

Israel Leads in U-21 Championship



Luckily, his bark is worse than his bite – the wolf that is!

As we pass the midpoint in the U-21 Championship, Israel is looking very powerful and leads on 154 VPs from Poland 143 and Hungary 142. Already, there is a big gap to fourth-placed Netherlands on 119 and the chasing pack. Yesterday, Israel scored 72 out of a possible 75 VPs, including an important win by 22-8 over rivals, Poland.

France continues to lead the way in the U-26 event. The French have 322 VPs, ahead of Germany 307, Norway 299, Israel 296.5 and Italy 295. The top ten teams still have a shot at qualification for next year's World Championships.

Today's Vugraph Matches (also on BBO)

- 14.00 France v Ireland (Open U-26)
- 17.30 Hungary v Poland (Open U-21)

Additional BBO Matches

- 14.00 Russia v Italy (Open U-26)
- 17.30 Norway v Denmark (Open U-26)

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 15

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL NORWAY	63 - 36	21 - 9
2	AUSTRIA POLAND	81 - 46	22 - 8
3	ITALY ENGLAND	44 - 18	20 - 10
4	HUNGARY LATVIA	76 - 43	22 - 8
5	RUSSIA ROMANIA	43 - 45	15 - 15
6	SWEDEN NETHERLANDS	91 - 36	25 - 4
7	TURKEY GERMANY	41 - 78	7 - 23
8	IRELAND BULGARIA	48 - 61	12 - 18
9	FINLAND DENMARK	43 - 67	10 - 20
10	GREECE BELGIUM	51 - 44	16 - 14
11	CZECH REP. FRANCE	75 - 44	21 - 9
12	CROATIA BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 18

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

ROUND 16

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	POLAND ISRAEL	32 - 74	6 - 24
2	ENGLAND AUSTRIA	36 - 50	12 - 18
3	LATVIA ITALY	28 - 62	8 - 22
4	ROMANIA HUNGARY	33 - 41	14 - 16
5	RUSSIA BYE		18 - 0
6	NETHERLANDS NORWAY	62 - 31	21 - 9
7	GERMANY SWEDEN	46 - 53	14 - 16
8	BULGARIA TURKEY	73 - 18	25 - 4
9	DENMARK IRELAND	85 - 44	23 - 7
10	BELGIUM FINLAND	31 - 51	11 - 19
11	FRANCE GREECE	47 - 45	15 - 15
12	CROATIA CZECH REP.	54 - 39	18 - 12

ROUND 19

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

ROUND 17

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL ENGLAND	40 - 59	11 - 19
2	AUSTRIA LATVIA	50 - 42	16 - 14
3	ITALY ROMANIA	39 - 59	11 - 19
4	HUNGARY RUSSIA	40 - 68	9 - 21
5	POLAND NETHERLANDS	28 - 32	14 - 16
6	NORWAY GERMANY	45 - 25	19 - 11
7	SWEDEN BULGARIA	28 - 51	10 - 20
8	TURKEY DENMARK	14 - 79	3 - 25
9	IRELAND BELGIUM	60 - 35	20 - 10
10	FINLAND FRANCE	32 - 57	10 - 20
11	GREECE CROATIA	57 - 34	20 - 10
12	CZECH REP. BYE		18 - 0

Past Play Problem No. 7

Here is the grand slam that was the next board to yesterday's grand slam. It is not such a good contract!

How should West play 7♦? North leads ♣7 after South has doubled a 5♣ response to Blackwood.

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

Solution on page 4.

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 5

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 SWEDEN	TURKEY	52 - 62	13 - 17
2 DENMARK	POLAND	18 - 76	4 - 25
3 NETHERLANDS	ITALY	67 - 12	25 - 4
4 CZECH REP.	ISRAEL	18 - 119	0 - 25
5 GERMANY	NORWAY	46 - 64	11 - 19
6 HUNGARY	ENGLAND	97 - 44	25 - 5
7 FRANCE	ROMANIA	77 - 29	25 - 5

ROUND 8

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

ROUND 6

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 SWEDEN	ITALY	42 - 15	21 - 9
2 POLAND	ISRAEL	13 - 49	8 - 22
3 TURKEY	NORWAY	54 - 47	16 - 14
4 DENMARK	ENGLAND	27 - 74	6 - 24
5 NETHERLANDS	ROMANIA	67 - 26	23 - 7
6 CZECH REP.	FRANCE	61 - 27	22 - 8
7 GERMANY	HUNGARY	62 - 48	18 - 12

ROUND 9

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

ROUND 7

Match		IMP's	VP's
1 ITALY	POLAND	20 - 53	8 - 22
2 ISRAEL	TURKEY	64 - 2	25 - 3
3 NORWAY	DENMARK	41 - 56	12 - 18
4 ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	27 - 29	15 - 15
5 ROMANIA	CZECH REP.	36 - 43	14 - 16
6 FRANCE	GERMANY	48 - 36	17 - 13
7 HUNGARY	SWEDEN	48 - 22	20 - 10

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 7

1 ISRAEL	154
2 POLAND	143
3 HUNGARY	142
4 NETHERLANDS	119
5 GERMANY	111
6 NORWAY	110
7 FRANCE	108
8 SWEDEN	102
9 ENGLAND	97
10 TURKEY	91
11 ITALY	82
12 CZECH REPUBLIC	80
13 DENMARK	59
14 ROMANIA	54



Today's Schedule

14.00	Under 26 Open (18th Round)
17.30	Under 26 Open (19th Round)
14.00	Under 21 Open (8th Round)
17.30	Under 21 Open (9th Round)

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 17

1	FRANCE	322
2	GERMANY	307
3	NORWAY	299
4	ISRAEL	296.5
5	ITALY	295
6	RUSSIA	288
7	NETHERLANDS	279
8	SWEDEN	278
9	DENMARK	275
10	BULGARIA	270
11	AUSTRIA	262
12	POLAND	257
13	ROMANIA	245
14	LATVIA	243
15	CZECH REPUBLIC	241
	HUNGARY	241
17	CROATIA	234
18	ENGLAND	230
19	GREECE	220
20	TURKEY	212
21	BELGIUM	208
22	FINLAND	206
23	IRELAND	147

Past Play Problem No. 7 Solution

How should West play 7♦? North leads ♣7 after South has doubled a 5♣ response to Blackwood.

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

Franck Multon of France, still a junior at the 1988 Olympiad, made this, the second grand slam on consecutive boards against Italy. At trick one, South's ♣Q was taken by the king. Multon crossed to ♠A and led ♦Q. When South covered with the king he won and then ran the nine of trumps which held! Second grand made. South held:

♠ 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 10 3
♦ K
♣ Q 10 5 4 3


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.

Happy Ending

by Christer Andersson (Sweden)

In the fourth round of the Schools Teams on Tuesday evening, Turkey played Italy. It was a low-scoring and slow match with few exiting boards. It ended 15-15 (30-30). This was one of the exceptions in the Open Room, where the beauties Giorgia Botta/Margherita Chavarria played for Italy, and the handsome Akin Koclar/Efrain Akan for Turkey.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Botta	Koclar	Chavarria	Akan
		Pass	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

After the strong NT opening, most partnerships transferred to spades and jumped to game. The Turkish South, however, was a careful soul and invited, which his partner happily accepted. Chavarria led the ♦Q.

There are now several ways to make the contract as long as declarer wins the first trick, but none of them stands out. Declarer, somewhat unexpectedly, ducked the opening lead and finessed when Chavarria continued trumps. Botta took the king and, had she now continued with a high diamond for partner to ruff, the contract would have gone down. However, she shifted to clubs. Once again, declarer played low and Chavarria were allowed to win the jack. When a spade was returned, Akin Koclar recovered from his initial lapse by drawing trumps, cashing the three red winners, ruffing a diamond and playing the remaining spades, discarding red cards from hand. On the last trump, Chavarria was caught in a heart/club squeeze and the contract was made. The elegant recovery was required to equal the result of the Closed Room.

Today in History - July 16th



1945: First atomic bomb detonated

On July 16, 1945, the world's first atomic bomb is secretly detonated in the desert near Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Under extreme secrecy, the

British and Americans began development of the bomb in 1940. In 1942, the atomic program was placed under U.S. Army control and code-named the Manhattan Project, and in 1943 a laboratory directed by U.S. physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer was opened in the New Mexico desert. By the time of the successful Trinity test in July 1945, more than \$2 billion had been spent on the bomb's research and development. News of the deadly new weapon was not made public until three weeks later, when two others like it devastated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



1969: In the United States, the launch of the Apollo 11 spacecraft at the start of its mission to land men on the moon. On board the spacecraft - three US astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins.

1950: The largest ever crowd at a football match - more than 199,000 in Montevideo to see Uruguay beat Brazil 2-1 in the World Cup final.

Championship Information and Results

As we all know, information about this championship, including results and running scores, are posted on the EBL website on Internet, immediately as they become available.

However, people present onsite, may take advantage of a local service available in the venue building only. Any computer connected to the championship network (for example, computers in the Internet café, connected to the 'bridge' wireless network in the line-up area, etc.) can access the championship website via the address:

<http://mainserver/brasov.html>

(no www or anything else... just the address above; please allow 2-3 seconds to be redirected).

This possibility is available within the venue only. It provides a much faster service than Internet because it draws information from a server operating locally. Accordingly, we do recommend that people in the venue hotel use this service.

Panos Gerontopoulos - Communications Director

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL



XXIV th EDITION

24 aug - 05 sept

MAMAIA 2009

ROMANIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

SCHEDULE

15,00

21,00

MONDAY 24.08		ADDITIONAL PAIRS I IMP - session 1
TUESDAY 25.08	PATTON session 1	EVENING CONTEST
WEDNESDAY 26.08	PATTON session 2	EVENING CONTEST
THURSDAY 27.08	INDIVIDUAL session 1	PATTON FINAL
		EVENING CONTEST
FRIDAY 28.08	INDIVIDUAL session 2	EVENING CONTEST
SATURDAY 29.09	MIXED PAIRS session 1	WOMEN PAIRS match points session 1
	ADDITIONAL PAIRS II match points session 2	EVENING CONTEST
SUNDAY 30.09	MIXED PAIRS session 2	WOMEN PAIRS match points session 2
	ADDITIONAL PAIRS II match points session 2	EVENING CONTEST
MONDAY 31.09	OPEN PAIRS session 1	OPEN PAIRS session 2
TUESDAY 01.09	OPEN PAIRS session 3	EVENING CONTEST
WEDNESDAY 02.09	OPEN PAIRS session 4	EVENING CONTEST
THURSDAY 03.09	TEAM MATCHS matches 1-3	TEAM MATCHS matches 4-6
FRIDAY 04.09	TEAM MATCHS matches 7-9	TEAM MATCHS matches 10-12

SATURDAY 05.09

AWARDS CEREMONY

ENTRY FEES 7 € / PLAYER / SESSION
SUBSCRIPTION - 75 € / PLAYER

ACCOMMODATION

MODERN ****

DOUBLE 26 € PERSON / NIGHT

DORNA ***

DOUBLE 23 € PERSON / NIGHT

CARAIMAN **

DOUBLE 13 € PERSON / NIGHT

PELICAN ***

DOUBLE 22 € PERSON / NIGHT

ALCOR **

DOUBLE 16 € PERSON / NIGHT

APARTMENT 63 € NIGHT

CONTACT

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PHONE : (004) 0740 243 326 / (004) 0729 123 426

E-MAIL : office@frbridge.ro

www.frbridge.ro

Daily Dutch

by Kees Tammens

Bridge is a relatively easy game when you watch the vugraph and know all the hands. So in rounds 12,13 and14, I sat down behind one player and took his or her decisions with only thirteen cards in view.

Also for the internet readers of these bulletins who do not know the hands.

It started soon enough with a very difficult one.

Problem 1

U-26 Round 12. Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♦	4♥	6♦	Pass(?2)
Pass	Dble	Pass	(?3)

South:

♠ J 10 8 7
♥ K Q J 9 7 3
♦ 4
♣ K 8

Answers the three questions and, if you pass the double, what do you lead?

Problem 2

U-26 Round 12. Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

♠ 9 7 6 4
♥ K Q 10 2
♦ J 4
♣ A K J



♠ Q
♥ A J 8 5
♦ A 8 6 3 2
♣ Q 10 5

How do you play after the lead of ♦K?

Problem 3

U-26 Round 12. Board 8. None Vul.

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	INT(i)	2♠
?			

(i) 15-17

West:

♠ 6 4 3
♥ Q 6
♦ Q 7 5 3
♣ Q 10 8 3

Do you as West take any action (double would be negative)?

Problem 4

U-26 Round 12. Board 16. E/W Vul.

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	?

South:

♠ Q 9 6
♥ A 10 2
♦ A K 2
♣ A Q J 9

So, 4♠ or pass 3NT?

Problem 5

U-26 Round 13. Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	?	

What do you do after 2NT, limit with four-card spade support, holding:

♠ A K J 10 4
♥ A K J 6
♦ 8 2
♣ A 8

Problem 6

U-26 Round 13. Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Your lead from?

♠ J 7
♥ Q 7 2
♦ J 9 3
♣ A J 10 8 4

Problem 7

U-26 Round 13. Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	INT	Pass	?

Your rebid with:

♠ 9 2
♥ A J 9 8
♦ A Q J 9 3 2
♣ K

Problem 8

U-26 Round 14. Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

West	North	East	South
1♠	INT	2♣	Pass
?			

West holds:

♠ K J 8 6 4 3
♥ A Q 7 3
♦ A 4
♣ 2

3♥ would be a long suit trial, so what do you bid?

Problem 9

U-26 Round 14. Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

West	North	East	South
	–	1♠	?

East holds:

♠ 10 7
♥ Q 9 6 5 4 2
♦ 5
♣ J 8 7 3

The Full Deals and My Answers

Problem 1

U-26 Round 12. Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Question 1

I considered 2♥ but rejected that because partner still could have a good hand, and because of the four-card spade suit

Question 2

Should I save/double? With no one vulnerable and ♣K as a sure trick the pass was OK.

Question 3

Partner obviously wants to take some form of action. Or is 6♦ going down anyway? (Opponents play a strong club). Is this a Lightner double, asking for a strange lead?

If you pass what to lead? I passed and chose a spade lead; Helas, ♠Q was not in dummy and opponents scored 1090, while 6♥ is only down three.

Problem 2

U-26 Round 12. Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

If you take ♦A at the first trick and play three rounds of clubs followed by a spade, you make your vulnerable game. In my playing years I came out of HOK, an Amsterdam club, where the proverb was to the effect: Clubs always break. So this was easy for me.

Problem 3

U-26 Round 12. Board 8. None Vul.

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

I would not do anything and let 2♠ quietly go down one or two tricks. If you do bid and end up in 3♣ things are getting ugly if South can double that.

Problem 4

U-26 Round 12. Board 16. E/W Vul.

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

I must admit I would have bid 4♠. My opponents always lead hearts and partner puts a small doubleton in dummy. But the passers at 3NT win the jackpot. 4♠ can be made - but it is a struggle!

Problem 5

U-26 Round 13. Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

If you ask for aces, partner denies an ace. So 5♠ or 6♠? 6♠ is reasonable but fails on the diamond ruff. I fear I score -100.

Problem 6

U-26 Round 13. Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

I am a terrible opening leader. Of course I lead ♣J and sometime later write down -600.

Problem 7

U-26 Round 13. Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

I believe 3♦ is enough; partner is man or woman enough to bid game with the right hand.

Problem 8

U-26 Round 14. Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

I admit I like the hand and would bid 4♠ directly (lazy old man) but, after 3♥, partner should go on to game.

Problem 9

U-26 Round 14. Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

If you follow with a weak 3♥ there is a big chance that the club fit will get lost (and no 5♣ save). After a diamond lead, 4♠ is easy. Did anyone find a heart to the ace and a small club for ♣J and a heart ruff?

So, how did you do? Did you do better than I did?

Team Profiles

We would like to publish as many team profiles as possible in the Daily Bulletin. These can be serious or humorous - but please keep the humour within common sense boundaries. The bulletins appear on the internet all over the world and what we may consider funny has been known in the past to offend a small number of people.

As well as helping us all to know each other a little better, these profiles are a valuable source of information for journalists, so it is particularly important that we publish them for any team which ends up in the medals.

Please hand team profiles to any of Brian Senior, Micke Melander, Barry Rigal or Patrick Jourdain or email to: bsenior@hotmail.com

Sleeping Beauty Awakens

by Jean-Francois Jourdain (Belgium)

In a previous edition, you could see the dark side of the Belgian team, with Tine Dobbels misplaying a 6♦ contract against Austria and losing 16 IMPs. But, after one week, she is clearly awakening, and the Belgian results are automatically getting much better. This is how she managed to win 3NT against Croatia :

U-26 Round 13. Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Visschere	Gracin	Dobbels	Gumzej
1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass	INT	Pass

On this perfectly natural auction, Rudolf Gumzej elected to start with the jack of clubs. That ran to the queen and Tine's king. With only seven tricks available and the clubs wide open, she had still a lot of work to do. Her first move



Tine Dobbels, Belgium

was to play a low heart and, as South was unable to insert a filler, to put in the six and duck the trick to North. Gracin could not do better than exit with another heart, revealing the 5-1 club break. Dobbels now cashed three rounds of hearts, pitching a club from dummy. Both South and North discarded a diamond. Now she played three rounds of spades and, when South showed out, she put North in with the last spade. With only diamonds in his hand, North was obliged to open up the suit. Tine played low and the jack forced the ace. Tine exited with another diamond, and the ten of diamonds provided the ninth trick. Alas, no swing, although the contract was played in the other room from the West hand after the rather agricultural auction 1♣ – 3NT. Bert Geens started with a low diamond and the contract seemed to be doomed but, on the fourth round of hearts, North did not imagine West could hold four spades and let a spade go, so the three of spades became the ninth trick for East/West. No score.

U-26 Round 13. Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Visschere	Gracin	Dobbels	Gumzej
2♦	Pass	2♥	1♣
			All Pass

2♦ by West showed a real two-level overcall, since 1♦ would have been showing hearts. Two Hearts was apparently not forcing in the East/West methods, so Tine was allowed to stop in the last unmakeable contract that had some chance to be let through. South started with the ace of spades, getting the queen from his partner. He duly underled his king and was back on lead on the third trick to tackle diamonds with the jack. East put up the queen and that lost to the king. Now North made the excellent play of playing back a second diamond, cutting the E/W communications. But this was not the end. Tine Dobbels unblocked the ace of trumps and played a low club to the nine!

When South got the trick, he had to guess now which tenace declarer held: did she want him to exit in trumps and pick up a jack-fourth with his partner ? If so, it seemed all right to play

another round of clubs. As it was, South made the wrong choice and Tine chalked up eight tricks, scoring 5 IMPS.

U-26 Round 14. Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ K 3 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ K 10 6 5 4 2 ♣ 8 3	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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	♠ 9 7 4 ♥ Q 6 2 ♦ Q ♣ K J 9 7 5 4
N					
W E					
S					
♠ A Q J 8 6 5 ♥ J 10 9 ♦ J 3 ♣ 10 6					

West	North	East	South
Bahnik	Dobbels	Barnet	De Visschere
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♥

This one comes from the match against the Czech Republic. Two Diamonds was multi and South described his hand as a maximum two is spades weak, so Tine had no problem in bidding the game.

East led the queen of diamonds and that ran to the ace. Dobbels took the spade finesse, but it appeared not to work. West cashed his king of diamonds and East played the five of clubs, asking for the suit. Back came the eight of clubs and Tine let it run to the jack. Now East exited with his last trump. Having lost already three tricks and with the third finesse in clubs clearly wrong, Tine decided that the heart finesse would be wrong too. Consequently, she decided to play for a squeeze. She drew the last



Willem De Visschere, Belgium

trump, cashed two rounds of hearts and went back to dummy with a diamond ruff. When she played her two last trumps, East was hopelessly squeezed between the queen of hearts and the king of clubs. He bared this last card but it could not help. So 4♠ was brilliantly made.

Once again this was a flat board, because in the other room Michal Kopecky found a very efficient variation after the same first four cards. At trick five he went up with the ace of clubs, drew trumps, crossed to the ace of hearts and ran the eight of diamonds, ditching the last club from dummy. All West could do was cash his ten and exit in hearts, but Kopecky put up the king and discarded dummy's last heart on the seven of diamonds. I don't know if this line of play would earn him a drink if he was a Dane or a Norwegian, but it effectively scored 620 for a flat board.

No Swing?

The Dutch Schools player, Joris Van Lankveld, defended well on the first deal of their Round 4 match against Norway:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K 9 8 5 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ A Q 10 4 ♣ Q 6	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 80px; height: 80px; 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 J 7 6 ♥ A ♦ 2 ♣ A J 10 5 4 3 2
N					
W E					
S					
♠ A 10 3 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ J 9 8 7 3 ♣ 9 8 ♠ 4 2 ♥ K J 10 7 4 2 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ K 7					

West	North	East	South
	Philipsen		Van Lankveld
	Pass	1♣	2♥
Dble	3♥	4♠	All Pass

The Norwegian East was declarer in 4♠. A heart was led to the bare ace and declarer played ♠Q to North's ace. The defence forced declarer with a second heart. Declarer, basing everything on a successful club finesse, drew trumps (South throwing a heart) and ran the queen of clubs. Van Lankveld bravely let this hold. When the next club finesse lost to South, declarer's club suit became waste paper. South now played winning hearts until West ruffed. West, with four diamonds left, exited with ♦Q. South cashed his last heart and led a diamond to North's jack.

This was three down for 150 to the Netherlands. On scoring up South proudly read out +150. "Push" was the reply.

Somewhat disappointed Van Lankveld asked, "So they held up the ♣K as well?" "No. We were in 6♠," came the answer.

Swedish Turn Around

After ten straight wins, the Swedish U-26 team hit a bad patch immediately after Monday's day off, which certainly seemed to do them no favours. On Tuesday they lost 8-22 to Italy then 11-18 to Austria. For the third match of the day they came up against Israel, a team in the middle of a run of excellent form.

Things continued for both teams as they had been going in recent matches.

result, as he made 12 tricks in 5♣ doubled for a healthy +650. Sjöberg would have been less comfortable with her result from defending 5♥ doubled.

Sjöberg cashed the two minor-suit kings then played a second club, ruffed. Argelazi played the ten of hearts to the queen then a spade to his king and a second spade. He could ruff a spade in dummy to establish the suit and still finesse against the jack of hearts; down one for -200 but 10 IMPs to Israel.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Sjöberg	Birman	S. Rimstedt
1♠	2♣	Pass	3♣
3♥	5♣	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
C. Rimstedt	Tarnovski	Gronkvist	Padon
1♥	2♣	2♥	3♣
4♥	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Sjöberg	Birman	S. Rimstedt
3♥	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♠	Dble	3♠
			All Pass

West	North	East	South
C. Rimstedt	Tarnovski	Gronkvist	Padon
1♥	Dble	Pass	1♠
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

It is always a tough choice whether to open 1♠ or 1♥ on a hand like West's here and I suspect that most players have a personal style which they follow pretty well all the time. Eiran Argelazi opened 1♠ while Cecilia Rimstedt preferred 1♥. That meant that Rimstedt found a fit immediately while Argelazi had to see it through and bid his hearts at the three level.

Having already shown his heart support, Mikael Gronkvist doubled 5♣ to say that he was not interested in hearing his partner go on to 5♥ and Cecilia respected his decision. At the other table, Alon Birman had not yet shown heart support and knew his partner was highly distributional, so it was natural for him to bid 5♥ over 5♣. Emma Sjöberg doubled that on the way out.

Six Clubs is, of course, a decent contract once you know that West has an opening hand, placing the king of spades where you need it far more often than not, but how to get there?

Bar Tarnovski didn't need to get to slam to achieve a good

Argelazi's slightly heavy pre-empt put extra momentum into the auction but both Souths eventually declared 4♠, Birman making an aggressive double – interesting that the player facing a pre-emptive overcall should double and the player facing a simple overcall and second bid should not. Whoever may have been right in theory, the results achieved proved both to be correct in practice.

Sandra Rimstedt won the heart lead and played a diamond to the jack. When Birman won the queen he tried two top clubs and Sandra ruffed. She tried to cash the ace of diamonds but Argelazi ruffed and played two winning hearts. Birman threw his remaining diamonds as Sandra ruffed. She led the nine of spades to the queen, ruffed a club with the ace and threw the last club on a diamond as Birman ruffed. He still had another trump trick to come so that was down three for -800.

Cecilia led the seven of clubs to Gronkvist's king and he

switched to his heart. Dror Padon took the heart ace and led a diamond to the ace then the jack of diamonds, running it. Cecilia ruffed with her bare king and played the ♠Q, Gronkvist pitching a club, then a club to the ace and ruffed. Padon crossruffed from here, not bothering to cash the king of diamonds, and had ten tricks for an excellent +620 and 16 IMPs to Israel.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Sjoberg</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>S. Rimstedt</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♦

West <i>C. Rimstedt</i>	North <i>Tarnovski</i>	East <i>Gronkvist</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	INT
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass		Pass	4♥



Sandra Rimstedt, Sweden

Sandra opened 1♠ and made a game try over the simple raise, Sjoberg accepting. There was no real possibility to let this one through. Argelazi led a heart and eventually came to two minor-suit aces and two trump tricks for down one; -50.

Padon opened INT and played 4♥ after an invitational transfer sequence. This was a little more challenging but still should have been defeated once West resisted the temptation to lead an ace at trick one. No, Cecilia led the eight of hearts. Padon won in hand and played a second round to dummy then a club to the king and ace. Perhaps the fact that Gronkvist did not split his club honours made Cecilia fear that declarer had strong clubs which would provide discards from dummy. Anyway, she cashed the ace of diamonds, getting a discouraging signal, then cashed the ace of spades, and the fourth defensive trick had disappeared; +420 and 10 IMPs to Israel.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Sjoberg</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>S. Rimstedt</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

West <i>C. Rimstedt</i>	North <i>Tarnovski</i>	East <i>Gronkvist</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Wests upgraded their hand to a 2NT opening and both Easts responded 3♣. Birman was asking for five-card majors and when he found that he was facing a four- but not a five-card major, he decided to keep things simple and show his club slam try. Argelazi bid a discouraging 4NT but Birman went on to 6♣ anyway. This contract basically needed clubs to behave and when they did so Birman had all 13 tricks after a heart lead for +940.

The top spot is 6♥, where you will often survive a four-one club split. Gronkvist, however, merely used simple Stayman then signed off in 3NT – quite a difference in evaluation to that of Birman at the other table – and +490 was an inadequate score for Sweden; 10 IMPs to Israel.

Sweden lost by 17-71 IMPs, 4-25 VPs and completed a miserable day on which they scored only 23 VPs out of 75.

Round 15 and a new day. Would it bring a change in Swedish fortunes? Sweden met Netherlands, another of the teams in contention for the medals, and really had to get back to some decent form.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West Molenaar	North Arvidsson	East Verbeek	South Bech
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West Gronkvist	North Drijver	East C. Rimstedt	South Michielsen
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
3♣	2♣	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Eric Arvidsson opened the North hand, Bas Drijver did not, leading to two quite different auctions. Arvidsson and Simon Bech had a constructive auction in which they found the four-four heart fit and judged to bid game. Drijver found himself in a very competitive auction in which he took a shot at 3NT then heard his left-hand-opponent save in 4♣, which he was very happy to double.

Danny Molenaar led a club against 4♥. That went to the jack and queen and Tim Verbeek led a second top club, ruffed. Bech led a heart to the four, queen and ace and back came a low diamond round to dummy's ten. Bech ruffed another club then led a heart to the ten and jack. He switched his attention to spades now and just lost the two hearts for down one; -100.

Against 4♣ doubled, Marion Michielsen led her club to the ten and queen. Cecilia cashed the ace of hearts then led a spade towards the jack. Michielsen put in the queen but Drijver overtook with the king to play a second spade. Michielsen won and played a low spade back, ruffed and over-ruffed. Drijver played a club to prevent a spade ruff in dummy. Cecilia won the nine and threw her last spade on the king of hearts but had to lose three diamond tricks for down three; -500 and 12 IMPs to Netherlands.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West Molenaar	North Arvidsson	East Verbeek	South Bech
2♥	3♥	4♥	1♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	4♠

West Gronkvist	North Drijver	East C. Rimstedt	South Michielsen
2♥	3♣	4♥	INT
All Pass			Dble

Bech opened 1♦, which promised at least zero diamonds (11-16), and Molenaar made a weak jump overcall, making life difficult for Arvidsson, who decided to show a good diamond raise by cuebidding. Verbeek competed with 4♥ and Bech, with his maximum, tried 4♠, swiftly corrected to 5♦, ending the auction.

Molenaar led the queen of hearts to dummy's bare king. Bech led a spade to his hand then a diamond to the ten, cashed the ace of diamonds then led a club towards the king. When the ace went up he was home, dummy's third



Cecilia Rimstedt, Sweden

spade going away on the ace of hearts; +400.

Michielsen opened INT and Gronkvist overcalled 2♥. Drivjer transferred to diamonds and Cecilia jumped to 4♥, doubled by Michielsen. Drivjer led the five of spades to the king and Michielsen switched to the ace of hearts, oops, and continued with the ♥8. Gronkvist won in dummy and led a low spade towards his ten but Michielsen got that right by ducking so that Drivjer won the jack and returned the nine of spades. Gronkvist ruffed and ran the jack of clubs; down one for -100 when it lost to the king, and 7 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Arvidsson</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Bech</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Gronkvist</i>	<i>Drivjer</i>	<i>C. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
INT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Gronkvist opened INT and Cecilia used GF Stayman then showed her hearts and completed the picture by bidding 3NT at her next turn. When Gronkvist went back to heart, cuebidding 4♦, Cecilia tried for slam but didn't like what she heard and signed off in 5♥. Drivjer led the jack of clubs. Gronkvist won the ace and played ♥K then ran the ♥J to the queen. That lost and back came a second club but Gronkvist could ruff the third club with the ace and had the remainder; +650.

Six Hearts is a decent spot, particularly if played by East. After a 1♠ opening from Molenaar, the Dutch two-over-one auction soon established the heart fit. It seems that Verbeek used Key Card then asked for the queen of trumps but was misunderstood, as Molenaar jumped to 7♥ without it.

Seven Hearts has chances and when Bech's trump lead picked up the queen, Verbeek must have fancied his

chances. He played four rounds of trumps then four rounds of spades, ruffing out the jack. Two rounds of diamond sending in dummy enabled him to cash the fifth spade and now he led a club up. Arvidsson had thrown two away so now showed out and the contract was one down for -50 and 11 IMPs to Sweden. Bidding six might have meant 11 IMPs in the opposite direction.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Arvidsson</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Bech</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Gronkvist</i>	<i>Drivjer</i>	<i>C. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Both Easts opened the 21-count at the one level. Molenaar's response was the equivalent of a forcing no trump and 2♠ therefore a strong reverse. Molenaar simply raised to 4♠ and that was that.

Arvidsson led a diamond to dummy's bare ace. Molenaar crossed to hand with a trump to lead the queen of hearts to the king and ace and a heart back to his ten. He continued with a trump to dummy to ruff a heart, threw a club on the king of diamonds and had 12 tricks for +680.

Gronkvist's 1♠ response was natural and Cecilia could use an artificial game-forcing 2NT rebid. After an exchange of cuebids, she finally took control and bid the slam after checking on key cards.

Drivjer led a club. Michielsen won the ace and returned a trump. Gronkvist drew three rounds then took the heart finesse and he too had 12 easy tricks when the king proved to be onside; +1430 and 13 IMPs to Sweden.

Sweden won the match by 91-36 IMPs, converting to 25-4 VPs, and were back on track.

Some Conventions Suck

In Round 15 of the U-26 series, we got proof that some conventions actually backstab you rather than helping out. We saw the Namyats (a solid major – where you pre-empt with 4♣ showing hearts and 4♦ for spades) working against you when you can't pre-empt properly.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Molenaar	Arvidsson	Verbeek	Bech
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grönkvist	Drijver	Rimstedt	Michielsen
Pass	3♦	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The Dutch team were severely punished when Cecilia Rimstedt was brave enough to 'put her head in the Lion's mouth', doubling the pre-empt by Drijver, who couldn't bid 4♦ according to his methods. In almost all matches, where North opened 4♦ or higher they bought the contract. At 36 tables a diamond contract was played 25 times and only doubled twice, proving that there was very little action from E/W.

Mikael Grönkvist not only bid game, he also made his contract for 11 IMPs to Sweden in their 25-4 victory over Netherlands. The play was interesting. Grönkvist thought he had received a singleton club lead and was afraid to risk a losing finesse in spades, even if the odds were on his side that the finesse would have succeeded.

Grönkvist won the opening lead with the ace of clubs and ran the queen of hearts. He played a heart to the ace, cashed the ace of spades and continued with a spade to the king, noting that North discarded. He next called for dummy's jack of hearts and that was now covered and ruffed, then exited with a trump to South who was endplayed, Michielsen cashed the ace of diamonds and tried to exit with the king of clubs. Grönkvist claimed 10 tricks a little bit later, leaving three lonely jacks in dummy!

The editorial staff had a long discussion about conventions when discussing this particular hand and article. In fact, we got a list of some 30 possible very bad conventions that have been used in history. When trying to sort out the worst ones, we

took away all defenses against pre-empts that have been used – one more stupid than another. An example, Modified Halsall a convention that was used in England and elsewhere against pre-empts. Let's say they open 3♠ in front of you. You could then bid 4♦ as some kind of exclusion bid showing hearts and clubs. Nowadays, people most often play with straight forward take-out doubles (thank god!).

The list was cut to four stupid conventions:

Gerber (4♣ asking for aces)

Namyats (Described earlier, Solid major)

Flannery (five hearts and four spades but less than reversing values)

MUD (Opening lead from three low cards in a suit, Middle-Up-Down)

Asking twelve different nationalities, we got the result of six no-nos for Flannery, four for Namyats and two for Gerber. So MUD has to be deleted from the list...

Brian Senior stated during lunch that he even might write a complete book on the subject, which could be a best seller.

What is your most hated convention?



Dennis Bilde, Denmark

- This wasn't easy at all, I just play natural... but it has to be crazy defensive methods against pre-empts.

James Thrower, England

- But I like everything. Though Gerber is terrible. SOS Redoubles are also quite stupid.



Adi Asulin, Israel

- Definitely Lebensohl. We always have bad things coming up when that one has been used, because we don't agree about the answers.

Martins Lorencs, Latvia

- Hmm, but I don't hate conventions in general. I have to think... has to be... transfer pre-empts.



Eitan Levy, Chief TD

- It's a very difficult question to answer. It has to be Gh-estem, which is different kind of jump to show two-suiters.

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS **ROUND 15**

Best Endeavour Contest

It can be a lonely place at the bottom of the table. Of course, it may be a blessing when you are not seen on vugraph, BBO, or in the Bulletin. But when Ireland expressed a wish for just a little exposure your reporter obliged.

In golf there is often a prize for what is called 'The Best Endeavour', meaning the worst score, and your reporter is familiar with it (I know, you are thinking: 'and at bridge too!'). So it was logical first to watch Ireland for a few boards and then Finland, their closest rivals for the Best Endeavour title. Each was playing a middle-of-the-field opponent, Bulgaria against Ireland and Denmark against Finland.

In the Open Room, Bulgaria was playing a Strong Club system where 1♦ opening can be void. The Irish pair play weak no trump with five-card majors. As usual the first board of the day was a swinger:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Skorchev	Boyd	Spasov	O'Rourke
	Pass	1♦(i)	2♣
2♠(ii)	All Pass		

- (i) Could be zero diamonds
- (ii) Non-forcing

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Draganov	Somerville	Vasilev
	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♠	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West for Bulgaria, Stefan Skorchev, had a difficult call when his partner opened the nebulous 1♦ and Michael O'Rourke overcalled 2♣. Korchev did not know how good the diamond fit was, and didn't want to double with two more cards in spades than hearts. He made the non-for-

cing call of 2♠ and bought an excellent dummy that had passed holding a minimum weak no trump.

The club lead went to the ace and a top trump was won by South, who forced declarer by playing a high club. Had declarer continued trumps he would have made ten tricks despite the bad break because when North wins the defence can only cash one club, on which declarer throws a loser, and then declarer can make the rest. However, declarer greedily took his chance for a heart ruff and when North won the second trump he had two winners to play. So West was held to nine tricks for 140 to Bulgaria.

The play was more important in the Closed Room, where the All-Ireland team had reached 4♠. Ian Jones of Northern Ireland (the other two pairs are based in the Republic) won the club lead and at once took his heart ruff. When South won the spade ace he forced with a low club and declarer had to fail.

If you start by playing trumps and South plays a low club then it works best to discard a small red card on that trick. You ruff the next club and play another trump. Of course, this line is necessary only because the trumps are 4-1, whereas ruffing a heart might gain when trumps are 3-2 and diamonds 4-1.

The next deal was an interesting partscore:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Draganov	Somerville	Vasilev
		1♠	2♣
2♠	2NT	3♥	3NT
Dble	4♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Skorchev	Boyd	Spasov	O'Rourke
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, the Bulgarian players had different explanations for the 2NT bid. Four Clubs doubled went only one light for 200 to Ireland.

In the Open Room, Dean Spasov, East for Bulgaria, reached 3♠ under his own steam. He has four top losers and a heart suit to tackle for only one of these so it is no easy task. South led ♣Q which declarer ruffed to lead a diamond to the king and ace. North returned a trump won by South's queen. O'Rourke was now in a difficult position. It looks as if his switch to a low heart was helpful to declarer but it should have worked out alright. The trick went to jack, queen and king. Now declarer tried to ruff his diamond but South came into the action on the third round with his ♠8. South now had the chance to give his partner a heart ruff (declarer actually threw a club when South ruffed in), but South simply continued with a second club. Declarer ruffed and might have laid down ♠A but chose to play a heart first. South won and had a second chance to give his partner a ruff. But he played a third club. When declarer ruffed out North's ace and drew trumps dummy was high; 140 to Bulgaria but 2 IMPs to Ireland.

Board 3 was a simple 3NT. Board 4 revealed some comedy in the play:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Draganov	Somerville	Vasilev
1♠	Pass	INT(i)	Dble
2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass
(i) FI			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Skorchev	Boyd	Spasov	O'Rourke
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Open Room, 2♥ was game-forcing unless East repeated the suit.

In the Closed Room, East was only in 2NT and made an overtrick for 150 to Ireland.

In the Open Room, West was in 3NT and Richard Boyd found the best lead of a club – the five. Declarer, in somewhat awkward shape, quickly put up the queen. O'Rourke,

who had been expecting him to play low, had the ten ready to play and it was out of his hand before he could correct it.

So now declarer had nine top tricks by way of running the hearts and taking the spade finesse. But Skorchev did not know this, so he conceived the idea of leading a spade and, when South contributed the four, he played the three from his own hand, knowing North would have to win. Boyd, who had seen the club queen win the first trick, rightly assumed diamonds was the only place to go for the defence, and switched to the suit. O'Rourke won and switched back to ♣K to tell partner the error he had made at trick one.

Skorchev won this and rattled off five hearts, coming down to two diamonds and two spades in his own hand. O'Rourke kept three winners and the bare king of spades. Now declarer went into long thought, from which he emerged by exiting with a club, hoping to endplay North. Instead South claimed one down.

This was the same result had South boringly put his king on the queen at trick one. This was 6 IMPs to Ireland.

Board 5 was flat, though N/S had made 3♠ at one table whilst E/W went three light non-vul in 3♣ at the other.

The Ireland team suggested the Bulletin also report this slam from later in the match:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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



Ian Jones, Ireland

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jones	Draganov	Somerville	Vasilev
	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	Dble
All Pass			

The Open Room had stopped in 4♠ but the Irish auction requires an explanation. INT showed at least four spades. East tried to show a strong raise to 4♠ but West thought he might only have three-card support. West told South he was hoping East might take 4NT as a sign-off and 5♥ as natural. East thought 4NT was keycard and showed 1 or 4 keys, and that 5♥ asked for the queen of trumps, which he had.

South's double was based on the opponents clearly having had a misunderstanding. As it turned out, with the heart finesse working and the suits breaking nicely, the slam was cold. This was 1660 to Ireland and 14 IMPs.

The Bulgarians took this reverse sportingly and were recompensed with a win by 61-48 or 18-12 VPs.

After Board 5, your reporter moved to the table where Finland was playing Denmark. Brothers Juuso, 20, & Vesa, 17, Fagerlund for Finland were up against Emil Jepsen & Dennis Bilde of Denmark. They were just putting Board 6 on the table:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Vesa	Bilde	Juuso
		Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♥ showed hearts and a minor.

Weak shapely hands are a joy to hold at green but a curse at adverse vulnerability where bidding can lead to a big minus. Bilde gave his 12 black cards great consideration but bowed out peacefully. Four Spades can go a couple off doubled so he was right, particularly as 4♥ might also fail. If West leads a diamond (high or low) East can ruff and knock

out the ace of spades before declarer has had a chance to unblock clubs. Then the defence make two trumps and a spade early on and a diamond later when declarer is left with a loser at the end.

However, West led a trump. This gave South the chance to unblock the club before playing a second trump. West won and exited rather oddly with a diamond. This gave declarer an overtrick. 1 IMP to Finland when south made 4♥ in the Closed Room.

The pre-empt by South on the next deal gave the opponents a difficult problem:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Vesa	Bilde	Juuso
			4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4NT(i)	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

(i) Two places to play

If West passes out 4♥ doubled it should go one off, though some tables made it. However, to remove is also normal enough. 5♣ doubled went two off for 500 to Finland. In the Closed Room the double was passed out for 200 to Finland and 12 IMPs.

On the next deal the competition took place at a lower level:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Vesa	Bilde	Juuso
Pass	1♦	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♥	3♦
All Pass			

Bilde did well to go quietly on the East cards. Juuso gave consideration to passing or doubling 2♥ but decided to compete in partner's suit. As it happens 2♥ can be defeated and 3♦ was also condemned to fail. Bilde led ♠K and hit the jackpot. At trick two he cashed ♥A and gave his partner a heart ruff. The defence made another spade and a trump for one off. In the Closed Room 3♥ by East went one off doubled for 100 to Denmark and 4 IMPs.

More action here:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

	♠ A K 7 6 5 4		
	♥ 10 2		
	♦ 9 8		
	♣ K J 5		
♠ 10 3 2		♠ 9	
♥ A Q 9 7 5 4		♥ 8	
♦ 10		♦ A K Q 7 5 3 2	
♣ A 9 2		♣ Q 6 4 3	
	♠ Q J 8		
	♥ K J 6 3		
	♦ J 6 4		
	♣ 10 8 7		
West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Vesa	Bilde	Juuso
	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♥	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	All Pass



Stefan Skorchev, Bulgaria

It was not obvious to me what was the purpose behind East's double of 3♠ as it was unlikely he wished to play in any suit other than diamonds. He ruffed the second spade, drew trumps, tested the hearts by playing ace and another (no king came down), and then after a long pause reluctantly played for his only realistic chance by leading a club to the ace and back towards the queen. He seemed almost surprised to find the game was home.

Finland stopped in 4♦ and Denmark had gained 10 IMPs.

The last board of the first half was also a competitive affair with an unusual bid being misinterpreted by partner:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ 8 2		
	♥ A		
	♦ Q 9 5 4 3		
	♣ Q 10 8 5 2		
♠ K Q 10 6 5		♠ A J 9 7	
♥ 9 7		♥ J 4 3 2	
♦ J 8 7		♦ 10 2	
♣ K J 7		♣ A 6 3	
	♠ 4 3		
	♥ K Q 10 8 6 5		
	♦ A K 6		
	♣ 9 4		
West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Vesa	Bilde	Juuso
	Dble	2♥(i)	Dble(ii)
1♠	4NT(iii)	Pass	5♠
2♠	6♣	Dble	6♦
Pass			
All Pass!			
(i)	Good raise in ♠		
(ii)	Extra values		
(iii)	Meant as 'pick a minor' but interpreted as keycard for hearts.		

It was odd that East did not double. I have a feeling he saw his previous round double on the tray and momentarily thought he had also doubled 6♦ because, when he saw the tray going back with a pass, he gave a small gasp.

When West led a trump he had a worrying moment when he might have thought he had allowed the slam to make! Declarer won this (wrongly) in the South hand, unblocked the heart ace, drew trumps ending in hand and began rattling off the hearts. Unluckily for him they did not break and the contract went four off for 400 to Denmark.

Suppose, however, declarer had won the opening lead in dummy, unblocked the heart, come to hand with a trump, ruffed a heart and drawn the last trump. Now the hearts do run, giving him ten tricks and only a small loss compared with the more normal 4♦ one off.

The Closed Room stopped in a dull 2♥ just making for 110 to Denmark and 11 IMPs. Denmark won the match 67-43 or 20-10.

The Battle to avoid "the Best Endeavour" is still on.



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