3♦ when Konkoly's slightly cautious 2♠ came around, and Konkoly took the push to 3♠, where he played.

Smieszkol cashed the ace of hearts and switched to the six of diamonds. Mroczkowski won the king and continued

with the ace, ruffed. Now Konkoly ruffed his low heart and drew trumps in three rounds, leaving himself with a heart to lose; +170 but 10 IMPs to Poland.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ A 4 2										
	♥ A 7										
	♦ K 8 7 5										
	♣ A K 10 5										
♠ J 8 6 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ 10
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Q 9 3 2	♥ J 10 5										
♦ A Q 10 6 2	♦ J 4 3										
♣ -		♣ Q J 8 7 6 4									
	♠ K Q 9 7 5										
	♥ K 8 6 4										
	♦ 9										
	♣ 9 3 2										

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Ormay	Tuczynski	Lazar
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♥
West	North	East	South
Wagner	Mroczkowski	Konkoly	Smieszkol
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♥

Both Souths could respond 2♥ to show a limited hand with five hearts and four spades, and both Norths had an easy jump to 4♠.

Tuczynski led the queen of clubs and Jassem ruffed then returned the two of hearts. Ormay won the ace and played a heart to the king then the nine of diamonds. Jassem won



Pawel Jassem, Poland

the ace and played the ♥9 and, fearful of an over-ruff followed by another club ruff, Ormay ruffed with the ace, thereby creating a spade trick for Jassem. She now carelessly cashed the king and queen of spades and had a pitch for the losing heart on the king of diamonds – but no fast entry to take it. When she tried a club towards her hand, Jassem could ruff and cash the queen of hearts for one down; -100.

Konkoly led the three of diamonds to the ace and Wagner returned a low diamond to the king, declarer throwing a heart from dummy. He cashed the ace of spades then played three rounds of hearts, ruffing, cashed the king and queen of spades and led a club up, losing one spade and one club; +620 and 12 IMPs to Poland.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ A 10 8 5										
	♥ 8 7 2										
	♦ K Q 8 7 2										
	♣ 2										
♠ 9	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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		♠ J 7 6 4 3
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ K J 10 9	♥ 6										
♦ J 10	♦ A 9 5 4 3										
♣ A J 9 8 7 6		♣ K 10									
	♠ K Q 2										
	♥ A Q 5 4 3										
	♦ 6										
	♣ Q 5 4 3										

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Ormay	Tuczynski	Lazar
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wagner	Mroczkowski	Konkoly	Smieszkol
1♣	1♦	1♠	2♥
All Pass			

Everything was very peaceful in the Closed Room, where each player in turn bid a suit and Mroczkowski decided that his overall hand was too weak to justify a raise of a non-forcing 2♥ bid despite the heart support, so passed and Smieszkol was left to play in 2♥.

Wagner led the nine of spades to the ten, three and king, as declarer wanted to be in hand to lead his diamond. The king lost to the ace and Smieszkol pitched a club on the diamond return, winning the queen in dummy. The two of clubs went to the ten, queen and ace and the club return was ruffed in dummy. A heart to the ace ensured that Smieszkol would be able to ruff his last club and, though there were three trumps to be lost, he had his contract; +110.

Ormay did not overcall with the North hand so felt that she had a good hand when Lazar came in with 2♥ and so cuebid 3♣. Lazar jumped to game and Jassem quickly informed him that he might have made a mistake.

Again the nine of spades was won with the king but Lazar

led a low club from hand, running round to the ten. Tuczynski led his heart. Lazar took the ace of hearts and led a diamond to the king and ace. Tuczynski led a spade, which Jassem ruffed and the contract was down two for -300 and 9 IMPs to Poland.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q J 4 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ A K 9 8 ♣ 5	<table 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		♠ 7 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ Q 10 ♣ A K 9 6 4 3 2	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ 10 9 5 3 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ Q J 7	♠ A 8 6 2 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ 7 6 5 2 ♣ 10 8											

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Ormay</i>	<i>Tuczynski</i>	<i>Lazar</i>
	Pass	1♦	3♣	Dble
	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
	Pass	6♠	All Pass	
	West	North	East	South
	<i>Wagner</i>	<i>Mroczkowski</i>	<i>Konkoly</i>	<i>Smieszkol</i>
	Pass	1♦	3♣	3♦
	Pass	5♦	All Pass	

When Tuczynski made a weak jump overcall, Lazar chose a negative double and Ormay liked her hand a lot so cuebid 4♣ to ask Lazar to pick a trump suit. He duly did so and



Krisztina Ormay, Hungary

now Ormay checked on key cards and bid the spade slam. Six Spades was hopeless, of course. Jassem led the queen of clubs and switched to a low diamond. Declarer won the ace and played the king, queen and jack of spades then a heart to the ace and a heart back to the king, Jassem putting in the queen. Lazar now made the curious play of dummy's low heart to his nine and lost to the ten. With a diamond loser to come, that meant down two for -100.

Smieszkol, facing a 1♦ opening which would always have a diamond suit and normally be unbalanced, simply bid 3♦ over 3♣. Mroczkowski just raised himself to game, against which Konkoly led the ace and king of clubs. Mroczkowski ruffed and cashed the top diamonds. The contract hinged on the position of the queen of hearts and. When that proved to be onside, he had his 11 tricks for +400 and another 11 IMPs to Poland.

Over five deals, Poland had scored 54 IMPs without reply and now led by 66-2.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A J ♥ 7 6 ♦ A K 9 7 6 5 4 ♣ 3 2	<table 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		♠ 7 4 3 2 ♥ A 9 5 2 ♦ - ♣ J 8 7 6 4	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ 10 8 6 5 ♥ K 10 8 3 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ A K	♠ K Q 9 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ Q J 3 ♣ Q 10 9 5											

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Ormay</i>	<i>Tuczynski</i>	<i>Lazar</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT
	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
	All Pass			

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Wagner</i>	<i>Mroczkowski</i>	<i>Konkoly</i>	<i>Smieszkol</i>
	INT	All Pass		

Lazar had a forcing 2NT response to the 1♦ opening. Ormay rebid her long diamonds and Lazar had no reason to look beyond 3NT. Jassem led the three of hearts to the ace. Back came a heart to the jack and king and he now cashed the clubs before playing a third heart; nine tricks for +600.

In the other room, Wagner opened a mini-no trump and was left to play there - Mroczkowski did not have a natural overcall of 2♦ available to him and 3♦ would have been more pre-emptive. Mroczkowski led the ace of diamonds, Smieszkol, dropping the queen, then a low diamond to the jack and a third diamond. Not wishing to give up any of his stoppers just yet, Smieszkol threw the nine of spades on the fourth diamond, and now there were only two defensive spade tricks and nine in all; down three for -150 but a bit of a steal and 10 IMPs to Hungary.



Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

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

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

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



West	North	East	South
Jassem	Ormay	Tuczynski	Lazar
INT	2♣	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wagner	Mroczkowski	Konkoly	Smieszkol
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Wagner/Konkoly reached 3NT in very simple fashion with a 1♦ opening, inverted raise and jump to 3NT. Mroczkowski led the six of hearts and Smieszkol put in the ten. Now Wagner ducked! Smieszkol continued with ace and another heart so Wagner won and knocked out the ace of diamonds; ten tricks for +630.

Jassem preferred to open the West hand with INT and Ormay came in with 2♣ to show the majors. When Tuczynski doubled, Lazar decided to trust his opponents' bidding more than his partner's and bid only 2♠ despite the excellent fit and two aces. That came back to Tuczynski, who cuebid 3♠ then went on with 5NT, pick a minor, over Jassem's 3NT. That looks to be way too much and so it proved. Though of course it only required the ♥KQ to be replaced by the ♥A in the West hand, East's sequence was far too committal. There were two aces to be lost for -100 and 12 IMPs to Hungary.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 5 3  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ J 10 7 5 4 3  
 ♣ J 8 7 4

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

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

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



West	North	East	South
Jassem	Ormay	Tuczynski	Lazar
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Wagner	Mroczkowski	Konkoly	Smieszkol
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	Dble
All Pass			

Hungary had been rallying a little but this final deal dragged Poland back up to a maximum VP win – despite a poor result from Jassem/Tuczynski.

Both Wests opened 1♠ and, in the context of a two-over-one style, raised 2♥ to game. Neither East felt able to pass and, because of the bad trump split, as soon as they went on to the five level, they were too high. Tuczynski's try, asking for key cards then signing off in 5♥ at least avoided a double, but Konkoly drove to slam and Smieszkol was confident that his opponents had nowhere run to so did double.

Tuczynski won the club lead and cashed two top diamonds for a club discard then ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of clubs and crossed to the ace of spades, ruffed his club loser and played ace and another heart. Three trump losers meant one down for -100.

Smieszkol led the two of diamonds. Konkoly won and ruffed the ♦9 in dummy, cashed the ace and king of clubs and crossed to the ace of spades to play a diamond winner. When Smieszkol ruffed in front of dummy, the club loser went away and Konkoly later ruffed his last club – but there were two more trump tricks to be lost so down two for -500 and 9 IMPs to Poland.

The Poles ran out winners by 76-28 IMPs, just enough for 25-5 VPs. The battle for the title looked to be down to two teams now, Poland and Israel.

### Today in History - July 18th



#### 64 AD: Fire of Rome

On July 18, 64 A.D., a fire breaks out in Rome, spreading rapidly throughout the market area in the centre of the city. When the flames finally died out more than a week later, nearly two-thirds of Rome had been destroyed. Emperor Nero used the fire as an opportunity to rebuild Rome in a more orderly Greek

style and began construction on a massive palace called the Domus Aureus. Some speculated that the emperor had ordered the burning of Rome to indulge his architectural tastes, but he was away in Antium when the conflagration began. According to later Roman historians, Nero blamed members of the mysterious Christian cult for the fire and launched the first Roman persecutions of Christians in response.

**1984:** On a Wednesday in America, a gunman massacres 20 people at a MacDonalds' restaurant in California - blaming it on the fact that 'I don't like Mondays'.

**1925:** German politician Adolf Hitler publishes the first volume of his personal manifesto Mein Kampf.

# UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 20



**FRANCE**

**v**

**SWEDEN**



For those teams in contention, every match is important now as we reach the cutting edge of the tournament. Leaders France met Sweden, one of the teams just outside the qualifying places, in Round 20.

that Lhuissier lost two of those to go with the ace of diamonds; down two for -100 and 11 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ J 10 5 4 3 ♥ Q 7 5 3 ♦ A 7 4 3 ♣ -</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">N</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">W</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">E</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">S</span> </div>	<p>♠ A 9 ♥ K 6 ♦ K Q 8 6 ♣ 10 9 6 4 3</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ 10 9 8 4 2 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ Q J 8 7</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Bech</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Arvidsson</i>	<i>Robert</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Grosset</i>	<i>S. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Sjoberg</i>
	INT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
3NT	All Pass		

Sandra Rimstedt and Emma Sjoberg got to 3NT after a 9-12 no trump and GF Stayman. Cedric Lorenzini led the nine of hearts to the jack, queen and king and Rimstedt led a club to the ace, getting the bad news. Things didn't look too promising now. Rimstedt continued with the jack of diamonds, which held the trick, then a low diamond to the queen. Noting the fall of the nine, Rimstedt continued with the ♦K, pinning the ten and had nine tricks for +400.

Nicolas Lhuissier opened 1♣, maybe three cards, and rebid INT, 11-14. Quentin Robert jumped to 3♣, forcing, and followed up with 3NT. That combination convinced Lhuissier to go on as he had good side-suit cards and genuine clubs and, after an exchange of cuebids, Robert drove to slam. There was little to the play. The four-zero club break meant

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K 3 ♥ A K 6 5 3 ♦ J 8 5 ♣ Q 7 3</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">N</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">W</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">E</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">S</span> </div>	<p>♠ Q 9 8 6 ♥ Q 7 ♦ A 9 7 6 ♣ J 9 2</p>	<p>♠ A 4 ♥ J 10 9 4 2 ♦ Q 4 3 2 ♣ 10 5</p>
--	--	--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Bech</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Arvidsson</i>	<i>Robert</i>
Pass	3♦	Pass	1♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

West	North	East	South
<i>Grosset</i>	<i>S. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Sjoberg</i>
2♥	2♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	Dble	4♥	Pass
		All Pass	

Would you overcall 2♥ as West on what is essentially a weak no trump with a decent but not exceptional five-card major? Perhaps, non-vulnerable, the majority vote would be a yes, partly for the pre-emptive effect of 2♥ over 1♠. In the event, Simon Bech chose to pass and his opponents bid to 4♠ via a Bergen raise, while Christophe Grosset overcalled and Lorenzini jumped to game over Rimstedt's single spade raise. Rimstedt doubled 4♥ on the way out to end the auction.

Rimstedt led a spade against 4♥ doubled so Grosset won, drew trumps and eliminated the spades before leading the ten of clubs off the dummy. Sjoberg won and played two more rounds of clubs to declarer's queen and a diamond went away from dummy. Grosset crossed to dummy to lead the first diamond through the hand that was likely to be shorter in the suit. That went to the ten, jack and ace and back came the ♦9, to the queen and king. Sjoberg had to give a ruff and discard so that was down just one for -100.

Bech led the two top hearts against 4♠. Robert ruffed and played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, as a partial



elimination, then led the jack of spades from hand. Bech won the king of spades and exited with a second spade to Eric Arvidsson's ace. There was no endplay so an inevitable club loser; down one for -100 and 5 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bech</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Arvidsson</i>	<i>Robert</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Grosset</i>	<i>S. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Sjoberg</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Bech opened a strong club and the response showed a positive with no five-card major or six-card minor. Diamonds were bid and raised then Bech cuebid but passed



Quentin Robert, France

the 3NT response. Spades were never mentioned, nor was slam in the picture. Arvidsson ducked the lead of the queen of clubs, won the heart switch and cashed a few diamonds then played ace and another spade; +460.

Grosset opened 1♦ then showed a strong hand with spade support and Lorenzini took control with Key-card then bid the slam when he liked what he heard. That looks very aggressive from East to me and it got him to a sub-par slam. With an inevitable club loser, you need to bring in the trump suit and have only one entry so must start with the queen, paying off to a bare king onside and also being unable to pick up ♠K9xx with South. Today there were no problems. Lorenzini won the lead of the king of clubs and led the ♠Q and, when that held, took a second spade finesse, claiming 12 tricks a few seconds later; +980 and 11 IMPs to France.

Sweden led 22-12 at the half, then:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bech</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Arvidsson</i>	<i>Robert</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Grosset</i>	<i>S. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Sjoberg</i>
1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Both East/Wests bid to the decent slam and both did so in an unrevealing fashion which attracted a club lead from South. That ran to the jack, trumps were drawn and a low club led towards the queen. When South went up with the king there were 12 tricks for a flat board at +980.

However, read Barry Rigal's report tomorrow, where there is a fuller discussion of possible lines of play on a less helpful lead. For the record, the slam made 17 times and failed twice in the U-26 series and made six times and failed once in the U-21s. All three declarers who went down received a trump lead – but so did around half of those who succeeded.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Bech	Lhuissier	Arvidsson	Robert
		1♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	3♦	4♦
5♦	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Grosset	S. Rimstedt	Lorenzini	Sjoberg
		1♦	Dble
Pass	2♦	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♦	Dble	All Pass	

Robert passed over Arvidsson's loose 1♦ opening while Sjoberg found a thin double of Lorenzini's more standard opening. Robert saw his partner double in balancing seat and Arvidsson jump to 3♦ to show his excellent suit. When Robert now cuebid to ask Lhuissier to pick a game, Bech saved in 5♦ and Lhuissier, who didn't fancy the five level facing a passed partner, doubled.

Where Sjoberg had doubled, Rimstedt cuebid in response and Lorenzini made an advance save of 5♦. Sjoberg passed

that around to Rimstedt who, facing a double of 1♦, was willing to go on to the five level. When 5♥ came around to Grosset he saved in 6♦, doubled by Rimstedt. As 5♥ would have lost just one trick in each minor, the save was the winning action but, of course, the French pair were playing a level higher than the Swedes. Both declarers lost the obvious four tricks; -300 for Arvidsson but -500 for Lorenzini and 5 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Bech	Lhuissier	Arvidsson	Robert
			1♠
4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Grosset	S. Rimstedt	Lorenzini	Sjoberg
			2♠
4♥	4♠	Dble	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Robert opened 1♠ and Bech overcalled 4♥, ending the auction. The spade lead meant 11 tricks as there was also a trump to be lost; +650.

Sjoberg opened 2♠ not weak but intermediate, around 10-13 with a six-card suit. Grosset too overcalled 4♥ but Rimstedt looked at the vulnerability and saved in 4♠. Lorenzini doubled that but Grosset had such good playing strength that he went on to 5♥ and now Lorenzini hoped for a spade void – hardly unreasonable – and raised to 6♥.

Again, a spade lead made sure that there would be two tricks for the defence. Here, however, it mattered, as that meant one down for -100 and 13 IMPs to Sweden.

Sweden won the match by 45-30 IMPs, 18-12 VPs. That kept their qualification challenge alive without doing too much damage to the French bid for the title.



Eric Arvidsson, Sweden

### Unlucky Grand Slam

Richard Fleet makes a point from London about the deal reported yesterday by Christer Anderson where grand slam was unlucky: The fact that both North and South had an opportunity to overcall spades at the one level (or indeed make a weak jump overcall) and did not do so, must reduce the theoretical odds of the suit splitting worse than 5-2.

# UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS

# ROUND 10



**FRANCE**

**v**

**NETHERLANDS**



When the countries met in Round 10 of the Schools, Netherlands was lying fourth and France was one place and 2 VPs behind them. A big win for either would put them in reach of bronze medal and favourites to qualify for next year's World Juniors.

In the Open Room, Joris Van Lankveld & Rens Philipsen faced Thibault Coudert & Clement Thizy. Both pairs play standard one level openings but at the two level the Dutch distinguish between a sound weak two in a major (which they open with the suit) and what I suppose could be described as an unsound opening, which they start with a Multi. (The alternative of passing unsound openers does not appeal to juniors.)

In the Closed Room, the Netherlands fielded two players with well-known surnames in bridge. Lotte Leufkens is the daughter of the double-world-champion npc (at Junior and Open level) and Thijs Verbeek is the younger brother of Tim. They faced Fabrice Charignon & Gregoire Lafont.

The discipline here in Brasov is in strong contrast to the lack of it in Sanremo two weeks earlier. At 10a.m. the players are all seated waiting for the call from the TD to start play. When the announcement comes the cards are removed at once and, for your Bulletin reporter, it has been good copy every day.

a 1NT rebid. 2NT did not reveal the range within 12-14 but did deny three spades or four hearts. With 2-3-4-4 they open 1♦, so there was an inference that North held five clubs.

East led ♥10 to jack, queen and king. On the first diamond, East contributed the ten, dummy the jack and West the ace. A second heart cleared the suit for the defence.

Coudert laid down a top club and was shocked to see West throw a diamond.

He had eight top tricks and needed a ninth from the diamond suit. What did the play so far suggest?

West's diamond discard implied he had at least five. So was East's ten a singleton? Coudert boldly finessed the eight and lost two diamonds and three hearts for 50 to Netherlands.

The a priori odds of 10-9 doubleton or 109x must be somewhat greater than singleton 10, so perhaps declarer should have acted differently. Certainly, had he tested spades after clubs, then East's showing out on the second spade might have led him to the winning decision in diamonds.

The defence must take credit for giving declarer a losing option that he accepted.

In the Closed Room the auction was the same except that the response to the 2♦ enquiry was 3♣, showing lower range with five clubs. The heart lead was won in dummy and ♦J won the next trick. Declarer tested clubs and spades then led a second diamond. West went up with the ace and cashed two spades but declarer claimed the rest for 400 and 10 IMPs to the Netherlands.

The next board also contained a technical point for declarer:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A 9					
♥ K 6					
♦ K Q 8 6					
♣ 10 9 6 4 3					
♠ J 10 5 4 3		♠ Q			
♥ Q 7 5 3		♥ 10 9 8 4 2			
♦ A 7 4 3		♦ 10 9 2			
♣ -		♣ Q J 8 7			
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ K 8 7 6 2				
	♥ A J				
	♦ J 5				
	♣ A K 5 2				

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Coudert</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(i)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(i) Game-forcing checkback

In the Open Room, the French, use two checkbacks after

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

		♠ Q 9 8 6			
		♥ Q 7			
		♦ A 9 7 6			
		♣ J 9 2			
♠ K 3		♠ A 4			
♥ A K 6 5 3		♥ J 10 9 4 2			
♦ J 8 5		♦ Q 4 3 2			
♣ Q 7 3		♣ 10 5			
	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ J 10 7 5 2				
	♥ 8				
	♦ K 10				
	♣ A K 8 6 4				

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Coudert</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	



Nobody seemed quite sure why North bid 2♣, including South. But the game reached, though thin, was not impossible.

West led two top hearts. Thizy ruffed and led a trump to the six and ace. East returned a low club to the ace. A second trump was won by West who exited with a diamond. When the ♣K failed to drop the queen South conceded one down.

But suppose, after winning the club switch, declarer had played ♦K, ♦A and a diamond ruff before playing the second trump. Then he would be making his game because the player with ♠Kx is endplayed!

The partial elimination assumes the defence has missed the best line of cashing both trumps when they had the chance. But equally, it only costs when the diamonds are 6-1 and the clubs are coming in.

In the Closed Room the contract and first two tricks were the same but when a low trump was led at trick three West went in with the king and led a second trump. With this defence, the contract stood no chance. Flat board.

Thizy faced an unusual bidding situation on the next deal. He held:

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

Dealer at green, he passed. LHO opened 3♣ and partner doubled. Naturally enough, Thizy bid 4♠. Partner bids Key-card and you show one with 5♣. Now partner, bids 5♦ asking for the trump queen. Thizy denied the queen by bidding 5♠ and there the matter rested.

It occurred to your reporter that there was a case for



Clement Thizy, France

bidding 5♥ to show the king, even if that implied ♠Q as well. (On vugraph South went on to six when it was known they were missing one key card and ♠Q). If partner has four trumps you must be strong favourite to pick up the spades, given the pre-empt, and even if partner has only three you are better than even money. The other point is that should you hold ♠Q and a minor-suit king you will be committed to six, so why should you not be allowed to show ♥K even when you do not have ♠Q? Partner bids a courtesy 5♠ and you move on with ♠Q.

North held:

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

If the defence plays two rounds of clubs you will probably not be able to pick up Qxxx but in practice declarer had no problem finding the queen with East for 12 tricks. This was 1 IMP to France when declarer at the other table in 4♠ began with two top spades.

Board 4 was a partscore swing to the Netherlands of 5 IMPs. Then came:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Van Lankveld	Coudert	Philipsen	Thizy
	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥(i)	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

(i) Smolen, showing 4♥ and 5♠, game forcing

This proved another difficult decision for Thizy. He was declarer as South in 4♠ and the defence began with ♣Q. He won the first trick and seems to have several options. A heart to dummy and a diamond towards the king is one. A top trump is another, but what do you do if that wins the trick?

Thizy, surprisingly perhaps, started with two rounds of hearts. West smartly dropped the jack. That did not put off Thizy but maybe it influenced him in playing a low heart next and ruffing that low in hand. He must have been happy when West followed suit. But an unexpected

blow was on its way. When he now played a trump West won and played a fourth heart, ruffed low by East. Thizy had little choice but to over-ruff and that promoted a potential trump trick for West. Thizy now led a diamond, won by East who played a second club. Thizy won and ruffed a diamond.

It was a three-card ending in which he had to guess the position of the ♠10. When he laid down ♠J West claimed ♠10 and ♣J to defeat the game. But had declarer exited with a club he would have come to both his trumps at the end.


Had declarer played a diamond earlier on, a quite natural play given the chance that the ace might be onside, then he could have made two diamond ruffs in dummy without difficulty.

In the Closed Room the auction began the same way but when North used Smolen South forgot they were playing the convention and simply signed off in 3NT.

This contract played much more easily than 4♠. West found the good lead of a low diamond but declarer let the jack hold and inserted the ten when East continued the suit with the nine. West had to win the ace. A third diamond went to declarer's king. Declarer now switched to spades, and when the defender holding the ace had no further diamond to cash declarer made ten tricks for 12 IMPs to the Netherlands.

The first major swing to France came on the next deal:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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


Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Coudert</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
		Pass	1♣
Dble	1♠	2♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Leufkens</i>	<i>Lafont</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>
			1♣
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Open Room, West did not do justice to his good 16 points when the cards were likely to be lying well. Ten tricks in 2♥ was worth 170 but in the Closed Room

France was clocking up 11 tricks in 3NT for 660 and 10 IMPs.

Netherlands gained 1 IMP on each of the next two boards, but then came another swing for France:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Coudert</i>	<i>Philipsen</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Leufkens</i>	<i>Lafont</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>
	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both Souths made an invitational bid on the second round but, when North showed three spades, went on to game. Everything hinged on how you play the club suit.

Both Norths received a heart lead to the king and ace and then drew three rounds of trumps (queen, king and ace) ending in dummy.

Leufkens, perfectly reasonably, began the clubs by playing the jack from dummy, but West covered and she had to lose two tricks in the suit for 50 to France.

Coudert, by contrast, began with a low club to the ten and queen. He still had the option of playing for the king to come down or for pinning the doubleton nine with East.

East switched to a diamond and this went small, jack, king. A second diamond went to West's ace, a heart came through to East who now played a low club. Declarer played low and when the king appeared was able to claim his game; 10 IMPs to France.

France gained another 6 IMPs on Board 10 when the Netherlands overstretched to game. The half-time score was 29-27 to the Netherlands. It was the same close affair in the second half but it was France who emerged with the moral win of 57-55, still a draw in VPs.

**UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS** **ROUND 21**



**FRANCE**

**v**

**NORWAY**



The big match of Friday had to be the meeting of first and second in Round 21 of the U-26 Championship. France were fresh off a 12-18 defeat at the hands of Sweden but still led Norway, who had started the day with a 20-10 win over Belgium, by 13 VPs. With two rounds to go after this, here was the best opportunity the Norwegians would have to close the gap or even, if things went really well, overtake their main rivals.

tinued by cashing the ace of diamonds and leading a third round for Volcker to ruff. The trumps were now falling together and Erik Berg had the rest for +140 and 6 IMPs to Norway.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ K 4 2		
	♥ K Q 6		
	♦ 8 3		
	♣ 10 9 8 7 5		
♠ Q 3		♠ J 7 6	
♥ 9 7 4 2		♥ A 10 8 5 3	
♦ A Q J 9 2		♦ 6 4	
♣ 6 4		♣ K Q J	
	♠ A 10 9 8 5		
	♥ J		
	♦ K 10 7 5		
	♣ A J 2		
West	North	East	South
Bessis	Lindqvist	Volcker	Berg
	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Simonsen	Grosset	Skjetne	Lorenzini
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2NT	3♠	All Pass	

Thomas Bessis made a fit jump while Steffen Frederik Simonsen just showed a constructive heart raise. Both led a heart against 3♠ and both Frederic Volcker and Erlend Skjetne won the ace. Now the play diverged.

Skjetne switched to the king of clubs. Cedric Lorenzini won the ace, crossed to the king of spades and pitched his clubs on the heart winners, then he led a diamond to the king and ace. Simonsen returned the queen of spades, which Lorenzini ducked, then a club, ruffed. Lorenzini played the seven of diamonds. Simonsen won the nine and continued with the queen for a ruff and over-ruff and there was still a diamond to be lost; down two for -100.

Volcker switched to a diamond at trick two. There was still time for the defence to recover but it was hard for Bessis to switch to a club from his side and he actually con-

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

		♠ Q J 7	
		♥ 10 6 5	
		♦ 10 7 3	
		♣ K Q 10 6	
♠ A 10 5 4		♠ K 9 6 3	
♥ Q 9 3		♥ A K J 8 7	
♦ A Q J 2		♦ K 9 6	
♣ 9 3		♣ 7	
		♠ 8 2	
		♥ 4 2	
		♦ 8 5 4	
		♣ A J 8 5 4 2	
West	North	East	South
Bessis	Lindqvist	Volcker	Berg
			3♣
Dble	5♣	6♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Simonsen	Grosset	Skjetne	Lorenzini
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Berg's thin pre-empt, trading on the favourable vulnerability, paid a rich dividend on this board. Bessis had a minimum but still just a normal take-out double, and Volcker felt that he could not do less than bid 6♥ over Espen Lindqvist's raise to 5♣. Berg led the ace of clubs,

**Play Problem No. 9**

Here is our last play problem from Patrick Jourdain's Problem Corner.

How should West play 3NT on a spade lead?

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

Solution on page 18.



(maybe automatic, but nonetheless necessary) and there was no way to avoid a spade loser; down one for -100.

In the other room, South did not open and the Norwegian pair could explore and stop safely in game. When Simonsen rebid 1♠, Skjetne was too good for a simple raise to game so bid 2♦, effectively FSGF – they switch 2♣ and 2♦ here. When Simonsen responded with 2♥. Skjetne showed his spade support and, by inference, a good hand, but Simonsen had no interest in slam so jumped to 4♠, and that was that; +650 after a club lead and 13 IMPs to Norway, up by 19-4.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Lindqvist	Volcker	Berg
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble
2NT	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Simonsen	Grosset	Skjetne	Lorenzini
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble
2♣	3♠	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Christophe Grosset opened 1♣ and, in response to his partner's negative double, bid 3♠, cuebid, over Simonsen's constructive spade raise. Lorenzini simply bid 4♥ and that was that when North timorously passed. Four Spades is only -500 so a reasonable save, but that might have given North/South a second chance to get to slam. Simonsen led the king of diamonds and the winning club finesse meant all 13 tricks for +710.

The auction began in the same fashion at the other table but Bessis bid 2NT to show a constructive raise to at least 3♠ and now Lindqvist jumped to 4♠, inferentially agreeing hearts and showing the void. Berg settled for 5♥ but Lindqvist went on to slam, quite a significant difference in evaluation to the other room. Again the lead was the king of diamonds. There was nothing to the play – either the club king was onside or it was not. When it was where Berg needed it to be, he too had all 13 tricks for +1460 and 13 IMPs to Norway, ahead by 32-4.

Up to now things couldn't have gone much better for

Norway but France pulled a few IMPs back on this next deal.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Lindqvist	Volcker	Berg
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦
2♥	All Pass	Dble	Pass

West	North	East	South
Simonsen	Grosset	Skjetne	Lorenzini
All Pass		Pass	2♦

Both Souths opened a multi 2♦ and both Norths decided to pass – and why not? Skjetne passed that out, having no great shape for a balancing action, and Lorenzini had nine tricks after a trump lead for +110.

Volcker balanced with a double and struck it rich when Bessis responded in his five-card major. Lindqvist had playing strength to spare and might well have competed with 3♦ – except that he thought there was a fair chance that his opponents were about to play in his partner's major. He passed out 2♥ and led the king of clubs. Bessis won and played a heart to the queen and ace. Berg returned his diamond to the ace and ruffed the return but there was only one club to come from here; nine tricks for +140 and 6 IMPs to France, 10-36.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West Bessis	North Lindqvist	East Volcker	South Berg
2♣	2NT	4♣	1♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Three games are worth considering with, perhaps, 3NT by West as good as any. In our match Bessis/Volcker settled for 4♣ on the strong five-two fit while Simonsen/Skjetne preferred 5♦ on the solid four-four fit.

This was actually quite an unusual pair of contracts. In the U-26 Championship, nobody else played in 4♣, three other pairs bid and made 5♦ and one went off, while somebody was three down in 6♦. Everyone else bid and made at least 3NT.

Against 4♣, Lindqvist led a heart. Bessis ducked in dummy and the king won. Berg switched to his diamond. Bessis won in dummy and took the spade finesse (which seems best in theory) but the roof fell in. Lindqvist gave Berg a ruff, was put back in with the ace of clubs and gave a second ruff, and that was two down for -100.

Grosset led the ace then jack of clubs against 5♦, establishing two club tricks for Simonsen who would therefore be able to pitch his heart loser on the club queen. He played ace, king and ruffed a spade then took his heart pitch on the club before drawing trumps and claiming 12 tricks for +420 and 11 IMPs to Norway; 47-23.

West Simonsen	North Grosset	East Skjetne	South Lorenzini
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	5♥

Bessis showed his two-suiter with a 2♣ cuebid, hearts and clubs, and Volcker could pre-empt over Lindqvist's strong spade raise. Berg signed off in game but Lindqvist tried again. However, he gave up in 5♠.

The French North/South had an uncontested auction in which Grosset showed his diamonds then agreed spades and an exchange of cuebids saw them reach the cold slam. There was nothing to the play, both contracts making 12 tricks. That was +680 for Berg but +1430 for Lorenzini and 13 IMPs to France; 23-36.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West Bessis	North Lindqvist	East Volcker	South Berg
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

West Simonsen	North Grosset	East Skjetne	South Lorenzini
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



Espen Lindqvist, Norway

West Bessis	North Lindqvist	East Volcker	South Berg
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

clarer may do worse than that. I can understand Grosset's conversion to 4♠, even though he must have very much disliked his heart holding, since Lorenzini had bid spades and Grosset had useful undisclosed three-card support, but Lindqvist's 5♦ just doesn't feel right. His hand contains too many losers, and I think the long-term winner is to pass and expect to defeat 4♥.

West Simonsen	North Grosset	East Skjetne	South Lorenzini
Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Simonsen led the queen of clubs against 4♠. Lorenzini won the ace and carefully crossed to the ace of diamonds to lead the second club towards his king in case of a five-one break. That passed off peacefully and now he ruffed a club then led the queen of diamonds to the king, ruffed and over-ruffed with the jack. Simonsen returned a spade to the ten and ace and now Skjetne was endplayed. He chose to lead a low heart, which ran around to dummy's queen. A heart to the ace allowed another club ruff with the king. Now the ♦9 was covered and ruffed with the nine, Simonsen discarding a heart. Lorenzini played the ♠6 now but was forced to ruff a heart so Simonsen won the last trick with the three of spades for down one; -100.

Both East/West pairs got to the 4♠ save and both Souths went on to 5♥, naturally enough with their five-card support for a four-level opening. Now Bessis bid a fifth spade and was doubled by Berg while Simonsen passed and sat for his partner's double of 5♥.

Bessis proved to have made the winning decision. He lost two tricks in each black suit so was two down in 5♠ doubled for -300. Meanwhile, 5♥ doubled was quite cold, with just one spade and one diamond to be lost; -650 and 8 IMPs to France, 31-47.

Against 5♦ doubled, Volcker cashed the ace of spades then switched to a club. Lindqvist won in dummy, cashed the other top club and passed the ten of diamonds. That was allowed to hold so Lindqvist ruffed a club with the six and was over-ruffed. Endplayed, Volcker exited with the king of hearts to dummy's ace. Lindqvist crossed to hand with the queen of hearts and played ace then a low diamond to the jack. He still had to lose the ♦K and a spade trick so was three down for -800 and 12 IMPs to France, getting very close now at 43-47.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West Bessis	North Lindqvist	East Volcker	South Berg
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

West Bessis	North Lindqvist	East Volcker	South Berg
2♦	3NT	All Pass	INT

West Simonsen	North Grosset	East Skjetne	South Lorenzini
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
3♦	Pass	4♥	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West Simonsen	North Grosset	East Skjetne	South Lorenzini
2♥	2♠	All Pass	1♠

Another high-level bidding decision saw both North players choose a losing action, though one was considerably more losing than the other.

When their partners doubled 4♥, the winning action for North was to pass, as 4♥ must go at least one off and de-

I really hate opening 1♠ with a hand that looks so much like a INT bid. Having said which, the French pair missed game largely because Grosset gave no weight to all his tens. He may have had a lot of losers, but the North hand just looks too strong for a simple raise. With the club onside,



there were just two major-suit losers in 2♠; +200.

Berg opened INT, Bessis made a French transfer overcall, and Lindqvist raised to 3NT, denying a heart stopper. Bessis knew where the ace of hearts was so tried to put Volcker in to lead a heart through. His diamond lead went to the jack and ace. Berg knocked out the ace of spades and now Bessi played the king of hearts. Berg won and the successful club finesse gave him 11 tricks for +660 and 10 IMPs to Norway; 57-43.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Lindqvist	Volcker	Berg
Simonsen	Grosset	Skjetne	Lorenzini
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	All Pass	

Same bidding, same lead of the three of hearts, different defences. Simonsen won the ace, cashed the ♥Q, and switched to his low club. Skjetne won the king and returned the four of clubs to the ten and a smooth duck from Grosset. Simonsen continued with the queen of clubs and that was nine tricks for an excellent +150.

## Play Problem No. 9 Solution

How should West play 3NT on a spade lead?

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

Win the spade lead and cash the ♣K. If both defenders follow, then play a low club to the eight. If that loses you can overtake ♣J to make four club tricks. If the ♣8 wins but either defender has the guarded queen left then take a heart finesse and use the ♣A as entry to take a second heart finesse.

Note that to play the ♣J on the first or second round of clubs is an error. If South has ♣Qxxx he can hold up and you make only three clubs and do not have the entries to take two heart finesses.

These problems are taken from a new book published this month by Masterpoint Press with selections from Bridge Magazine's Problem Corner by Patrick Jourdain.

Bessis won the ace of hearts and switched to clubs a trick earlier. Volcker won the king and trusted his partner to have another heart honour for his failure to return the suit. A low heart to the queen permitted Bessis to lead the third heart through and the defence had four heart tricks. Volcker now switched to a diamond but there was no pressure on the defence and Lindqvist could only cash his six winners; down one for -100 and 6 IMPs to France, 50-57.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Lindqvist	Volcker	Berg
1♥	Pass	2♥	3♦
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Simonsen	Grosset	Skjetne	Lorenzini
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Bessis opened 1♥ and Lindqvist made a down the middle pass. Volcker raised to 2♥ and Berg simply bid his better suit – would 3♥ not have been spades and another (or 4♦ Leaping Michaels)? Lindqvist had fair values but his partner might have been competing and suggesting a lead on a much weaker hand than his actual one. Looking at a singleton diamond, Lindqvist passed and that was that. Bessis led a spade and tried the ace of hearts when Berg played a diamond to the queen and ace. Berg ruffed and drew trumps then led the six of clubs. Bessis ducked so the queen scored and the king of clubs went away on the king of hearts; 12 tricks for +170.

Grosset made a four-card 1♠ overcall – not a general approach that I favour but it at least got the spades into the picture. Mind you, Grosset must have been a little concerned when his partner first showed a sound raise then launched into Key-card. However, 5♠ proved to be safe enough and Grosset made his contract for +450 and 7 IMPs to France; 57-57.

Norway had a couple of small swings to come, to run out winners by 64-57 IMPs, 16-14 VPs. France still topped the rankings by 11 VPs with two rounds to go, while Norway led third-placed Italy by 12 VPs, with Israel 1 VP further back.