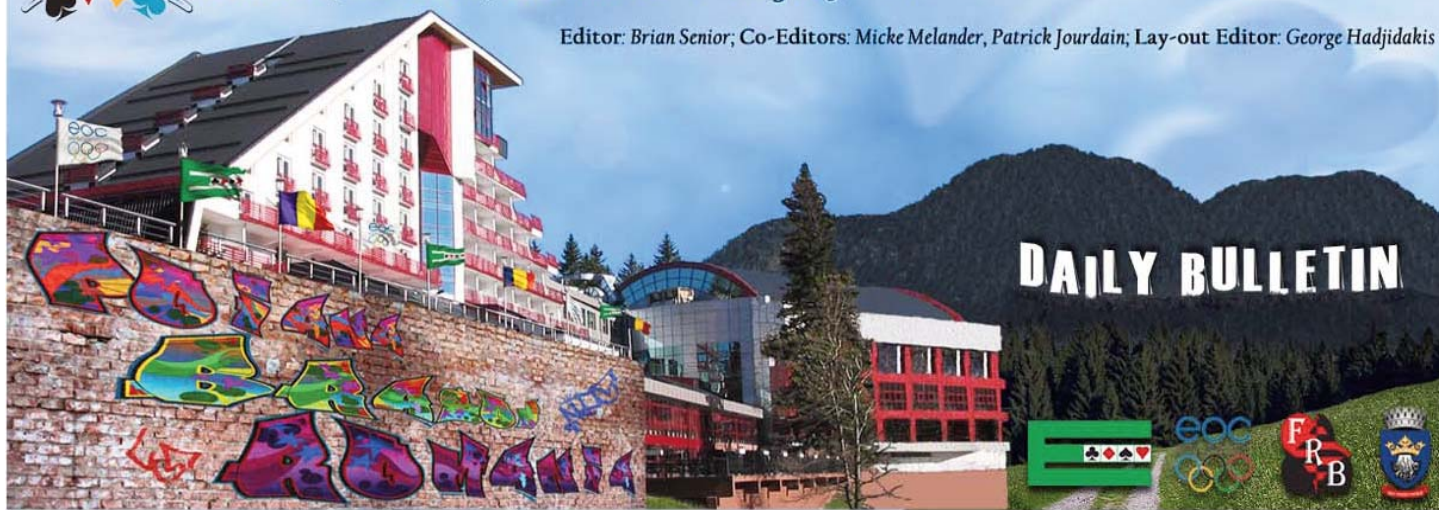


22nd EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



Poiana, Brasov, Romania 8-18 July 2009

Editor: Brian Senior; Co-Editors: Micke Melander, Patrick Jourdain; Lay-out Editor: George Hadjidakis



Issue No. 11

Saturday Evening, 18 July 2009

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



U-26
Gold Medal

F
R
A
N
C
E

U-21
Gold Medal

P
O
L
A
N
D



UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS**RESULTS****ROUND 23**

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL AUSTRIA	75 - 26	25 - 5
2	ITALY NETHERLANDS	27 - 69	6 - 24
3	HUNGARY GERMANY	91 - 44	24 - 6
4	RUSSIA BULGARIA	28 - 50	10 - 20
5	ROMANIA DENMARK	58 - 38	19 - 11
6	LATVIA BELGIUM	63 - 42	19 - 11
7	ENGLAND FRANCE	29 - 34	14 - 16
8	POLAND CROATIA	42 - 24	19 - 11
9	NORWAY CZECH REP.	38 - 59	11 - 19
10	SWEDEN GREECE	52 - 40	17 - 13
11	TURKEY FINLAND	38 - 55	11 - 19
12	IRELAND BYE		18 - 0

FINAL RANKING

1	FRANCE	427
2	ISRAEL	418
3	NORWAY	414
4	NETHERLANDS	382
5	ITALY	379
6	GERMANY	373
7	SWEDEN	372
8	RUSSIA	364.5
9	POLAND	362
10	AUSTRIA	349
11	BULGARIA	347
	ROMANIA	347
13	CZECH REPUBLIC	345
14	DENMARK	337
15	ENGLAND	334
16	LATVIA	333
17	HUNGARY	332
18	GREECE	329
19	CROATIA	312
20	FINLAND	307
21	TURKEY	304
22	BELGIUM	261
23	IRELAND	200

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS**RESULTS****ROUND 13**

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ROMANIA ENGLAND	30 - 91	3 - 25
2	FRANCE NORWAY	49 - 42	16 - 14
3	HUNGARY ISRAEL	38 - 69	9 - 21
4	GERMANY ITALY	20 - 67	6 - 24
5	CZECH REP. POLAND	0 - 79	1 - 25
6	NETHERLANDS TURKEY	56 - 46	17 - 13
7	DENMARK SWEDEN	42 - 49	14 - 16

FINAL RANKING

1	POLAND	278
2	ISRAEL	275
3	FRANCE	208
4	NORWAY	205
5	SWEDEN	200
6	GERMANY	199
	HUNGARY	199
8	NETHERLANDS	198
9	ENGLAND	184
10	ITALY	169
11	TURKEY	163
12	DENMARK	149
13	CZECH REPUBLIC	146
14	ROMANIA	122

Roll Of Honour**U-26 Open**

Gold: France

Silver: Israel

Bronze: Norway

Also Qualify: Netherlands, Italy, Germany

U-21 Open

Gold: Poland

Silver: Israel

Bronze: France

Also Qualify: Norway, Sweden, Germany

U-26 Girls

Gold: Poland

Silver: France

Bronze: Netherlands



U-26
Silver Medal
**I
S
R
A
E
L**

U-26
Bronze Medal

**N
O
R
W
A
Y**



U-21
Silver Medal
**I
S
R
A
E
L**

U-21
Bronze Medal

**F
R
A
N
C
E**



EBL PRESIDENT FAREWELL

Authorities, dear colleagues of the European Bridge League and of the Romanian Bridge Federation, ladies and gentleman, dear young friends,

We are once again at the end of a marvellous bridge adventure. First of all, I am pleased to bring you greetings and congratulations from our WBF President, José Damiani, who called me, also informing me that the first SIX Teams in both the Under 26 and Under 21 Series are qualified for the World Championship, which will be held in Philadelphia, USA, October 2010.

The curtain falls and, as usual, we are a little bit sad to leave our old and new friends but, in the meantime, we are happy to return to our homes and to our families, after having spent together eleven intensive days.

It is time to draw the first balance of this event. On our side, we tried to do our best to manage and run the Championships. Of course, you have to draw the balance of this championship, but I believe I am entitled to say that here in Poiana Brasov we celebrated, all together, with 51 teams participating, representing 24 European Countries, another great bridge event, achieving a remarkable success.

Above all, the success is due to your behaviour and fair play which, in the spirit of such a high standard sports competition, created an atmosphere of friendship, serenity and harmony, confirming all the values of our discipline. Once again our motto 'Bridge for Peace' won!

I am very pleased now to express our gratitude and to thank the Romanian Bridge Federation for the huge work done, before and during the Championships, and having provided our staff of many and very efficient collaborators. I am pleased to award the EBL Silver Medal to the Romanian Bridge Federation and I am pleased to call to the stage the General Secretary, my dear friend Marius Georgescu.

I want also, once again, to thank the Organizing Committee and the local Authorities for the great

support they gave us, which cannot be overlooked. I am pleased to invite to the podium Marius Georgescu, Oana Cherchiu, Dan Ignatescu, Ionut Popa, Daniel Savin and Radzvan Spiridonescu to award them the EBL plaque.

Let me finally thank all the members of our great staff who enabled us to carry out this championship by offering their enthusiasm, their professionalism and their dedication. I would like to name them all,

one by one, but for all of them I will call their chiefs, inviting them all to stand, when I call them to receive our much deserved applause. Our great Operation Director Dimitri Ballas, the Appeals Committee led by Ata Aydin, with Patrick Jourdain and Paolo Clair; the Tournament Directors led by Eitan Levy; the Hospitality and

Registration Desk led by Silvia Valentini and Dan Dimitrescu; the Chairman of the Protocol Sevinc Atay; the Main Office guided by Gianluca Barrese; the Communications Master Panos Gerontopoulos; the Rama Commentator Barry Rigal; the Daily Bulletin co-ordinated by Brian Senior; the Duplication Team led by Deborah Corsaro; the technological team led by Professor Gianni Baldi and Fotis Skoularikis; the IT System managers Manolo Eminent and Calin Ionescu.

Now we are really at the end. Dear young friends, on behalf of the European Bridge League and personally, I want to congratulate you and thank you. More than usual today, there are no losers, all of you are winners. We are proud of you. I hope to meet you soon and the first occasion could be next month in Istanbul for the 1st World Transnational Youth Bridge Championship.

I am honoured to declare officially closed the 22nd European Youth Bridge Team Championship.

Un abbraccio to you all
Gianarrigo Rona



UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 22



ITALY

V

ISRAEL



With two rounds to go in the U-26 Championship, the third and fourth placed teams met with medals and World Championship qualification still uncertain. This match could go a long way towards securing those goals for the winning team.

Israel gained an overtrick IMP on Board 1 when then six more on Board 3 when Dror Padon and Matteo Montanari held:

♠ 9 7 6 5 4
♥ A K 9 6
♦ K 3
♣ K 6

Both heard the uncontested auction: 1♠ – INT – 2♥ – 3♠. Padon went on to game, Montanari passed, and both came to ten tricks; game was cold, but not particularly good.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K J 2 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ J 8 6 3 ♣ A 8 2	<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;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 6 5 3 ♥ A J 3 2 ♦ K 10 ♣ K J 10	♠ 10 8 ♥ K Q 9 7 4 ♦ A 7 5 2 ♣ 9 3
♠ Q 9 7 4 ♥ 10 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ Q 7 6 5 4			
West <i>Argelazi</i> Pass 2♣ 2NT	North <i>Franchi</i> Pass Pass Pass	East <i>Birman</i> INT 2♥ 3NT	South <i>Montanari</i> Pass Pass All Pass
West <i>Manno</i> Pass 1♠ 3NT	North <i>Tarnovski</i> Pass Pass All Pass	East <i>Di Franco</i> 1♣ INT	South <i>Padon</i> Pass Pass

Padon led a club round to Massimiliano Di Franco's jack. Di Franco led a spade to the jack and a diamond up, Bar Tarnovski rising with the ace to play his remaining club. Di Franco won in hand and ducked a heart to the bare ten, so Padon cleared the clubs. There was a winning line from here, of course, which is lead a heart towards the jack twice, but Di Franco instead played South for honour-ten

doubleton and was down one; –100.

Montanari too led a club round to the jack and Alon Birman led a spade to the jack and a diamond up. Arrigo Franchi played low so Birman put in the ten, losing to the queen. Montanari saw no future in the club suit so switched to his singleton ten of hearts. Franchi falsecarded with the king and Birman ducked. Franchi switched back to clubs. Birman won in hand and played the king of diamonds, ducked. Then came a 15 minute pause. Eventually, Birman lead the ace of spades and a spade to the king, followed by the jack of diamonds, pinning the nine. He had nine tricks now for +600 and 12 IMPs to Israel.

By half-time, Israel had extended the lead to 37-4.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 7 6 5 4 ♥ J 10 9 ♦ 10 8 7 ♣ Q 7 3	<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;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 8 ♥ A K 7 6 ♦ – ♣ A K J 10 9 5 4	♠ A 3 2 ♥ 8 5 4 ♦ K 9 6 4 3 ♣ 8 2
♠ K J 10 9 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ A Q J 5 2 ♣ 6			
West <i>Argelazi</i> Pass Pass 3♣ 5♣	North <i>Franchi</i> Pass 2♣ 4♣ All Pass	East <i>Birman</i> 1♣ 2♥ 4♦	South <i>Montanari</i> 1♦ 2♠ Pass
West <i>Manno</i> Pass Pass 3♥ 3♠ 5♣	North <i>Tarnovski</i> Pass 1♥ Dble Pass All Pass	East <i>Di Franco</i> 1♣ 3♣ Rdbl 4♦	South <i>Padon</i> Dble Pass Pass

After very competitive auctions, both Easts declared 5♣. Montanari led the ace of diamonds, which Birman ruffed. He cashed a top club then a top hearts, and crossed to dummy with the queen of clubs to pass the ten of hearts. That lost to the queen and Montanari switched to a spade; down one for –50.

Padon led the two of hearts and now there was no heart loser; +400 and 10 IMPs to Italy, 14-37.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Franchi	Birman	Montanari
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	3♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Manno	Tarnovski	Di Franco	Padon
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Three Diamonds was very safe and easy and Birman quickly made ten tricks for +130. In the other room, Andrea Manno was encouraged by his diamond fit, strongly indicating that there would be six tricks to run in the suit, and asked for a spade stopper, with which Di Franco duly obliged.

Padon led a spade and Di Franco ducked until the third round. He cashed all six diamonds and North had to be a little bit careful. Not knowing for sure that declarer's heart ace was singleton, he came down to two king-doubles and had to throw both the established spade winners. Di Franco next led a low club from hand and Padon went up with the ace to play the jack of hearts through the queen. Declarer won the ace but Tarnovski had two kings for the last two tricks; down one for -100 and 6 IMPs to Israel; 43-14.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

♠ K Q 8 2 ♥ Q J 10 5 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ Q 3

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Franchi	Birman	Montanari
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Manno	Tarnovski	Di Franco	Padon
		2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Di Franco's 2♦ opening showed around 18-19 balanced and the 3♠ response was both minors with at least game values. Di Franco had excellent diamond support and good controls but otherwise a minimum and settled for the diamond game. He ducked the lead of the queen of hearts so, despite both minors coming in, had only 12 tricks for +420.

Birman opened 1♦ and raised the 2♣ response, GF. When Elran Argelazi simply bid the club game, not liking his hand for slam, Birman went on, making a grand slam try of 5♥. Argelazi still wasn't interested and signed off for a second time in 6♣.

Franchi led the queen of diamonds, a clear singleton. Argelazi won the king and played ♣K then a club to the ten. That lost to the queen but Argelazi had the rest for +920 and 11 IMPs to Israel; 54-14.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Franchi	Birman	Montanari
	2♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Manno	Tarnovski	Di Franco	Padon
	2♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Dble	Dble	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

After identical starts to the auction, Tarnovski was considerably more optimistic than Franchi. Not only did he

balance over 2♠ but, when he found a heart fit, he went on to game, where he was doubled. In the other room, Franchi sold out to 2♠.

Franchi led the jack of hearts against 2♠. Argelazi won the ace and led a spade to Franchi's king. Back came a low heart to the king, Manno throwing his low diamond. He led a club to the king and ace and Franchi led a heart, which Montanari ruffed with the jack, the sort of fatuous falsecard that just confuses partner. Montanari returned a club to the jack and Franchi cashed the ace of spades and queen of clubs; down two for -200.

The stakes were rather higher in the other room where Tarnovski was in 4♥ doubled. Any chance the defence might have had vanished at trick one when Di Franco led the queen of spades, his partner's suit. That took away the possibility of a spade loser, of course. Tarnovski won the ace and led a low heart to the queen and ace, won the spade return in hand and played the heart jack. Di Franco won that and switched to a diamond. Tarnovski won the ace, took a club finesse, drew trumps and crossed to the jack of spades to repeat the club finesse; 11 tricks for +990 and 13 IMPs to Israel, 67-14.

monds, which Tarnovski took with the ace and played a second spade. Padon won that and played a third round, ruffed in dummy as Tarnovski discarded a diamond. Manno led dummy's club and Padon rose with the ace and returned his remaining diamond to declarer's jack. Manno ruffed a club, ruffed a winning diamond with the ace, and ruffed his last club. He now ran the jack of hearts and just lost to the queen; down two for -300.

Argelazi too won the first spade but he continued by cashing the ace of hearts, discovering the four-nil break, then played the jack of diamonds, which held, and the king of diamonds to Franchi's ace. Franchi now led a club to the ace and Montanari played two rounds of spades, Franchi throwing his last diamond as dummy ruffed. Argelazi ruffed a diamond with the nine, over-ruffed and Franchi could not afford to return a trump as he had only the same length as dummy and all the diamonds were good. So he forced dummy to ruff a club. There was no way for Argelazi to neutralize the power of Franchi's seven of hearts – either he came to a trick with that card or there was a club loser instead; down three for -500 and 5 IMPs to Italy, 21-67

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Franchi	Birman	Montanari
		Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Manno	Tarnovski	Di Franco	Padon
		Pass	1♠
2♥	2NT	4♥	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♥	Dble
All Pass			

A club lead and subsequent ruff can hold 4♠ to ten tricks, but that is the best the defence can do, so the two East/West pairs did well to sacrifice in 5♥. There are four obvious losers in this contract after a spade lead – could declarer hold himself to those losers or would the defenders manage to find a fifth trick?

Manno won the spade lead and played the king of dia-

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



Bar Tarnovski, Israel

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Franchi	Birman	Montanari
Pass	1♥	4♠	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Manno	Tarnovski	Di Franco	Padon
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4NT
Dble	5♦	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

Is the South hand worth a double of 4♠? Montanari thought yes, Padon no.

Did the Italians now have a misunderstanding, with 4NT intended as ace-asking but taken as two places to play? Whatever the explanation, they reached a slam off two aces. Birman led two top spades against 6♦. Franchi ruffed and played a diamond to the ace then switched his attention to hearts on seeing the four-nil split. Having knocked out the ace of hearts, he could cross to dummy with the king of clubs to run the ten of diamonds and pick up the trumps without loss. However, that was still one down for -100.

After Padon's pass, it was Tarnovski who reopened with a double and this time 4NT was two places to play, perhaps with the conversion to 5♥ showing a better hand than bidding the same thing straight away. Whatever the subtleties of Padon's sequence, Tarnovski wasn't interested so 5♥ became the final contract. Di Franco cashed a top spade then switched to a club. Tarnovski won cheaply and played on hearts and, after they had been drawn, it was natural to play the 4♠ bidder for the short diamonds. Therefore he picked up the queen without incident for +650 and 13 IMPs to Israel.

Israel won the match by 80-21 IMPs, 25-4VPs, and put themselves in a strong position for at least the bronze medal. Meanwhile, Italy had some work to do to hold onto the fourth World Championship qualifying spot in the final round.



Alon Birman, Israel

Sound Bell

The Camrose Home Internationals has five countries competing: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The players hate sitting out so in recent years the host of the final weekend has been allowed a second team to make the numbers even. This year it was England and they took the chance to field a 'B' team with a mixture of Seniors and Juniors. Of the latter, Mike Bell is a player here in Brasov and Michael Byrne, being now too old to be a Junior, is an npc. The 'B' team won, making Bell one of a very few juniors to have an Open Camrose title to his credit.

Bell played this partscore well from their Round 18 match against the Netherlands:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Bell		Jones
		Pass	INT
2♣(i)	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

(i) Clubs and hearts

West's intervention pushed Bell, North, a level higher than he would have liked to be. Most declarers just made 2♠.

Against Bell's 3♠, East led a club to West's ace and a second club was ruffed by declarer, East unblocking the king. That made it look as if West must have six clubs. Bell drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen and then took stock. If West had six clubs, four hearts and two spades he had at most a singleton diamond and there was only one card that would help. So Bell followed with the king of diamonds from dummy and was rewarded when West contributed the queen. East let this diamond and the next hold but won the third and then pressed on with a third club. As West was winning this trick, Bell could safely ditch his losing heart.

West now switched to a heart but Bell was able to win, ruff a heart, and ruff a diamond for his extra trick. He was left with a winning trump and the fifth diamond but, as the lead was in dummy, East still made the ♠J.

As England won the match 52-49 or 16-14 in VPs, this deal had swung the result.

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS FINAL BUTLER

Name		Boards	Country	Butler	
1	LEVY Hila	ASULIN Adi	120	Israel	1,78
2	TUCZYNSKI Piotr	JASSEM Pawel	240	Poland	1,51
3	LAZAR Alon	MEYUCHAS Moshe	200	Israel	1,16
4	KONKOLY Csaba	WAGNER Zsolt	160	Hungary	0,94
5	FISHER Lotan	GERSTNER Gal	200	Israel	0,76
6	MROCZKOWSKI Mateusz	SMIESZKOL Adam	200	Poland	0,64
7	NIAJKO Slawomir	WOJCIESZEK Jakub	80	Poland	0,48
8	COTREAU Pierre	DU CORAIL Edouard	120	France	0,34
9	GULLBERG Daniel	KARLSSON Johan	220	Sweden	0,33
10	GRUDE Tor Eivind	HEGGE Kristoffer	200	Norway	0,31
11	ELLERBECK Max	GRUENKE Paul	160	Germany	0,28
12	GRUENKE Paul	RUSCH Michael	60	Germany	0,25
13	CHARIGNON Fabrice	LAFONT Gregoire	200	France	0,22
14	WACKWITZ Ernst	NAB Vincent	200	Netherlands	0,19
15	TUNCBILEK Burak	OZKAN Murat	140	Turkey	0,16
16	EIDE Harald	ELLINGSEN Kristian	180	Norway	0,16
17	BOTTA Giorgia	CHAVARRIA Margherita	160	Italy	0,14
18	MCINTOSH Daniel	PAUL James	220	England	0,14
19	VERBEEK Thijs	LEUFKENS Lotte	140	Netherlands	0,14
20	THIZY Clement	COUDERT Thibault	200	France	-0,11
21	PHILIPSEN Rens	LANKVELD Joris van	180	Netherlands	-0,13
22	ORMAY Krisztina	LAZAR Kornel	200	Hungary	-0,15
23	EGGELING Marie	MAROSEVIC Daniel	200	Germany	-0,18
24	BELLINI Valerio	COSTA Margherita	180	Italy	-0,19
25	EIDE Mats	VIKJORD Vemund	140	Norway	-0,20
26	HOFFMEISTER Toke	RUSCH Michael	100	Germany	-0,23
27	PASKE Thomas	ROBERTSON Graeme	240	England	-0,30
28	RIMSTEDT Mikael	RIMSTEDT Ola	180	Sweden	-0,34
29	KOCLAR Akin	AKAN Efraim	200	Turkey	-0,35
30	FONYO David	SZIRMAY-KALOS Barnabas	160	Hungary	-0,38
31	ZYLKA Kamil	KRALIK Jan	180	Czech Republic	-0,38
32	THROWER James	MYERS Robert	60	England	-0,43
33	JEPSEN Rasmus Rask	JEPSEN Peter	260	Denmark	-0,45
34	KJELDTSEN Thomas Hvidberg	GUNDESEN Morten Tveden	260	Denmark	-0,47
35	KRALIK Frantisek	ONDRUCHOVA Klara	180	Czech Republic	-0,60
36	SUZER Ugurcan	TASKIN Arda Can	180	Turkey	-0,62
37	BALESTRA Simon	DE LEO Francesco	180	Italy	-0,62
38	DIMA Ionut Claudiu	VLASCEANU Liviu	260	Romania	-0,68
39	FRANK Vaclav	TICHA Magdalena	160	Czech Republic	-0,91
40	EPURE Ionut - Constantin	GRIGOREAN Vlad-Ionut	260	Romania	-1,14

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS FINAL BUTLER

Name	Boards	Country	Butler	
1 LINDQVIST Espen	BERG Erik	340	Norway	0,69
2 PADON Dror	TARNOVSKI Bar	380	Israel	0,67
3 BESSIS Thomas	VOLCKER Frederic	340	France	0,67
4 LORENZINI Cedric	GROSSET Christophe	300	France	0,64
5 ASSARAF Eran	SCHWARTZ Ron	140	Israel	0,56
6 SKORCHEV Stefan	SPASOV Dean	420	Bulgaria	0,50
7 ARVIDSSON Eric	BECH Simon	320	Sweden	0,48
8 MANNO Andrea	DI FRANCO Massimiliano	340	Italy	0,45
9 SIMONSEN Steffen Fredrik	SKJETNE Erlend	300	Norway	0,44
10 NISTOR Radu	DOBRESCU Raluca Elena	440	Romania	0,44
11 BOGEN Haakon	JOHANSEN Lars Arthur	240	Norway	0,43
12 DELLE CAVE Giuseppe	FELLUS Robin	160	Italy	0,41
13 DRIJVER Bob	MICHELSEN Marion	320	Netherlands	0,40
14 SCHULZ Dieter	BINA Richard	400	Austria	0,38
15 ATTHEY John	OWEN Chris	340	England	0,37
16 KATERBAU Janko	REHDER Martin	440	Germany	0,34
17 BILDE Dennis	JEPSEN Emil	360	Denmark	0,32
18 ARGELAZI Eliran	BIRMAN Alon	360	Israel	0,29
19 BOZZAI Bence	HOFFMANN Tamas	120	Hungary	0,27
20 OSIPOV Anton	VESELOV Ivan	160	Russia	0,24
21 SIKORA Jan	NAWROCKI Piotr	320	Poland	0,24
22 WIANKOWSKI Piotr	ZATORSKI Piotr	340	Poland	0,20
23 BETHERS Peteris	IMSA Adrians	360	Latvia	0,18
24 MOLENAAR Danny	VERBEEK Tim	280	Netherlands	0,18
25 DOXIADIS Konstantinos	KONTOMITROS Konstantinos	360	Greece	0,17
26 MACURA Milan	KOPECKY Michal	400	Czech Republic	0,17
27 NIELSEN Lars Kirkegaard	HOULBERG Anne-Sofie	260	Denmark	0,16
28 BETHERS Janis	LAUKS Lauris	220	Latvia	0,11
29 PAGTER Vincent de	HOP Jacco	280	Netherlands	0,10
30 WUERMSEER Maria	ZIMMERMANN Felix	300	Germany	0,08
31 LHUISSIER Nicolas	ROBERT Quentin	240	France	0,05
32 DONDIVIC Luka	STANICIC Ognjen	340	Croatia	0,03
33 VESELOV Ivan	BORISOV Dmitri	160	Russia	0,01
34 OSIPOV Anton	RUBTSOVA Ekaterina	160	Russia	0,01
35 SJOBERG Emma	RIMSTEDT Sandra	280	Sweden	-0,01
36 GOGOMAN Adele	ISLAM Jefri	360	Austria	-0,03
37 RIMSTEDT Cecilia	GRONKVIST Mikael	280	Sweden	-0,03
38 NEKRASOVA Ksenia	VOLOZHENIN Ivan	300	Russia	-0,03
39 HODEROVA Pavla	JANKOVA Jana	300	Czech Republic	-0,05
40 MONTANARI Matteo	FRANCHI Arrigo	380	Italy	-0,05
41 OZTURK Erdem	CICEK Arda	240	Turkey	-0,05
42 JONES Ian W B	SOMERVILLE Wayne	320	Ireland	-0,06
43 KARHULAHTI Arttu	MAKELA Anni	300	Finland	-0,06
44 MINARIK Gabor	RETTEGHY Orsolya	440	Hungary	-0,08
45 BRAUN Raffael	TIMOFEJEV Kai	140	Germany	-0,09
46 ERCAN Sehmus	GUNDOGDU Mehmet Guney	340	Turkey	-0,11
47 GRANSTROM Juho	NIEMINEN Pauli	300	Finland	-0,19
48 JONES Edward	BELL Michael	320	England	-0,24
49 STAFIE Diana Mihaela	PARVULESCU Mihai Lucian	400	Romania	-0,25
50 KISS Gabor	TORMA Robert	320	Hungary	-0,27
51 MORRIS Alex	BROWN Fiona	220	England	-0,29
52 KRAWCZYK Joanna	WASIAK Artur Lucasz	220	Poland	-0,31
53 BAHNIK Ondrej	BARNET Lukas	180	Czech Republic	-0,32
54 VAN MECHELEN Rutger	VAN MECHELEN Joram	300	Belgium	-0,38
55 RUSO Lara	ZEPIC Vjekoslav	280	Croatia	-0,40
56 VROUSTIS Vassilis	DARKADAKIS Athanasios	200	Greece	-0,43
57 SIDEROV Zhivko	SYUSYUKIN Ivan	260	Bulgaria	-0,44
58 FAGERLUND Juuso	FAGERLUND Vesa	280	Finland	-0,48
59 VASILEV Nikolai	DRAGANOV Zhivko	200	Bulgaria	-0,50
60 PEDERSEN Lea Troels Moller	SORENSEN Lars Moller	260	Denmark	-0,50
61 GRACIN Tomislav	GUMZEJ Rudolf	260	Croatia	-0,52
62 ILGIN Irfan	OZGUR Muhammet	300	Turkey	-0,53
63 DOBBELS Tine	DEVISSCHERE Willem	340	Belgium	-0,59
64 BALASOVS Juris	LORENCS Martins	260	Latvia	-0,64
65 SCHAFFER Jorrit	GEENS Bert	240	Belgium	-0,71
66 KAUTNY Paul	HOEPFLER Markus	120	Austria	-0,84
67 BOYD Richard	O'ROURKE Michael	280	Ireland	-1,45
68 SYNNOTT David	O'CONNOR Kelan	280	Ireland	-1,71

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 20



ISRAEL

V

RUSSIA



This match might have been Russia's last chance; they needed four big matches to get into the top four, while Israel would have a tough day, ending with Italy on vugraph. The match started well for Russia:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A 9 ♥ K 6 ♦ K Q 8 6 ♣ 10 9 6 4 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q ♥ 10 9 8 4 2 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ Q J 8 7	♠ K 8 7 6 2 ♥ A J ♦ J 5 ♣ A K 5 2
---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Osipov</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>Veselov</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
All Pass	INT	Pass	3NT

West <i>Volozhenin</i>	North <i>Tarnovski</i>	East <i>Nekrasova</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦(i)
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣

(i) GF

Even 5♣ was going to be too high today; 6♣, while about a 50% contract (clubs 2-2 or singleton honour in West) went two down. 3NT was by no means cold either (if clubs did not behave declarer would need diamonds to be developed). Declarer won the heart lead in hand and tested clubs, West pitching a diamond. Now declarer advanced the diamond jack; Argelazi won his ace as Birman followed with the nine, and cleared hearts. Declarer cashed the spade ace and did not take the spade king – which might have given him a far stronger count on the hand. Instead he played a club to dummy and ran diamonds from the top. Nicely done, anyway, and 10 IMPs to Russia.

On the next deal Russia took a phantom sacrifice against a game (making a partscore in the other room to hold the

damage). Just for reference, would you rather double or overcall in third seat at favourable vulnerability with a 2-5-3-3 13-count with ♥A-K-6-5-3 and all queens or jacks? Or would you rather pass over 1♠ and pass when 2♠ comes back to you, at favourable vulnerability? Argelazi did the latter, Volozhenin the former.

The next board saw one of the crueller strokes of fate in the entire event (or year, or decade for that matter).

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A 8 2 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ A K Q 9 7 6 ♣ J	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 6 4 ♥ J 10 9 8 ♦ J 5 4 3 ♣ 10 7	♠ 7 5 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ 10 ♣ A K Q 9 5 4 2
--------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Osipov</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>Veselov</i>
3NT	Dble	4♣	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣(i)
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥(ii)
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠

All Pass

- (i) One
- (ii) No spade queen

West <i>Volozhenin</i>	North <i>Tarnovski</i>	East <i>Nekrasova</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
3NT	Dble	All Pass	Pass

Veselov had a cunning plan; when asked for the spade queen he denied it, but raised the sign-off to slam, figuring his intermediates would let him pick up the ♠Q. He ruffed the second club and might quite reasonably have gone down by playing for trumps 4-1 and trying to get his name in the paper. (Ruff the club run the spade eight, play two top diamonds and ruff a diamond, cash ♥K, go to the ♠A and run the diamonds to get the trump coup. This line fails when diamonds do not split and trumps do.) But the difference between +980 and +480 was worth all of 3 IMPs –

that being the difference between the IMP-swing when 3NT doubled went for 2000. I suppose you could say East was lucky her diamond holding represented a stop (but I would not say that too loudly in her hearing).

On the next few deals not many IMPs changed hands, though Israel defended a partscore better (and Russia declared it worse). Then Russia had a fluke; Nekrasova/Volozhenin reached 3NT instead of their heart game with a club stop of J2 facing 8, with their opponents bidding and supporting spades. The man with 5-5 in the blacks duly led a spade and his partner, who had ♣AKQ107, was doubtless not amused. Somehow, the two overtrick IMPs to Israel seemed a poor return. The score had reached 25-12 as the half-way point of the match arrived.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ 10 3 ♥ K Q 10 8 3 2 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 9 8 7					
	♠ K 9 ♥ 9 6 ♦ AKQJ976 ♣ AK	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <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>	N	W E	S	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ A Q 8 7 2 ♥ A J 4 ♦ 4 2 ♣ 10 3 2		♠ J 6 5 4 ♥ 7 5 ♦ 8 5 3 ♣ J 6 5 4			
West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Osipov</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>Veselov</i>			
3NT	All Pass	Pass	1♠			



Ksenia Nekrasova, Russia

West <i>Volozhenin</i>	North <i>Tarnovski</i>	East <i>Nekrasova</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
			1♠
Dble	2♦(i)	Pass	2♥
3♥	pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	All Pass		
(i) Hearts			

Although I think it is more common for players to cuebid where they have a stopper for no-trumps not where they need help, E/W for Russia were clearly on the same wavelength. Should 4♦ be forcing? East believed that partner would bid 5♦ if that was where he wanted to play, so passed. Right she was – and that was worth 10 IMPs when Argelazi's agricultural pot at 3NT earned him –300. (Quite a few tables did let 3NT through on a fatuous spade lead, though.)

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q 10 8 6 3 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ K J 3 ♣ 10 8					
	♠ A K 9 ♥ K 8 ♦ Q 10 9 7 6 ♣ Q 9 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <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>	N	W E	S	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ J 7 5 4 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ K 7 6 3		♠ 2 ♥ A Q J 10 9 6 ♦ A 4 ♣ A J 5 2			
West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Osipov</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>Veselov</i>			
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass			
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass			
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass			
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass			
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass			
West <i>Volozhenin</i>	North <i>Tarnovski</i>	East <i>Nekrasova</i>	South <i>Padon</i>			
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass			
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass			
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass			
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass			
5NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass			

Both auctions to 6♥ were perfectly reasonable – you can take your choice as to whether you prefer East introducing a second suit (could 7♣ ever be best?) or Nekrasova's splinter.

Against 6♥ both Norths led a trump – particularly painful for me to keep seeing hands where a trump lead is best against small slams because I had been of the opinion that such leads were never right. Argelazi chose to win in dummy and lead a club to the queen; whether or not that

is a good line is not clear to me (you get more table action but may lose out to ♣Kx aside) but it made the contract very easy.

In the other room Volozhenin won the trump lead in hand and led a club to the jack. Had South ducked (a play I suspect few of us would find without sight of all four hands), declarer would surely have played the club ace and another club. South can win and lead a second trump and the contract is dead.

But Padon took his ♣K and returned a trump. Now declarer should have unblocked the club queen and diamond ace and, if the club ten had not fallen, he could have run the trumps and crossed to the two top spades and been in hand with a diamond menace against a hand with two clubs left.. But instead, declarer ran the side-suit winners and then crossed to the club queen; the fall of the club ten did him no good as he had no way to unblock the clubs; one down. This line was playing for a defensive error of course – if the squeeze were working, the defenders would have shifted to a spade, but admittedly that play would only be possible if the defenders knew declarer did not need to ruff clubs, having started with a doubleton.

Experts in percentages might consider whether declarer should win the heart lead at trick one and advance the ♦Q. If North does not cover, then rise with the ace and play on clubs. If North does cover, you might go after diamonds not clubs.

Israel now led 39-23 but the next few deals saw Russia claw back the lead with some sensible judgment.

Non-vulnerable, Padon picked up a 4-4-4-1 16 count and opened 1♦ and heard his partner respond INT; he reversed into hearts then converted 3♣ to 3NT, and was fortunate to find a lie of the cards that let Tarnovski out for down one. Meanwhile Veselov passed INT to record +90.

On the next deal Nekrasova produced a weak-jump overcall of 1♦ in fourth-seat with ♠KJ753 in a 5-2-2-4 ten-count that included doubleton queens in both red-suits. Colour me yellow for nauseous, but it had the effect of driving her opponents to a no-play game.

Israel recovered a partscore when the Russian's loose 1♣ opening led to their under-competing on a partscore, but they came back on the next three deals with medium-size swings.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K Q 9 6 2 ♥ Q 4 ♦ K Q 9 3 ♣ 6 2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		W	E	S		♠ 7 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ A 8 7 5 ♣ A 7 5 4 3
N								
W	E							
S								
♠ A J 10 8 5 ♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ J ♣ K J 9	♠ 4 3 ♥ A K 9 3 ♦ 10 6 4 2 ♣ Q 10 8							

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Osipov	Birman	Veselov
	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Volozhenin	Tarnovski	Nekrasova	Padon
	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Veselov expected to be facing four diamonds and was facing a somewhat limited hand, Padon could not be sure, and was worried about missing game. Two Diamonds played for +110 on a heart lead, Two Spades ran into a force and made five tricks (and yes, declarer could have done better). The match was now down to 1 IMP for Israel at 44-43.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 7 6 5 4 ♥ Q 2 ♦ 9 8 7 6 ♣ 6 4	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">W</td><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		W	E	S		♠ 3 ♥ 7 5 ♦ A K Q 10 5 3 2 ♣ K Q 2
N								
W	E							
S								
	♠ A J 2 ♥ A K 10 4 3 ♦ J ♣ J 10 9 8							
	♠ K Q 9 8 ♥ J 9 8 6 ♦ 4 ♣ A 7 5 3							

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Osipov	Birman	Veselov
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Dble	3♦	4♥
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Volozhenin	Tarnovski	Nekrasova	Padon
		3NT	Pass
4♣	Dble	4♦	4♠
All Pass			

Volozhenin was going to sacrifice over 4♥, the contract Padon would have got his side to with a responsive double of 4♦. But West was happy to defend 4♠ and declarer was just a touch unlucky that the diamonds were 7-4 not 8-3. After two rounds of diamonds, declarer ruffed and found the bad news in trumps. Then he ran the hearts from the top and West could ruff the third heart to play a third diamond, ruffed by Padon, who cashed his last trump and tried to run the hearts.

When West ruffed in he would have been endplayed to open up the clubs had he not still had a diamond to lead to his partner. Since East had kept three clubs, declarer escaped for down one, but it was still 9 IMPs to Russia when

5♦ doubled went down 300.

By this time the match was into time trouble; on the last deal Osipov took a call that I'm sure he would not have made had there been more minutes on the clock.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Osipov	Birman	Veselov
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Volozhenin	Tarnovski	Nekrasova	Padon
1♦	1♥	Dbf	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Maybe Nekrasova might have competed further as East in the Closed Room. For sure, North would have balanced with 2♥ over 2♦ in the Open Room if he had had more time to think. As it was, both partscores collected 110 and Israel had recovered to lose 52-50.



Anton Osipov, Russia

Brilliant Bessis

Over several years of Youth tournaments I have found Thomas Bessis to be a rich source of top-quality play and defensive hands. Here in Poiana Brasov, Thomas left it until the final match, against England, for his finest effort.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Bessis	Atthey	Volcker	Owen
	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Chris Owen's 2NT response was an invitational or better spade raise and John Atthey's 3♥ a length-showing game try, accepted by Owen who, of course, was always planning to go on to game.

It looks as though 4♠ is destined to make, courtesy of the ruffing club finesse, but... Frederic Volcker led the eight of diamonds, second from three or more small cards, and Bessis won the king and cashed the ace, Atthey falsecarding with the queen as Volcker dropped the two, confirming two or four cards – clearly four on the auction. Bessis switched to the seven of clubs and, not surprisingly, declarer was taken in. Atthey ruffed low and gave up a heart, Bessis winning the ace and returning a diamond to declarer's ten. Atthey ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, being relieved to see that Bessis could not over-ruff, and ruffed another club. But Volcker could over-ruff and that was two down.

How could Bessis possibly find the brilliant underlead? His partner would surely have led a singleton club rather than four small diamonds so was marked with either two clubs or a void. Once declarer was known to have three diamonds, plus heart length because of the auction, it had to be he and not Volcker who had the club void.

As the French North/South pair had played in 4♣ down one for -50 in the other room, Bessis' fine defence turned -10 IMPs into +2 IMPs.

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS **ROUND 23**



NORWAY

v

CZECH REP.



Norway went into the final round secure in the knowledge that a medal had been won, but what colour would it prove to be? They went into the match 8 VPs behind leaders, France, and 10 VPs clear of third-placed Israel.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



♠ 10 9 7 3
♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ 10 7
♣ 8 6 4

West	North	East	South
Macura	Johansen	Kopecky	Bogen
	2♦	Pass	2♥
3♦	Dble	4♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Berg	Jankova	Lindqvist	Hoderova
	1♣	Pass	1♦
2♦	Dble	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♣	4♦	All Pass

Johansen had shown a strong hand already and perhaps didn't need to double a second time, trusting partner to have done so when that was correct. Still, he was a little unlucky to find that 4♦ doubled could not be defeated. Both declarers made ten tricks for +130 to Norway but +510 to Czech Republic and 9 IMPs to the Czechs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



♠ K Q J 7 4
♥ 7 5
♦ 8 5 4
♣ A K J

West	North	East	South
Macura	Johansen	Kopecky	Bogen
		Pass	1♠
	3♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Berg	Jankova	Lindqvist	Hoderova
		Pass	1♠
	3♥	4♥	All Pass

Would you raise to game with the East hand? Espen Lindqvist was, of course, trying to cut his opponents out of the auction as much as bidding to make, a two-way shot. Jana Jankova started with the ace of spades then switched to a club. Pavia Hoderova won the club, cashed a spade then played two more rounds of clubs. Erik Berg ruffed with the queen, ruffed his last spade and took the heart finesse; down two for -200.

Michal Kopecky did not raise. Against 3♥, Lars Arthur Johansen cashed the ace of spades and switched to a club. Haakon Bogen won and switched to a trump. Milan Macura could see discards on dummy's diamonds so did not risk the finesse – just as well. When the king fell he could come to 11 tricks for +200 and 9 IMPs to Czech Republic.

At the half, it was Czech Republic by 31-11. With the French and Israelis leading, it seemed that Norway would be more concerned about trying to hang on to silver than grabbing the gold.



Pavla Hoderova, Czech Republic

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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



♠ 10 6
♥ 8 7 6 4
♦ A J 9
♣ A Q 10 2

West	North	East	South
Macura	Johansen	Kopecky	Bogen
	1♦	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	Dble	7♦
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Berg	Jankova	Lindqvist	Hoderova
	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

The Norwegian North/South obviously had a complete misunderstanding with North failing to read South's artificial 2♠ call. Seven Diamonds doubled was down two for -500.

Meanwhile, the Czechs had missed the good small slam in a minor and stopped off to double 4♥. Jankova led the king of diamonds then cashed the ace of spades before playing a low diamond. That cost the second club trick as Hoderova could do no better than cash her ace now for one down; -200 and 12 IMPs to Czech Republic when it should have been 14.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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



♠ A J 8 4
♥ J 9
♦ A K 8 3
♣ Q 8 6

West	North	East	South
Macura	Johansen	Kopecky	Bogen
		INT	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Berg	Jankova	Lindqvist	Hoderova
		1♦	INT
Dble	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Kopecky opened INT, weak, and Bogen doubled, ending the auction. Bogen started with the ace of diamonds then switched to a spade for the queen and king. Kopecky knocked out the king of diamonds and all Bogen could do was to cash the three spade winners; eight tricks made for +280.

Lindqvist opened 1♦ and Hoderova overcalled INT, doubled by Berg. Jankova ran to 2♥ and Berg doubled again, ending the auction. Lindqvist's low spade lead ran to the queen and Jankova led a trump to the eight, nine and ten. Berg returned the six of hearts to the ace and now Lindqvist played ace and another club, Jankova unblocking the queen and winning Berg's continuation of a third club in hand. She tried a heart but, of course, Berg held both of them so had two more defensive tricks and the contract was down one for -100 but 5 IMPs to Czech Republic.

With five deals to play Norway trailed by 15-52 and the silver medal was looking to be in real jeopardy.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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



♠ 9 7 4 2
♥ 6
♦ K 9 6 5 2
♣ 10 9 7

West	North	East	South
Macura	Johansen	Kopecky	Bogen
3♣	Dble	3♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Berg	Jankova	Lindqvist	Hoderova
1♣	Dble	1♥(i)	Pass
21♣	2♥	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

(i) Spades

Macura opened a rather heavy 3♣ and Kopecky, trading on his club fit, tried 3♠ over the take-out double. Nobody had anything to add to that and this inelegant contract

drifted five off at 100 a time for -500.

Berg opened at the one level and his opponents found their diamond fit and bid up to game.

Lindqvist led the ace of clubs, ruffed. Jankova cashed the ace and king of diamonds then the top hearts and ruffed a heart. Next came a spade to the ace and another heart ruff, over-ruffed. Back came a club so Jankova ruffed and cashed the long heart but had to lose two spade tricks and was one down for -150 and 11 IMPs to Norway; 26-52.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ 8						
	♥ 8 6 3						
	♦ Q 4						
	♣ K Q J 9 6 5 2						
♠ K J	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 80px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ A Q 10 7 5	
N							
W							
S							
E							
♥ 9 7 5 2	♥ A K						
♦ A K J 10 7	♦ 9 6 5 3 2						
♣ A 7	♣ 3						
	♠ 9 6 4 3 2						
	♥ Q J 10 4						
	♦ 8						
	♣ 10 8 4						

West	North	East	South
Macura	Johansen	Kopecky	Bogen
Berg	Jankova	Lindqvist	Hoderova
		1♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

Both East/Wests bid nicely to the grand slam, with both Easts claiming to hold the queen of trumps because of their extra length - flat at +1440.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ 10 7 6						
	♥ Q 10 8 7 6 4						
	♦ Q 2						
	♣ Q 2						
♠ A 9 3	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 80px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ Q J 8 5	
N							
W							
S							
E							
♥ K 9	♥ J						
♦ A K 9 6	♦ J 10 8 7 5 4 3						
♣ A 9 8 3	♣ K						
	♠ K 4 2						
	♥ A 5 3 2						
	♦ -						
	♣ J 10 7 6 5 4						

West	North	East	South
Macura	Johansen	Kopecky	Bogen
			Pass
1♣	2♥	3♣	4♥
6♦	Pass	Pass	6♥
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Berg	Jankova	Lindqvist	Hoderova
			Pass
1♣	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	5♥
Dble	All Pass		

Both Wests opened 1♣. Johansen overcalled 2♥ and Kopecky had a useful method for this particular deal, being able to make a transfer to diamonds. When Bogen jumped to 4♥, Macura knew he had a wasted ♥K and that his partner might have the non-forcing variety of 3♣ transfer, but he did have excellent trump support and controls, so guessed to jump to slam. That needs some good fortune in the major suits, but was fated to succeed, so Bogen too guessed well when he saved in 6♥. Kopecky led the king of clubs and switched to a spade, but a low one. When declarer played low, Macura won and returned a second spade to establish the fifth defensive winner; down 800.

Jankova made a multi 2♦ overcall and 3♥ was pass or correct. Lindqvist made a balancing double and showed spades rather than diamonds in response to berg's cuebid. Four Spades would have been easy enough, but Hoderova saved in 5♥ and, of course, Berg doubled.

Czech Mate

Probably a number of players found the same play but they would not offer such a 'clever' title so...

U-26. Round 21. Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ 9 3						
	♥ 5						
	♦ A 10 7 5						
	♣ Q J 10 8 4 3						
♠ A 10 8 6 2	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 80px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> </table>	N	W	S	E	♠ Q 7 4	
N							
W							
S							
E							
♥ Q 8 6 2	♥ K 9 7 4 3						
♦ 2	♦ K Q J 9						
♣ K 9 5	♣ A						
	♠ K J 5						
	♥ A J 10						
	♦ 8 6 4 3						
	♣ 7 6 2						

West	North	East	South
Macura		Kopecky	
	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦(i)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(i) Invitational splinter

Czech Republic's Milan Macura and Michal Kopecky reached the normal heart game and the Turkish South led a diamond to the ace. To defeat the contract North had to switch to a spade now. In practice, he switched to a club to declarer's ace. Kopecky led a heart to the queen, threw a spade on the king of clubs, ruffed a club and cashed the diamonds, throwing spades from dummy. Then he exited with a heart to South - Czech Mate. South had to lead from the king of spades and that cost him his spade trick; just made for +420.

Berg led a top diamond, ruffed, and Hoderova cashed the ace of hearts then led a club to the queen and king. Lindqvist switched to the queen of spades and Hoderova ducked. Now Lindqvist switched back to diamonds. Hoderova ruffed and gave up a club and Berg misjudged the position, cashing the ace of spades for three down; -500 but 7 IMPs to Czech Republic, 59-27. Had Berg counted more carefully, he could have instead cashed the king of hearts and played a diamond, forcing declarer to eventually play the second spade herself for four down and a flat board.

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Johansen</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Bogen</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Berg</i>	<i>Jankova</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Hoderova</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble
1♠	2♣	All Pass	

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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



The Norwegians had a very simple auction to 3NT. Kopecky led the queen of hearts and could not read his partner's card so continued with the king. Johansen won and played a club for the jack, queen and ace and back came a heart to the jack. Johansen cleared the clubs and had only to concede a spade; +400.

Lindqvist opened in third seat, leading to a quite different type of auction. Jankova got to 2♣ but game was never a serious consideration; +90 but 7 IMPs to Norway.

The final match score was 59-38 to Czech Republic, 19-11 VPs. Was that enough for Norway? No, Israel finished with a maximum and took silver behind the new champions, France, leaving Norway to take the bronze.

STATISTICS

Event	Most IMPs Scored in Championships	Fewest IMPs Conceded in Championships	Biggest Match Win	Most Total IMPs in a Match	Fewest Total IMPs in a Match
Juniors	1215	706	92	143	41
Schools	847	305	118	144	46
Girls	729	412	114	142	35

U-26 Open Teams	Net IMPs	U-21 Open Teams	Net IMPs	U-26 Girls Teams	Net IMPs
France	410	Israel	542	Poland	317
Norway	397	Poland	481	France	265
Israel	374	France	71	Netherlands	186
Netherlands	181	Norway	58	Sweden	155
Italy	172	Hungary	43	Denmark	136
Sweden	132	Sweden	35	Estonia	124
Germany	127	Netherlands	12	Czech Republic	115
Russia	111	Germany	11	Hungary	61
Poland	85	England	-48	Germany	46
Austria	36	Italy	-124	Norway	-68
Bulgaria	-2	Turkey	-149	Italy	-127
Denmark	-8	Denmark	-235	England	-279
Czech Republic	-11	Czech Republic	-280	Turkey	-311
Romania	-13	Romania	-417	Romania	-620
England	-41				
Latvia	-58				
Hungary	-79				
Greece	-87				
Croatia	-177				
Turkey	-195				
Finland	-203				
Belgium	-415				
Ireland	-736				

World Championships 2010

Good News!
 WBF President, Jose Damiani has confirmed that Europe will have six places in each of the U-21 and U-26 championships at the 2010 World Championships.
 The venue has also been confirmed as Philadelphia, during the first half of October 2010.

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS

ROUND 13



FRANCE

v

NORWAY



The gold and silver medals were determined long before the last round (though not which way round) but the battle for bronze and the fourth qualifying spot for next year's World U-21 Championship was still very much alive.

The scores going into the last round were Germany in third place on 193, France on 192, Norway on 191, and Hungary on 190. Sweden, in seventh place on 184, still had an outside chance.

France was playing Norway so that seemed the match to watch. France was fielding the same four as we reported yesterday, so your reporter switched to the Closed Room where Fabrice Charignon, 16, & Gregoire Lafont, 15, were playing against Vemund Vikjord & one of the Eide brothers, Mats. France has a young team as Clement Thizy, 17, was at the other table partnering Thibault Coudert, who is the only one of the six to be too old for this event in two years time. They faced Harald Eide & Kristian Ellingsen.

For once the 10 am 1st board was not such a swingy affair. West held:

♠ 8
♥ J 8 2
♦ A K Q 5 4
♣ K 9 5 3

LHO opens 1♣ which is passed round to you. What would you do? It looks a standard call of 1♦ but Charignon chose an off-centre double. When the tray came back he was somewhat fortunate that West had bid spades and his partner hearts rather than the other way about. He raised to 3♥, ending the auction. As partner held:

♠ A J 5 4
♥ Q 10 9 5
♦ J 8 6 3
♣ 7

the diamond suit would have provided an easier partscore. Three Hearts can be beaten double dummy but in practice made ten tricks for 170 and 1 IMP to France.

The next deal had greater potential for a swing:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 4 2 ♥ 9 5 3 2 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ 9 5 4	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		♠ 5 ♥ – ♦ A Q J 10 8 6 2 ♣ A Q 10 7 3	♠ 10 9 6 ♥ A Q 10 6 ♦ 3 ♣ K J 8 6 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Mats Eide</i>	<i>Lafont</i>	<i>Vikjord</i>
Pass	2♦	1♦	2♣
Pass	4♠	3♦	Pass
Pass		All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ellingsen</i>	<i>Coudert</i>	<i>Harald Eide</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
Pass	5♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	6♥	6♣	Pass
Pass		All Pass	

In the Closed Room, Vikjord's choice at red when RHO opened 1♦, appeared to be between pass and a light take-out double. I cannot approve of his 2♣ call on such a poor suit. The slam depends on North guessing the spades so one cannot tell what would have worked best. (After a take-out double by South, North will probably drive to slam in one of the majors.)

After the 2♣ overcall, North was happy to sign off in 4♠ where he made 11 tricks after laying down the top spades.

In the Open Room, East's bidding was much more dramatic. He and North had a private contest ending in 6♥ by North. The snag of East's bidding was that North had no doubts about how to handle the spade suit. Six Hearts was made for a 13 IMP swing to France.

This was also a successful deal for the French open team. The English East, playing Polish Club, opened one diamond and over the 2♦ Michaels re-opening by North bid 5♣. Is this 6-5 or 5-6 (the former might seem more likely but if East had opened 2♣ he would never have been able to show diamonds). And should not East show his pattern by bidding 4NT to indicate a shorter second suit?


Whatever the rights and wrongs of this argument when South doubled 5♣ the English West passed and England played 5♣x down seven for -2000.

Board 3 was a dull partscore affair with 22 HCP for East/West (though nine tricks are available in no trump). Actually, France made 2♥+1 whereas Norway was 3♥-1 for a 6 IMP swing to France.

On Board 4, France played 4NT when there was an invitational raise after 1♥ – 1♠ – INT. One would have thought they had a range checkback that would allow them to stop in 3NT when the opener was minimum. As it happened, the ♣9 provided the tenth trick when the defence led from ♣ Q J 10, and opposite declarer's two small dummy hit with: ♣ K 9 8 5. And curiously the French Open team got too high in exactly the same way! Norway was in 4♥ making for no swing.

Board 5 was another dull partscore but this time it was France that got too high and lost 6 IMP. Board 6 was flat.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.


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

In the Closed Room, South's INT was passed out. When West led a club declarer picked up seven tricks in the minor suits for 90 to Norway. In the Open Room, after the same INT opening, East protected with 2♥ showing both majors. This also came home with an overtrick for 6 IMPs to Norway.

While the English Open team played 2♥ making 110 they also stole the hand in the Closed room after 1♣-1♠-INT. Bessis led a top heart and Volcker ran five tricks in the suit. Everybody pitched clubs so Volcker could infer declarer's pattern after much thought he found the low spade shift: well done! Down one for a flat board.

This looked to be a swingier affair:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Mats Eide</i>	<i>Lafont</i>	<i>Vikjord</i>
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
4♥	4♠	5♥	All Pass

In the Closed Room, West cannot have been pleased when his partner bid 5♥ over 4♠. West was itching to double 4♠ (which goes for 500) and instead had to play a risky 5♥ which came home when he was able to play the diamonds for one loser. North led a low diamond to the jack and ace, and rose with the king on the second round, after declarer had drawn trumps.

In the Open Room, the auction was identical up to 4♥ which was then passed out and declarer made only ten tricks for 1 IMP, but a trap avoided, to France.


In the Open match in 5♥ Bessis misguessed diamonds

when North restrained himself on the second diamond. That was a flat board though when the English got over-board and played 6♥ – also down one.

Board 9 was a partscore affair where France pressed too high to lose 5 IMPs.

This next deal, which basically hinged on the opening lead, proved the key one in the match:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Charignon</i>	<i>Mats Eide</i>	<i>Lafont</i>	<i>Vikjord</i>
2♦(i)	2NT(ii)	Pass	INT
3♥	Pass	4♥	3♣
			All Pass

(i) One-suiter in a major
(ii) Lebensohl, demanding 3♣

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ellingsen</i>	<i>Coudert</i>	<i>Harald Eide</i>	<i>Thizy</i>
3♥	Pass	4♥	1♠
			All Pass

It was surprising Charignon did not bid 3♥ at his first turn. One cannot say whether on their methods his choices justified East's raise. The key point was that South had opened INT and therefore North had to guess what to lead. When he chose a diamond it was all over. Charignon popped up with the ace, disposed of two losing clubs on ♦QJ and then ran the heart nine. He lost to the bare king but made his game for 620 to France.

By contrast, at the other table Thizy had sensibly opened 1♠. That had the major advantage that North led ♠A. Thizy discouraged and received a club switch. The defence cashed four black winners and when declarer later took the heart finesse it was a further 200 to France and 13 IMPs.

The North player for the French open team had also heard his partner open 1♠; but he guessed to lead diamonds and that was -620, which went nicely with +140 from 3♠ by his team-mates.

At half-time France led 34-17. The final score was 49-42 to France or 16-14 in VPs. Norway's only big gain was 11 IMPs on the final deal of the championship, too late for the bronze, which belonged to France, but in time to stay ahead of Sweden who moved up to fifth after Germany lost heavily.