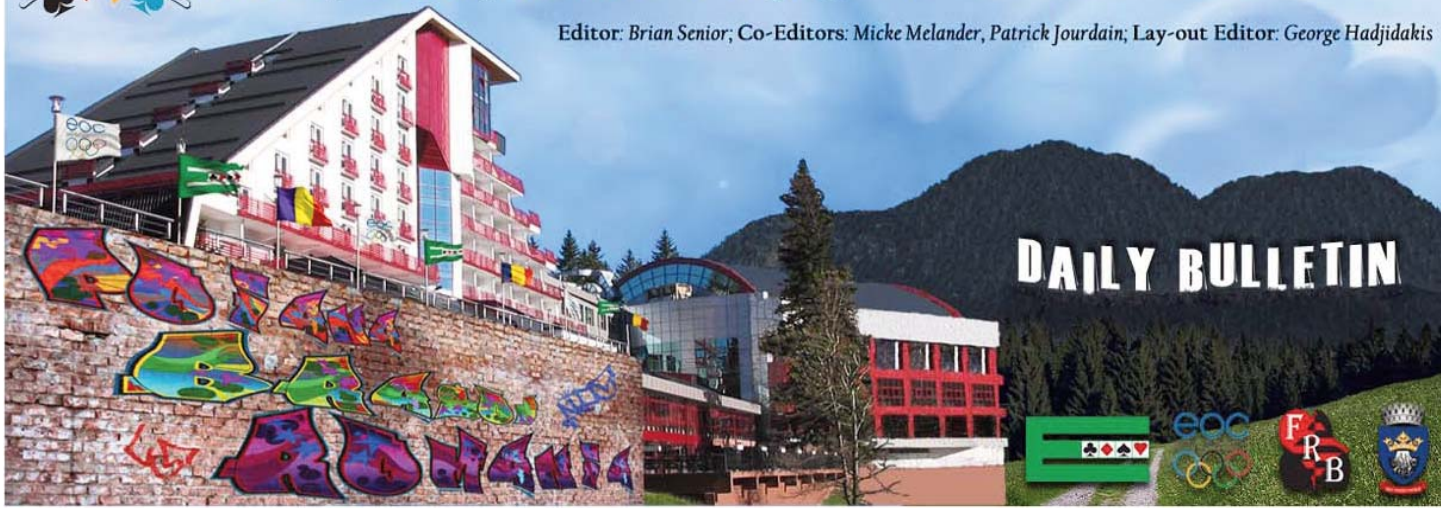


22nd EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



Poiana, Brasov, Romania 8-18 July 2009

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



Issue No. 9

Friday, 17 July 2009

Israel & Poland Clear



The Black Cathedral, Brasov

With four rounds to play, I don't think I am being very brave in betting that the U-21 title will go to either Israel or Poland, as these two countries are on 198 and 188 VPs respectively and the gap to third-placed Hungary is a substantial one. Hungary are on 159, then come Netherlands 152 and France 150. Yesterday's key result was Poland's 25-5 win over Hungary.

France still leads the way in the U-26 Championship but has a tough schedule today. France is on 366, ahead of Norway 345, Italy 332, Israel 328.5, Germany 322 and Netherlands 318. The big result here was England's demolition of Germany by 25-1, seriously denting the Germans' chances of qualification.

Today's Vugraph Matches (also on BBO)

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 10.00 | Russia v Israel (Open U-26) |
| 14.00 | Norway v France (Open U-26) |
| 17.30 | To be decided |

Additional BBO Matches

- | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 10.00 | France v Sweden (Open U-26) |
| 14.00 | Russia v Netherlands (Open U-26) |
| 17.30 | To be decided |



UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 18

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	LATVIA ISRAEL	27 - 60	8 - 22
2	ROMANIA AUSTRIA	55 - 60	14 - 16
3	RUSSIA ITALY	32 - 59	7 - 21
4	HUNGARY BYE		18 - 0
5	NETHERLANDS ENGLAND	49 - 52	14 - 16
6	GERMANY POLAND	57 - 60	14 - 16
7	BULGARIA NORWAY	17 - 45	9 - 21
8	DENMARK SWEDEN	51 - 44	16 - 14
9	BELGIUM TURKEY	12 - 81	2 - 25
10	FRANCE IRELAND	62 - 27	22 - 8
11	CROATIA FINLAND	35 - 47	13 - 17
12	CZECH REP. GREECE	21 - 47	10 - 20

ROUND 20

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

ROUND 19

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL ROMANIA	33 - 57	10 - 20
2	AUSTRIA RUSSIA	61 - 44	19 - 11
3	ITALY HUNGARY	42 - 34	16 - 14
4	LATVIA NETHERLANDS	12 - 69	4 - 25
5	ENGLAND GERMANY	94 - 19	25 - 1
6	POLAND BULGARIA	49 - 33	18 - 12
7	NORWAY DENMARK	59 - 9	25 - 5
8	SWEDEN BELGIUM	63 - 43	19 - 11
9	TURKEY FRANCE	38 - 70	8 - 22
10	IRELAND CROATIA	25 - 57	8 - 22
11	FINLAND CZECH REP.	44 - 42	15 - 15
12	GREECE BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 21

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

Play Problem No. 8

As we have run out of play problems featuring Juniors in Patrick Jourdain's Problem Corner we move on to some artificial compositions.

How should West play 5♣ on a low diamond lead?

♠ A 10 4 3
♥ K 6 3
♦ 6
♣ K Q 9 7 5



♠ K Q 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ A 9
♣ A J 8 3 2

Solution on page 12.

ROUND 22

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

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 8

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	SWEDEN ISRAEL	47 - 66	11 - 19
2	ITALY NORWAY	49 - 45	16 - 14
3	POLAND ENGLAND	46 - 22	20 - 10
4	TURKEY ROMANIA	46 - 31	18 - 12
5	DENMARK FRANCE	32 - 51	11 - 19
6	NETHERLANDS HUNGARY	50 - 36	18 - 12
7	CZECH REP. GERMANY	36 - 34	15 - 15

ROUND 10

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

ROUND 9

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ENGLAND NORWAY	44 - 63	11 - 19
2	ROMANIA ISRAEL	13 - 131	0 - 25
3	FRANCE ITALY	72 - 32	23 - 7
4	HUNGARY POLAND	28 - 76	5 - 25
5	GERMANY TURKEY	55 - 42	18 - 12
6	CZECH REP. DENMARK	54 - 50	16 - 14
7	NETHERLANDS SWEDEN	54 - 56	15 - 15

ROUND 11

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

UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 9

1	ISRAEL	198
2	POLAND	188
3	HUNGARY	159
4	NETHERLANDS	152
5	FRANCE	150
6	GERMANY	144
7	NORWAY	143
8	SWEDEN	128
9	TURKEY	121
10	ENGLAND	118
11	CZECH REPUBLIC	111
12	ITALY	105
13	DENMARK	84
14	ROMANIA	66

ROUND 12

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



Today's Schedule

10.00	Under 26 Open (20th Round)
14.00	Under 26 Open (21st Round)
17.30	Under 26 Open (22nd Round)
10.00	Under 21 Open (10th Round)
14.00	Under 21 Open (11th Round)
17.30	Under 21 Open (12th Round)

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 19

1	FRANCE	366
2	NORWAY	345
3	ITALY	332
4	ISRAEL	328.5
5	GERMANY	322
6	NETHERLANDS	318
7	SWEDEN	311
8	RUSSIA	306
9	AUSTRIA	297
10	DENMARK	296
11	BULGARIA	291
	POLAND	291
13	ROMANIA	279
14	HUNGARY	273
15	ENGLAND	271
16	CROATIA	269
17	CZECH REPUBLIC	266
18	GREECE	258
19	LATVIA	255
20	TURKEY	245
21	FINLAND	238
22	BELGIUM	221
23	IRELAND	163

An Unlucky Grand Slam

by Christer Andersson (Sweden)

Board 5 of Round 17 was a really nice grand slam. It was bid by nine of the 22 pairs in the U-26 series and by one of the 14 pairs in the U-21 series. However, suits did not break and it was very difficult to make; only two of the pairs that bid the slam made it.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

This was the bidding in the Open Room in the match between Israel and England:

West	North	East	South
Jones	Schwartz	Bell	Assaraf
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Michael Bell showed heart support and diamond shortness with his 4♦ bid. After three cuebids, the last one inviting the grand slam, he asked for the trump quality and Edward Jones was able to show excellent support. Even if bidding it was not the easiest task, making the contract turned out more difficult.

Like three other declarers in the grand slam, Jones received the lead of a low diamond. Two of the ten declarers in 7♥ got a spade lead and the other four the standard lead against grand slams, a trump. Jones could count three top tricks in spades, four in trumps and four in clubs, in total eleven. If clubs are distributed 3-2 or 4-1 between the defenders, he has one additional trick in clubs and further tricks can be obtained by ruffing one or more diamonds, although this was not required for Jones. The lead was actually favourable as it forced declarer to take a ruff at trick one. When he continued with queen and jack of hearts the unfriendly trump break was revealed. He now had to make a choice whether clubs could be 5-0 (the risk for this is 3.9%) or spades 7-0 or 6-1 (0.5+6.8=7.3%). If spades are breaking more evenly, he can enter his hand with the ace of spades, ruff a second diamond, re-enter hand with the queen of spades, draw trumps and claim, as he now only needs four club tricks.

Jones took the better line and played for clubs to be 4-1 at worst and went one down. This was painful indeed, as Israel at the other table stopped in 5♥. This non-optimal contract rendered them 11 IMPs, when they could have lost 14 IMPs.

Perhaps the best line, although in this case unsuccessful, is to cross to hand in spades and draw trumps (0.52% risk). Now the grand slam practically makes as long as clubs behave, J10 are doubleton or third in spades, or North has both black suits.

Prize-Giving Ceremony and Victory Banquet



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

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 17



NORWAY

v

GERMANY



Slams – No Thanks!

As you will see during the course of this match, both sides demonstrated that the surest way to gain IMPs would be to stay out of a slam – be it good, bad, indifferent or no play.

A quirk of system on the first deal saw Simonsen open a 3-3-4-3 19-count 1♣ not 1♦. His partner had a Yarborough and would pass either call, leaving him in either a 3-3 or 4-2 fit.....but the man in balancing seat had five diamonds and would reopen over 1♣ (allowing his opponents to play a making 2♥) but sell out to 1♦ – down a trick or two. In the other room, Germany were unable to stop in a making partscore so Norway led 4-0. On the next deal Johansen/Bogen had the first of what would be a series of accidents over their opponents' no trump openings. This time they located a 5-4 diamond fit but a 'passed hand fit-response' led to them playing a 5-1 club fit down one. This still represented a 1 IMP gain when 1NT was passed out and let through in normal fashion on the opening lead.

Germany moved in front when Simonsen could not or would not stop below game with a flat 18-count facing a (transfer) response in hearts to his 1♣ opening. The responder had nothing but an ace and a 4-1 trump split doomed 4♥ though declarer played it very well to get out for down one.

Then both hands demonstrated maximum inefficiency on defence:

Wuermseer, South, won the opening diamond lead and returned...a diamond. Contract made. Simonsen led a club to the ten and king. Declarer ducked a diamond; North (probably wrongly) won and returned...a club – specifically, a suit preference eight. No harm done; declarer won in hand and ruffed a diamond then played two trumps, North discarding an unhelpful ♣4. Skjetne now knew declarer had six hearts, three clubs and three diamonds, and ten tricks. The only way to beat the contract would be to put partner in with a spade for a club ruff. He playedthe ♦K. No swing.

Then Germany encountered the first of our slam deals;

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ J 8 5 2 ♥ 10 6 5 4 ♦ K J 9 5 3 ♣	♠ A Q ♥ A K 9 8 ♦ Q 7 6 2 ♣ J 6 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">N</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">W</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">S</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 7 3 ♥ Q J 7 2 ♦ ♣ A K Q 8 7
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ 10 6 4 ♥ 3 ♦ A 10 8 4 ♣ 10 9 5 3 2												

West	North	East	South
<i>Rehder</i>	<i>Simonsen</i>	<i>Katerbau</i>	<i>Skjetne</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦(i)	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦(ii)	Pass
4♠(iii)	Pass	4NT(iv)	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠(v)	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♥	All Pass

- (i) Mini-splinter
- (ii) Void diamond
- (iii) Keycard
- (iv) Three
- (v) ♥Q and ♠K

In unusually charitable mood, I will conceal the auction from the other table which ended at 5♥. The excellent auction from this table saw East appreciate all his good clubs at the end to reach the grand slam. In 7♥, Rehder would have been unable to make the grand slam on a spade lead;

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K J 8 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 5 4 3 ♣ J 8 4 3 2	♠ Q 9 7 6 4 3 ♥ 6 3 ♦ J 9 ♣ A 7 5	<table style="margin: auto; border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">N</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">W</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">S</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 5 2 ♥ A 8 5 2 ♦ K 10 6 2 ♣ 10 6
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Rehder</i>	<i>Simonsen</i>	<i>Katerbau</i>	<i>Skjetne</i>
<i>Johansen</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Bogen</i>	<i>Wuermseer</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(should North have been able to find that lead for the right reasons?). A low heart lead let declarer win in hand and ruff a diamond then a top trump revealed the position. Now declarer could lead a club to hand to ruff a second diamond – but if clubs were not 5-0 he had the rest anyway. Spades 6-1 is slightly more likely than clubs 5-0 in abstract but maybe not with silent opponents?

Anyway, Rehder made the normal and hugely unlucky play of relying on clubs to split by simply drawing trumps. There was no squeeze and Norway had an undeserved 11 IMPs; 16-4 to Norway

Germany drew virtually level on the next deal by a quirk of no trump ranges where Wurmseer 14-count got her to a thin but cold vulnerable 3NT facing a nine-count with six clubs to the J109, whereas Simonsen treated this hand as a pre-emptive not an inverted raise.

Then the next slam exhibit:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

The Norwegians had a natural auction to 5♠ in which Simonsen as North opened 1♥, rebid 2♣ over 1♠, then



Janko Katerbau, Germany

jumped in spades. The strong club sequence with transfer responses in the other room saw Zimmermann in 6♠ on a club lead. (Best is a trump lead but declarer can crossruff the red suits and East is forced to ruff in on the top hearts, allowing declarer eventually to draw trumps and cash the thirteenth diamond). Bogen led a club and Johansen shifted to a heart. This let declarer follow an attractive alternative line of ruffing two clubs in dummy and a diamond in hand and running the trumps. In the ending, as the last trump was led, dummy had two losing diamonds and a heart, declarer ♥AK6 and the club jack, which he would discard unless the missing honour appeared. The contract would make if the hearts were good or either diamonds or clubs produced an extra menace. No luck! 27-15 now for Norway.

Then another example of ineffective defences to a strong no trump.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Both Easts had to overcall 2♥ over INT and play there. On a top diamond lead they won and led a low trump; when South won the nine (and North 'forgot' to overtake), South no longer had a re-entry for his slow diamond winner. Wurmseer simply continued with her low diamond and declarer unblocked in clubs and exited in hearts. Katerbau won the spade switch with the eight and advanced the ♠Q and also could no longer be defeated. No swing – and both Easts would smugly point out that 3♦ on a trump lead is hardly a bowl of cherries either.

Back to the slams:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rehder	Simonsen	Katerbau	Skjetne
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠(i)
2NT	5♦(ii)	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

- (i) Unbalanced limit raise
- (ii) Exclusion Key Card


West	North	East	South
Johansen	Zimmermann	Bogen	Wuermseer
1♣	Dble	1♥(♠)	2♦
2♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
Rdble	All Pass		

All right I admit it, getting to slam was not what cost Norway 9 IMPs. Wuermseer's decision to respond 2♦ not 2♥ kept her side out of slam but Johansen's manic decision to double 4♥ cost his side 22 IMPs (lose 9 instead of gain 13).

After Rehder's unusual unusual no trump, Katerbau found the excellent trump lead. Declarer won in dummy and led a club; to have a chance to set the contract Rehder had to play the jack smoothly and have declarer misguess what to do (would it be absurd to duck – playing West for 2-1-5-5 and no club ace?). That would allow West to retain the lead for the second trump. But Rehder played low and Simonsen went up with ♣K to collect 1460 and save an IMP against the 1880 from the other room; 28-24 for Norway.

Both N/S pairs then did well to stay out of a thin and failing game (one with wasted minor honours in both black suits), and then Bogen/Johansen for the third time missed their best fit over 1NT.


Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Both Souths opened a strong no trump, and Johansen as West tried 2♦ and played there. Katerbau balanced as East with 2♣ for the majors, and Rehder elected not to hang his partner and bid only 2♥ – as would I, I must confess. With the spade finesse right the defenders had no chance to get a spade going before the diamonds set up to prevent ten tricks – but it was only overtricks to Germany.

Both tables then did well in a sense by bidding to small slam here:


Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Bogen led a spade against Zimmermann's 6♦, and that made 13 tricks easy. How should Simonsen 6♦ in the other room, have played on Katerbau's trump lead? (Incidentally, it is very unusual to see no less than three small slams in the same set where a trump lead is best – as opposed to worst!)

Simonsen actually pitched his club on the hearts and took a spade finesse. I'm unconvinced that it is not better to pitch the long spade on the ♥K, win the diamond, unblock hearts, then play ♣A and a second club. But the line chosen collected an overtrick. It was 28-25 for Norway.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 6 5 3 2		♠ 9 8	
♥ 7 5		♥ Q 8 3	
♦ Q 10 9 3		♦ 8 7 5 4 2	
♣ Q 10		♣ K J 2	
♠ K Q			
♥ K 10 9 4			
♦ A K J 6			
♣ A 8 3			
♠ A J 7 4			
♥ A J 6 2			
♦ –			
♣ 9 7 6 5 4			
West	North	East	South
Rehder	Simonsen	Katerbau	Skjetne
	Pass	Pass	2♥(i)
Dble	2♠	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

- (i) Short diamonds three-suiter, 11-15

West	North	East	South
Johansen	Zimmermann	Bogen	Wuermseer
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♥(i)	Pass	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♦	3♠
All Pass			

- (i) Spades

The Norwegians committed grand larceny here, stealing the hand in 3♠ and being allowed to make it, and also making 3NT at the other table.

In 3♠ by South the top diamond was ruffed and a club went to ten and jack. Back came a heart and now West gave up by playing a top spade then winning the club ace to play a second top spade. With clubs 3-3 it was all over.

In the other room Zimmermann believed his opponents and not his partner and led ♣Q, expecting to find Wuermseer with five clubs; operation successful, patient dead. Johansen won the club ace and knew diamonds were not coming in. He ran the heart ten immediately and now had three heart tricks and his contract.

One more piece of larceny to come:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

For Norway, Johansen as West heard a Precision diamond to his right and jumped to 2♠ (yes, you do not have to like it). North – quite possibly facing only a 10-count – could not double, and South had nothing to say. The defenders led a top club and wisely shifted to a trump to the ace, a top diamond, then a second trump. Declarer gave up a dia-



Maria Wuermseer, Germany

mond, lost two clubs, and ran trumps. North (who 'knew' West had six spades and two diamonds and three clubs) pitched hearts.....oops.

Skjetne, as South, opened 1♣ and heard 1♠ on his left, doubled by partner. He tried 2♦ and passed the correction to 3♣ – a very restrained performance to be rewarded by 6 IMPs when he made 110. It was 45-25 to Norway, but Germany must have felt that, had luck been with them on Boards 5 and 9, the match score would have been more than reversed.

No Tricks!

It isn't often that declarer makes no tricks at all but it happened on this deal from Round 16 of the U-26 Championship.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ K J 9 7 2					
	♥ K					
	♦ A K J 9 2					
	♣ A K					
♠ Q 4 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 E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 6 5	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ A J 10 7 6 4	♥ 9 5 3					
♦ Q 10	♦ 7 6 3					
♣ 9 3	♣ J 10 8 4					
	♠ A 8					
	♥ Q 8 2					
	♦ 8 5 4					
	♣ Q 9 6 5 2					
West	North	East	South			
Grosset	Sofios	Lorenzini	Darkadakis			
		Pass	Pass			
2♦	All Pass					

In the match between Greece and France, Christophe Grosset, for France, opened a multi after two passes. Michalis Sofios could not do anything at this point according to his defensive methods so passed – and so did Cedric Lorenzini (East). Lorenzini had just one jack and the French pair's version of the multi included no strong options, so he was quite happy to go a lot down at 50 a trick. That turned the spotlight on Athanasios Darkadakis, South. Try as he might, he could find no rational action with his eight-count that had poor support for the majors, so he eventually passed.

Sofios cashed three rounds of trumps then the ace and king of clubs and a spade to partner's ace. Darkadakis cashed the queen of clubs and away went North's king of hearts. A spade back completed the play, giving North/South all 13 tricks for +400.

It was no big deal in the grander scheme of things, as the contract in the other room was 4♥, making 12 tricks for +480 and just 2 IMPs to France, but a nice story to tell their friends, nonetheless.

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 16



POLAND

V

ISRAEL



Going into their Round 16 clash in the U-26 series, both Israel and Poland were still in the fight for World Championship qualification. However, while Israel had been on excellent form in recent days, Poland were struggling to match pre-tournament expectations and in serious danger of missing out.

For Poland, Piotr Wiankowski made the auction short and sweet, opening 4♣ and playing there. Dror Padon led the jack of diamonds. Wiankowski ruffed and passed the queen of spades to the king. Back came a heart, on which he mis-guessed by putting up the queen – king, ace. Wiankowski cashed the ace of spades then threw a club on the ace of diamonds and ruffed out the clubs; 12 tricks for +480.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Nawrocki</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>Sikora</i>
4♦	5♦	1♠	3♦
6♠	All Pass	Pass	Pass
West <i>Zatorski</i>	North <i>Tarnowski</i>	East <i>Wiankowski</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Nawrocki</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>Sikora</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West <i>Zatorski</i>	North <i>Tarnowski</i>	East <i>Wiankowski</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			



Piotr Nawrocki, Poland

In their different ways, both Norths opened with a weak two bid. Bar Tarnowski's natural 2♠ opening permitted Padon to make a pre-emptive raise to 3♠ and that shut everyone out. The contract drifted three off for -150.

Facing a multi, Jan Sikora responded 2♠, interest in hearts but not spades (yes 3♠ was available), and Argelazi made a brave 3♣ overcall, Birman converting to 3NT, on the strength of his club honours. A hearts lead sets the game

but Sikora led the two of spades to the jack and ace. Birman led a diamond to the jack, which held, crossed back to hand with a club to the king, and led the ten of diamonds to the queen, king ace. On the spade return he put in the ten and had 12 tricks for an excellent +690 and 11 IMPs to Israel.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Argelazi</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Sikora</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Tarnowski</i>	<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Padon</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

The Israeli East/West pair did not consider slam, stopping safely in 3NT. That made 11 tricks after a diamond lead for a solid +660.

Piotr Zatorski's 1♣ opening was Polish so he had not promised clubs and felt that his support was more than adequate for a raise once Wiankowski introduced the suit over 2NT. After an exchange of cuebids, he took control and bid the slam. East's lack of a higher club honour made the slam very poor and it duly failed by a trick to give Israel +100 and another 13 IMPs. Israel led by 35 IMPs after only three boards.

It seems that Wiankowski bid 3♣ as much as being the natural way to check for a five-three spade fit as with a club contract in mind. Then, when Zatorski raised, he got caught up in an automatic cuebidding routine which encouraged his partner too much, not finding an opportunity to sign off because of the weak trump suit.

Thanks to Barry Rigal for pointing out this next bit: It looks as though the defence needs to lead clubs twice to defeat 6♠ by East/West. Say that they do not find this defence, declarer has 11 tricks courtesy of the well-placed ♦Q and ♥A. He has to come down to a position where the

West hand has a top club and two small hearts, East a trump and two clubs. North will have been obliged to come down to only one card in either hearts or clubs. If clubs, declarer must cash the top card and ruff a heart back to hand to cash a club at trick thirteen. If hearts, declarer ruffs a heart and crosses to the top club to cash the last heart. Very pretty, but not easy and not a line that was found by any of the four declarers who played the small slam.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Argelazi</i>	<i>Nawrocki</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Sikora</i>
2♠	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Dble	4♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Tarnowski</i>	<i>Wiankowski</i>	<i>Padon</i>
3♠	Dble	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	4♣

Sikora opened with a Precision-style 2♣ and Argelazi overcalled only 2♠ because 3♠ would have been stronger in this situation. Nawrocki's combination of a negative double followed by bidding hearts was forcing so Sikora asked for a spade stopper and Argelazi's pass showed that he was happy to receive a spade lead. Birman doubled 3NT, partly on the basis of his heart holding, partly because his partner would usually have more high cards than was actually the case.

Three No Trump is unbeatable, although it takes a little play. However, Sikora ran to 4♣ and, after considering a raise, Nawrocki left him to play there, despite his three aces and a king facing an opening hand.

Argelazi led the king of spades. Sikora won the ace, cashed the ace of clubs then led a heart towards his queen. Birman put up the king and returned his remaining spade. Argelazi won and returned a heart but there was just a club to come for the defence, Sikora's third diamond going away on the ace of hearts; +130.

Padon opened at the one level so Zatorski could make a 3♠ pre-emptive overcall. Tarnowski doubled then bid 4♥ over the 4♣ response. Four Hearts can be defeated, by a

diamond ruff. Wiankowski led the nine of spades and Zatorski played the ten and Tarnowski won the ace. He played a low heart and Wiankowski won the king. It was now or never for the diamond ruff but Wiankowski just played a second spade.

Zatorski won the spade and tried a low club, hoping to find his partner void. It was not to be. Tarnowski won the ace, led a heart to the queen, then a diamond to hand to cash the ace of hearts. Next, he led a club to the king and continued with the queen, pitching a diamond. Wiankowski failed to ruff this so declarer could ruff a club, cross to the ace of diamonds and play a winning club to pitch his last diamond as Wiankowski finally ruffed – just made for +420 and 7 IMPs to Poland.

Wiankowski should have ruffed the queen of clubs and led a diamond to dummy's ace. Then he would have had to come to a diamond trick at the end as there would have been no way for declarer to get to the established clubs; down one.

Worthy of partnership discussion is, 'what spade can West play at trick one to improve his chances of getting a diamond ruff?' The two hardly looks like diamonds, unless we play straight attitude, the ten looks like just overtaking to ensure that declarer can never afford to duck. Maybe the king is correct, if we argue that West knows the position of any missing honours so there is no technical need to play the king – if merely a natural card, it marks declarer with ace-queen – and West would just play the two or ten from KJ10xxxx?

Israel led by 48-2 at the half-way stage in the match. Poland picked up 6 IMPs on Board 11 for making and defeating 2NT, Board 12 was flat, then:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Nawrocki</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>Sikora</i>
1♠	2♣	Pass	1♣
Dble	4♣	All Pass	3♣

West <i>Zatorski</i>	North <i>Tarnowski</i>	East <i>Wiankowski</i>	South <i>Padon</i>
1♠	2♣	Pass	1♣
3♥	4♣	4♥	All Pass

Sikora's 1♦ was Polish so not promising clubs and, when Nawrocki could bid the suit, non-forcing, he was happy to raise when holding ace-queen to four. That in turn permitted Nawrocki to pre-empt with 4♣ over Argelazi's take-out double, and that ended the auction. On another day that might have been a triumph, cutting the opposition out of the auction when they were cold for four of a major. Not today, however, with the major-suit games easily beaten and 4♣ also failing. Sikora took all the losing finesses so was two down for -200.

Tarnowski showed a constructive club raise and Padon signed off in 3♣. Zatorski bid his second suit rather than make a take-out double – what would be your choice with this six-four shape? Though Tarnowski could bid a fourth club, it was natural for Wiankowski to raise to 4♥ as he could easily have been facing a five-card heart suit. That proved to be a hopeless contract, even with spades coming in. After being forced by two rounds of clubs, Zatorski's contract fell apart and he went three down for -300 and 11 IMPs to Israel. He might have saved a trick, but that was all.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Argelazi</i>	North <i>Nawrocki</i>	East <i>Birman</i>	South <i>Sikora</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Two straightforward auctions saw both Norths declare 4♥.

Wiankowski led the queen of clubs to dummy's bare king. Declarer cashed a top heart then threw a diamond on the ace of clubs. However, he got the spades wrong so was down one for -50.

Birman too led the queen of clubs. Nawrocki won the king, cashed the ace of hearts and played ace of clubs for a diamond discard then ruffed the ten of clubs and led a diamond up. Argelazi won the ace and, in a desperate attempt to beat the contract, returned the ♦10. Nawrocki saw no reason not to put up the queen so his contract was secure. He got the spades right so had an overtrick; +450 and 11 IMPs to Poland.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Nawrocki	Birman	Sikora
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♦
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Zatorski	Tarnovski	Wiankowski	Padon
1♦	2♣	Dble	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

Sikora opened a multi on the five-card spade suit and Nawrocki responded 2♠, liking for hearts but not spades. Now Argelazi could not bear to defend against 2♠ – Deep Finesse tells us that East/West can make 4♠ – so overcalled 2NT and Birman, expecting him to have a little more, perhaps, drove to game after checking for a heart fit along the way. Nawrocki doubled on general values, though that was a little risky given who had shown the heart length.

Nawrocki led the queen of clubs, ducked, and continued with the king, again ducked as Sikora unblocked the jack. Argelazi won the third club and played a spade to the ten, a diamond to the queen, and a spade to the queen. When the diamonds behaved he had nine tricks for +750.

Padon did not open the South hand so Zatorski got to open 1♦ and Tarnovski overcalled 2♣. Wiankowski made a negative double and Padon introduced the spades. Surely Zatorski's double should be for penalties in this auction? Wiankowski clearly did not see things the same way as he removed to 3♥ and now Zatorski appears to have expected a fifth heart as he raised to game on three small cards. Tarnovski liked that and doubled, ending the auction, so the two tables had seen East/West bid relatively freely to different games and get doubled. Three No Trump had made, what about 4♥?

Wiankowski won the club lead and led a spade to the ten and a heart to his jack. Next came three rounds of dia-

monds for a club pitch from hand then a second heart up. Tarnovski won the ace and played the ten of hearts to the king. Declarer could take a spade finesse but, as expected, that was ruffed and Tarnovski had two clubs to cash for down one; – 200 and 14 IMPs to Israel.

Deep Finesse tells us that East/West can make no fewer than 11 tricks in a heart contract. That involved playing a heart to the nine on the first round as well as the finesse of the ♠10.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Argelazi	Nawrocki	Birman	Sikora
Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Zatorski	Tarnovski	Wiankowski	Padon
2NT	Dble	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

I have heard the opinion that it is ridiculous not to open



Eiran Argelazi, Israel

the West hand – well, we often exaggerate when introducing a hand to someone else. Argelazi passed it. I don't agree that it is ridiculous. I am not sure that I would always pass, or always open – it might depend who I was partnering for one thing. However, what is certain is that if you open the hand with a ten-count and the suits this way around, you will never be able to describe the shape accurately, as surely the opening must be 1♦. So I think passing is a perfectly rational action, intending to come in with an unusual no trump bid at a later stage if things have not made that look silly by then – as here, where nobody would want to wander in with 4NT after partner has preempted in spades.

Against 4♥, Birman led the king of spades and switched to the four of diamonds. Argelazi played three rounds of diamonds so Nawrocki ruffed high as Birman's club went away. Nawrocki tried to cash the ace of clubs now but that was ruffed and a spade came back, which he ruffed. He could crossruff from here, making his low trump with a safe spade ruff, so was one down for –100.

Zatorski could open 2NT to show a weakfish hand with both minors and Tarnovski doubled to show a good hand. Despite the lack of a fit for a minor, Wiankowski just blasted 4♠, where he was doubled by Padon, ending the auction. Padon cashed the ace of clubs and it was all over. He switched to a heart which Tarnovski won and switched to his spade to stop the ruff in dummy. Wiankowski drew trumps and had three winners in dummy; +790 and 12 IMPs to Poland. Of course, it takes a trump lead or a heart followed by a trump to defeat 4♠.

Israel won the match by 74-32 IMPs, 24-6 VPs. Their strong showing near the top of the table continued, while Poland was down to twelfth place and in serious trouble.

Play Problem No. 8 Solution

How should West play 5♣ on a low diamond lead?

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

You can make sure of the contract. Draw trumps, ruff the second diamond and play ♠KQ and another. If South follows small then finesse the ten. If this loses North is endplayed and later you throw another losing heart on the ♠A. If the finesse wins you have an extra spade trick to dispose of a losing heart. And if South shows out on the third spade you rise with the ace and play the ten. When North covers with the jack let him hold the trick, discarding a losing heart from dummy. North is endplayed.

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.

Slam Hand Revisited

The Bulletin has spies everywhere, so don't think any of your secrets are safe from us. This deal featured in the article, 'Swedish Turn Around' in Bulletin 8 and we now have new information to share with you.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

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

In the other room, the Dutch East/West pair bid up to 7♥ and went one down. Here, we saw Mikael Gronkvist and Cecilia Rimstedt stop in 5♥ after a slightly mysterious auction.

Two Diamonds was GF Stayman and, we assume, 3♦ was a transfer. After that, everything seems clear enough – East was willing to give up on slam unless partner had heart support and 4♦ was a cuebid on the way to 4♥ – until we come to Cecilia's apparent sign-off in 5♥ – surely three key cards could be all she had a right to hope for?

The first part of the explanation was a case of feminine intuition – Cecilia felt that the king of clubs was offside. The second part is more interesting in that it involved the use of a bidding idea I have not seen before. Apparently, 5♥ was a non-forcing ask for the queen of trumps. Clearly, both players knew that three key cards had to be sufficient, and the previous auction put seven out of the picture. So 5♥ asked partner to raise to six with the queen of hearts but to pass without it.

An interesting idea and presumably only applicable when both partners are limited. The fact that 6♥ is a good contract and where you would want to play is not really important.

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS **ROUND 18**



RUSSIA

V

ITALY



Going into this match, Italy and Russia were lying fifth and sixth, just outside the qualifying places for next year's World Championships. While every match is important from here on in for the teams in contention, when two of those teams meet it becomes doubly important as there is a chance not only to boost your own score but also to knock back one of your major rivals.

Manno switched to a heart to the bare king. Ivan Volozhenin saw communications difficulties and led a low diamond to his nine. That lost to the jack and back came a low club to the ace. Volozhenin crossed to the queen of diamonds to play a spade to the jack then cashed the diamonds, but had to lose two spades and a club for down one; -100 and 12 IMPs to Italy.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

The heart switch made life tougher for declarer, because in certain lines where the jack did not fall, declarer has the option of overtaking the heart to lead a second spade up.

Say that declarer gets two rounds of clubs and leads a diamond to the queen. Now he plays a spade to the jack, which scores. Now he can unblock the heart and play the spade jack from hand. If the defence leads a heart he has his ninth trick, and a spade or a diamond puts him in hand to cash out. This seems to require the queen of spades to be onside and the nine to fall in three rounds, plus the spades to be such that North cannot win the queen and lead a third spade to South's ace, when a club through would beat the contract.

If the first spade loses to South's ace, the defence may take two club tricks, but declarer can then overtake the king of hearts to take a second spade finesse.

West <i>Montanari</i>	North <i>Osipov</i>	East <i>Franchi</i>	South <i>Veselov</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West <i>Volozhenin</i>	North <i>Di Franco</i>	East <i>Nekrasova</i>	South <i>Manno</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Franchi's 2♣ rebid was either natural or strong and 2♠ showed a weak hand. Both Wests became declarer in 3NT and both received a low club lead which they ducked to the king.

For Russia, Ivan Veselov returned the nine of clubs to dummy's ace. Matteo Montanari made a tricky hand look very simple when he cashed the ace of diamonds then led low to his queen and the jack dropped. He played a spade to the jack, crossed back to the nine of diamonds and led a second spade. Anton Osipov won the ace and returned a heart to the bare king. He came to a spade and a club but declarer had nine tricks for +600.

Massimiliano Di Franco also led a low club but Andrea

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West <i>Montanari</i>	North <i>Osipov</i>	East <i>Franchi</i>	South <i>Veselov</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West <i>Volozhenin</i>	North <i>Di Franco</i>	East <i>Nekrasova</i>	South <i>Manno</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	Rdbl	1♥	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♠
All Pass			


Veselov's 2♣ opening was either strong and artificial or a weak two in diamonds, and the 2♦ response was to play facing the weak variety. Montanari now doubled 2♦ for take-out and decided that he had sufficient to spare to raise to game when Arrigo Franchi could jump to 3♥.

Veselov led a diamond. Osipov won the ace and returned the queen, which Veselov overtook with the king. He cashed the ace of clubs then played a third diamond. However, Franchi's trump holding was sufficiently solid that he could ruff with the eight, draw trumps and cash the clubs for ten tricks; +420.

Manno opened 1♦ and Di Franco's strength-showing re-double seemed to discourage the Russian East/West pair from competing as they should have done. Ksenia Nekrasova bid 1♥ then 2♣ but left her opponents to play in 2♠ when perhaps she might have taken one more bid – surely one of 3♣ and 4♥ should be a playable spot. One can, of course, understand why Volzhenin was happy to defend 2♠.

Nekrasova led the nine of hearts and Volozhenin won the ace and switched to the two of spades. Di Franco put up the king and started on diamonds. And that was nine tricks as the club loser went away; +140 and 11 IMPs to Italy.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Montanari	Osipov	Franchi	Veselov
		2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Volozhenin	Di Franco	Nekrasova	Manno
		1♠	Pass
INT	Dble	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Dble	All Pass	

I confess that I would have opened 1♠ rather than the much more successful weak two – the hand is far too good for 2♠ for me, even at adverse vulnerability. Franchi's 2♠ was passed around to Osipov who overcalled 2NT and played there – all very normal from North/South, but a horrible contract.

Franchi, of course, led the king of spades. Montanari pitched the low diamond so Osipov won the ace and played ace and another diamond, putting in the eight when


Franchi showed out. Montanari won the ♦9 and switched to the queen of hearts, ducked, then the jack, covered. Franchi cashed two spade winners then played a heart back and Montanari cashed three more of those. He also had a diamond to cash but had to give the last two tricks to declarer; down four for –200.

Nekrasove's 1♠ opening led to a truly horrible auction which just begged to end in a double – Di Franco duly obliged.

Di Franco led the eight of clubs and Manno misjudged the situation when he played low, allowing declarer's nine to win. Volozhenin led the queen of hearts then a low heart to the nine, and led dummy's king of spades, pitching a diamond from hand. Di Franco defended nicely now, winning the ace of spades and cashing the diamond ace before putting dummy in with the king of hearts to the ace. And now Volozhenin got the ending horribly wrong. He was fated to be one down, of course, as the best he could do was to cash the two spade winners then play a club, North winning and cashing two more clubs but then having to give him two red tricks at the end. But Volozhenin cashed only one spade winner before leading a club. Di Franco took his clubs then put dummy in with his last spade and now dummy had to give a trick to South. On this trick declarer lost the plot completely and threw the ♦K to keep a heart when there were no hearts outstanding. In certain parts of the world this would be a very, very expensive error indeed because, not only did it mean three down for –800 instead of two down for –500, but South had kept the seven of diamonds for that last trick – the beer card!

Anyway, that was worth 14 IMPs to Italy, who led in the match by 44-3.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Montanari	Osipov	Franchi	Veselov
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

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

The Italians had a constructive auction to 4♠ and there was no reason for anyone to double the final contract. The Russians had a more competitive auction in which it was unclear that opener had even invited game with her 3♠ call. As North had overcalled at the three level, Manno felt that he had sufficient to double the final contract, even though he had substantial length in his partner's suit.

Veselov cashed the top trumps, on which Osipov followed ten, three, a clear suit-preference signal. Veselov duly switched to a heart. Away went a diamond from declarer's hand and he now played ace, king and a third club to Veselov's queen. When Veselov switched to a low diamond, declarer put up the king in the vain hope of making his contract, so lost two diamonds for down two; -100. Maybe the cost was only an extra 50 and it seemed worth the gamble, but how likely was it that South was really underleading the ace of diamonds when that card was the setting trick and he could not know declarer even had a guess? I don't think it was worth the 2 IMPs that it would have cost against a normal 4♠-1 from the other room.

Manno too cashed the top spades but Di Franco followed three, ten. Manno switched to a low club, which looks dangerous notwithstanding partner's trump plays. And dangerous it proved to be when Nekrasova put up the jack (not that that mattered) and claimed ten tricks; +590 and 12 IMPs to Russia.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Montanari	Osipov	Franchi	Veselov
–	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Montanari led the nine of diamonds to the ten and queen. Veselov played the king of spades and Montanari won the ace and switched to the ace then jack of hearts, Franchi overtaking and Veselov ducking. Knowing that he had no entry to the hearts, Franchi switched to a club now. Declarer won the ace and cashed his spade, heart and club winners then exited with a spade, playing for an endplay against West. Sure enough, when the low diamond came back, he put up dummy's jack so was one down, having to concede the last trick to the eight of diamonds – no, Montanari obviously is not into the game; -100.

I guess Montanari might have led nine from K984 at trick one, but it isn't that obvious a choice, so perhaps declarer should have played for the actual diamond position, which was entirely consistent with what he had seen, including the fact that east had not returned a diamond when in with the second heart.

We do not have a record from the other room, but Manno played 4♠ as South and managed to make it, a pretty good effort it seems, for +620 and 12 IMPs to Italy.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Montanari	Osipov	Franchi	Veselov
		1♥	2♥
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Volozhenin	Di Franco	Nekrasova	Manno
		1♥	2♥
3♠	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	5♠	Dble	All Pass



Ivan Veselov, Russia

Both Souths showed a spade/minor two-suiter and both Wests showed good heart raises, Volozhenin specifically a spade shortage. The difference in evaluation between the two Norths was quite striking – though of course it has to be considered that the respective Norths will know more about their partner's bidding style than we do, and Veselov may be much more aggressive with this two-suited overcalls than Manno. Osipov, who had the option of just bidding 3♠, and thereby taking bidding space away from his opponents as well as inviting partner to go on to game, passed throughout and

defended 4♥. Di Franco not only bid 4♠ over the 3♠ splinter, but bid on to the five-level at his next turn.

It scarcely mattered. Five Hearts made 12 tricks after a diamond lead for +480. Nekrasova led the nine of hearts against 5♠ doubled. Di Franco won the ace and played ace and another spade to the king. Nekrasova switched to her singleton club and was given a ruff for down two; -500 and 1 IMP to Russia.

Italy won the match by 59-32 IMPs, or 21-7 VPs after a penalty.

Meet The Czech U-26 Team

Jana Jankova is the blond goddess of the Czech U-26 team. So far not many opponents could resist her elegant smile. As a geographer, she admires the mountains of Poiana Brasov and found out that the slopes are quite steep, while climbing to the top.

Pavla Hoderova deserves our respect because she is in charge of keeping her boyfriend Michal in line. The reason she is so slim, is because Michal finishes all of her dinners before she can even think of her food.

Michal Kopecky suggested playing at least six rounds of 20 boards every day. After each day he plays another sixty boards to keep his good shape. During our hazardous walk in the mountains he proved to be a real survivor, climbing from tree to tree and jumping over rivers.

Milan Macura is known as 'the small one'. Although his size suggests otherwise, he is big in deeds. Beers and girls are not safe when he is around.

Ondrej Bahlik has almost graduated in law. When he and his partner Lukas came down the stairs after their first match shouting loudly to each other, he later explained they were not fighting but that good lawyers always raise their voice in order to convince others.

Lukas Barnet is our greatest player. If you see him, you will know why. Before every round we do some clapping, especially 'the small one' had some problems reaching his hand. So, though his nickname is Barny, he more resembles Fred Flintstone.

Ine Gielkens has the best laugh of all the captains. With her jokes and funny stories she keeps the whole team smiling from ear to ear. Fortunately she doesn't understand her players so she still thinks they respect her...

Richard Ritmeijer is also Dutch but a huge fan of the CC; Czech Clowns as he calls them. He volunteered to help Ine whenever he could, but we are afraid we will see less of him since he has a full time job now and even the threat of a girl friend is endangering the CC. So we try to convince his boss he is a better bridge trainer than lawyer. Now we only need some expert in photo-shopping to show the results to his girlfriend.



Sport News



Cycling

Denmark's Nicki Sorensen fought off the challenge of six other breakaway riders to win the 12th stage of the Tour de France to Vitel. On a subdued day's racing the peloton allowed the escapees to get away from them and Sorensen's brave final attack from 20km out proved decisive.

There was no change to the leading overall positions – Italy's Rinaldo Nocentini was 48th but safely retained the yellow jersey.



Golf

Late on the first day of the British Open at Turnberry the leading scores were: -6 J A Jimenez; -5 T Watson, B. Curtis; -4 J. Senden, S. Stricker, C. Villegas, S. Cink, M. Goggin, F. Jaconson*, F. Molinari*, R. Sterne*. (* Still playing.) Tiger Woods is at +1.



Cricket

An exciting first day of the second Ashes test match between England and Australia saw England again partially squander a great start and ended the day on 364-6 (Cook 95, Strauss 161*).



Tennis

France's Richard Gasquet has been cleared to return to competitive tennis after testing positive for cocaine. The 23-year-old, ranked 32nd in the world, was provisionally suspended in May after failing a doping test at the Miami Masters in March. But the International Federation (ITF) accepted his defence that 'the cocaine entered his system through inadvertent contamination in a nightclub'.

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS **ROUND 18**



ROMANIA

v

AUSTRIA



We had not seen enough of the host Under 26 team that is performing creditably here in Brasov. So your reporter chose the first half of their match v Austria to report. Both are mid-field, where one good win can move a team up several places, with Austria a couple of places higher in the rankings.

Mihai Lucian Parvulescu & Diana Stafie of Romania faced Jefri Islam & Adele Gogoman of Austria. They both play fairly standard systems but, unusually, both partnerships play Italian discards in defence.

Both events had the morning off so play did not start until 2 pm. The tradition set so far, that the first deal of the morning is a wake-up affair, did not apply. The point of interest was whether N/S found the sacrifice against E/W's 4♥:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Islam	Stafie	Gogoman	Parvelescu
	1♦	Pass	2♠(i)
3♥	Pass	3♠(ii)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

- (i) Weak
- (ii) Strong raise in hearts.

Four Spades is certainly going two off, and might well go down more, so it is reasonable for N/S to allow their opponents to rest in 4♥. (5♥ makes as well.) In the Closed Room, Austria found the sacrifice and went only two off; 4 IMPs to Austria.

The point of interest on Board 2 was this decision for West, who held:

♠ 8 2
♥ Q 10 7 4
♦ Q
♣ A Q 9 5 4 2

Partner, as dealer, passes at favourable vulnerability; RHO opens a 15-17 no trump. If you pass, LHO makes a transfer

bid of 2♥ and opener obliges by bidding 2♠. Would you act now?

If you pass again that becomes the final contract for partner can hardly protect holding:

♠ J 6 5
♥ K 9 2
♦ A 9 7 3
♣ K 8 6

The opponents can make 2♠ or 3♦. You have at least nine tricks in clubs and a possible ten if you play the strong no trumper for the ♥J.

West passed throughout and Romania scored up +140 for a 1 IMP swing when 2♠ made on the nose in the Closed Room.

The next deal had more to it:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

The auction was the same at both tables:

West	North	East	South
Islam	Stafie	Gogoman	Parvelescu
Dobrescu	Schulz	Nistor	Bina
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

At both tables West was declarer in 3NT and the ♣2 (fourth highest) was led to the king and a club returned to the bare ace.

If the diamonds behave you have eight top tricks but the ninth is not so easy to see. For example, suppose you lead a spade from dummy. If South has a spade honour you will lose two spades and three clubs. But if you unblock the heart king and come to hand with ♦Q to lead a spade, how will you get back to the ♥A?

Rigal suggests you come to hand with the $\diamond Q$ without unblocking hearts and lead a spade, relying on North to hold the queen. If the opponents win you can later overtake $\heartsuit K$ for another spade finesse. If they let you win the first spade (as they should), then the rest of the diamonds bring you down to a five-card ending in which you still have several chances.

Dobrescu simply cashed all the diamonds but then had to lead spades from the dummy for a rather tame down one.

Islam, with the same problem, unblocked $\heartsuit K$ and then made the intelligent shot (also made by the Russian declarer against Italy on vugraph) of a low diamond to the nine. If that had held he could have tried to guess spades.

A glance at the diagram shows that the patient died. North won $\diamond J$ and returned a diamond to the queen. Declarer led a spade to the jack which held and then had to cash dummy's diamonds. When the spades were led next North made $\spadesuit AQ$, cashed the club queen to defeat the game and conceded the last trick to declarer; no swing.

Those declarers who began the diamonds by playing ace and queen (without unblocking hearts) were able to take advantage of the jack falling. A spade to the ten and a diamond to the nine followed by another spade brought home the game as $\heartsuit K$ remained an entry to dummy.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>\spadesuit 8 6 4 \heartsuit A J \diamond Q 5 4 \clubsuit A 9 7 3 2</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>\spadesuit A K 2 \heartsuit K Q 8 \diamond A K 10 9 8 \clubsuit J 8</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
<p>\spadesuit Q J 7 \heartsuit 10 9 3 2 \diamond J 3 2 \clubsuit 6 5 4</p>		<p>\spadesuit 10 9 5 3 \heartsuit 7 6 5 4 \diamond 7 6 \clubsuit K Q 10</p>									

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Islam</i>	<i>Stafie</i>	<i>Gogoman</i>	<i>Parvelescu</i>
Pass	1 \clubsuit	Dble	Pass
1 \heartsuit	Pass	2 \clubsuit	Dble
Pass	Pass	2 \diamond	Pass
3 \diamond	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dobrescu</i>	<i>Schulz</i>	<i>Nistor</i>	<i>Bina</i>
Pass	1 \diamond	Dble	Pass
1 \heartsuit	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Austria stopped safely in 3 \diamond , making an overtrick for 130. If North passes originally one can imagine E/W reaching 3NT. Should they make if South does not find the club lead? Declarer should set up a heart at once and if the defence do not cash their clubs the game is home. And so it transpired in the

Closed Room for a systemic reason. North, playing strong club, decided to open 1 \diamond . South led the suit to the jack, queen, and ace. Declarer crossed to dummy with a spade to lead a low heart. North avoided that trap by rising with $\heartsuit A$, but fell into another when continuing diamonds. Declarer now had ten tricks for 11 IMPs to Romania.

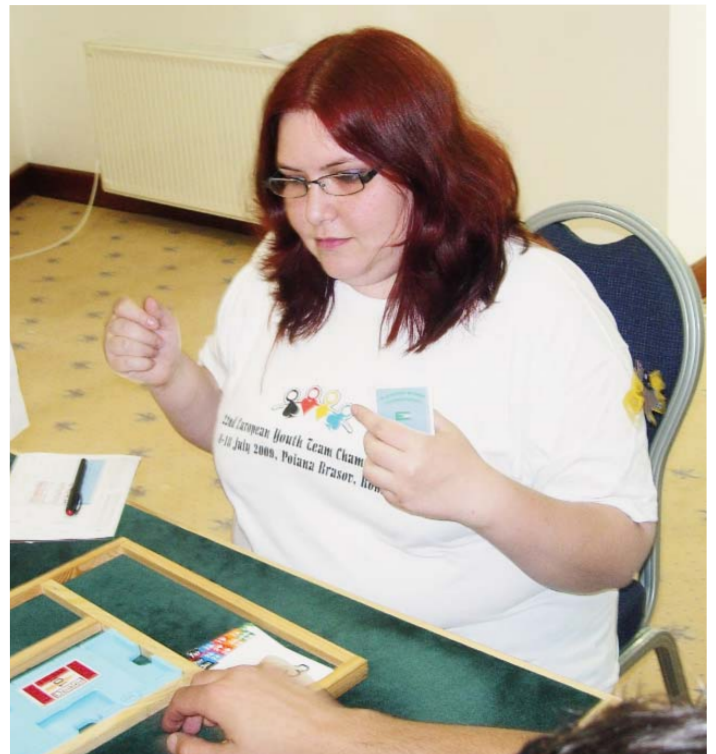
Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

<p>\spadesuit A Q J 2 \heartsuit A J 8 6 \diamond 5 2 \clubsuit Q 7 4</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>\spadesuit K 10 9 5 \heartsuit 7 5 4 3 \diamond A Q \clubsuit 10 8 2</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		<p>\spadesuit 8 \heartsuit K 10 9 2 \diamond 9 8 4 \clubsuit K J 9 5 3</p>									
		<p>\spadesuit 7 6 4 3 \heartsuit Q \diamond K J 10 7 6 3 \clubsuit A 6</p>									

West	North	East	South
<i>Islam</i>	<i>Stafie</i>	<i>Gogoman</i>	<i>Parvelescu</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 \diamond
Dble	1 \heartsuit	Dble	2 \diamond
Dble	3 \diamond	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dobrescu</i>	<i>Schulz</i>	<i>Nistor</i>	<i>Bina</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2 \clubsuit	Pass
2 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	All Pass



Diana Mihaela Stafie, Romania

In the Open Room, East's double of 1♥ showed hearts so it is a little surprising that West did not simply raise the suit at his next turn. You can compete to 3♥ without getting into trouble. Three Diamonds can be beaten by spade ruffs but West led a trump and declarer set up the spades for two tricks and 110 to Romania.

In the Closed Room, South quite surprisingly passed and E/W were given a free run to 4♥. This came home for another 11 IMPs to the host country.

On Board 6, declarer for Austria suffered an accident when he tried to ruff with a suit that was not trumps. The cost was high; 8 IMPs to Romania instead of a similar swing to Austria.

Romania appeared to be running away with the match but this deal turned the tide:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Schulz	Nistor	Bina
Pass	1♥	2♥(i)	2NT(ii)
4♠	Pass(iii)	Pass	Dble

All Pass

- (i) Michaels, showing spades and a minor
- (ii) High-card raise in hearts
- (iii) Two losers in spades

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Islam	Stafie	Gogoman	Parvelescu
Pass	1♥	2♥	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, over South's high-card heart raise, West might have bid only 3♠ and taken a chance in defence of 4♥, but one suspects no table stopped below 4♠. Anyway, the Austrians duly took 4♠ doubled two off for 300 to Austria.

In the Open Room, N/S were playing the same high-card raise of 2NT over the Michaels cuebid and North quite reasonably claimed later that she expected less in high cards and more in shape for his raise to 4♥ followed by double. Whatever, the removal to 5♥, despite not being doubled, cost 100 and 9 IMPs to Austria.

The defence cashed two top clubs and carefully avoided playing diamonds so declarer had to lose a trick in that suit too.

On Board 9 both tables reached the normal but unmakeable 4♠ and Romania went the extra one off for 2 IMPs to Austria.

This was the final deal of the first half:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

East opened 1NT which was passed out. Against Austria, South led ♣6 to the queen and ace. A diamond was won by North who, rather surprisingly, switched to spades. The next few tricks went diamond, spade, diamond, spade. Declarer meanly cashed his good spade before the good diamond, just to show the defence what they had done; +90 to Austria. At the other table, declarer misguessed spades and so made only his five top winners in the same contract. This was -200 and 7 IMPs to Austria.

Romania still led 34-22 at half-time but Austria put on 38-21 in the second half to win a close match by 60-55 or 16-14 in VPs.

Today in History - July 17th



1975: Superpowers meet in space On July 17, 1975, as part of a project aimed at developing space rescue capability, the U.S. spacecraft Apollo and the Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 19 rendezvous and dock in space. As the hatch was

opened between the two vessels, commanders Thomas P. Safford and Aleksei Leonov shook hands and exchanged gifts in celebration of the first such meeting in space between the two Cold War adversaries. During the 44-hour Apollo-Soyuz embrace, the astronauts and cosmonauts conducted experiments, shared meals, and held a joint news conference.

1453: End of the One Hundred Years' War with a defeat for the English at the hands of the French at the Battle of Castillon.

1918: Tsar Nicholas II, and the rest of his family, are murdered by the Bolsheviks in the cellar of a house in Ekaterinburg.