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ŠAMORÍN, SLOVAKIA

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## CRUNCH TIME FOR THE UNDER 16s



**WEDNESDAY,  
JULY 12, 2017**



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### TODAY'S SCHEDULE U26, Women U26, U16

10.00	Round 13
12.20	Round 14
15.30	Round 15 <i>Last round for U16</i>
17.50	Round 16 <i>U26 open and women only</i>
	<b>U21</b>
10.00	Round 16
11.50	Round 17
14.30	Round 18
16.20	Round 19
18.10	Round 20

*The Turkish National Bridge players happily mix with Galatasaray football players who are training here.*

It is the final day in the 2017 U16s European Team Championship – crunch time. Going into the final day Poland is well-placed to take the championship – though of course there are no guarantees – while Israel and France are quite a way clear of Sweden, Italy and Norway in the hunt for the medals and are the only teams close enough to challenge Poland for the title.

The heavyweights are clustering at the top of the U26 Open rankings, with only Italy of the regular challengers some way adrift and even they still have plenty of time to recover. France are the current leaders from Sweden, England and Denmark.

In the U21s, Germany, Netherlands, England and France are covered by less than 3 VPs at the top, with three more teams within half a match of fourth place.

Netherlands, Poland, Hungary and France are the top four in the U26 Women's Championship. In this, as in all but the U16s, there is over half the tournament to go, so there could still be major changes if a team hits or loses form in the coming days.

### UNDER 16 PRIZE GIVING

The Under 16 Prize Giving will be held at 18:30 today in the Cinema.

### LOST WALLET

If you find a black wallet containing a German passport, please return it to the Bulletin Office.



# DRAW TODAY

**U26 ROUND 13**

BBO 1	POL ITA
BBO 2	LAT SWE
BBO 3	SVK FRA
BBO 4	BEL DNK
	IRE EST
	GRE SCO
	POR SPA
	ROM AUT
	RUS ISR
	NED CRO
	HUN GER
	SER NOR
	ENG TUR
	CZE Bye

TIME: 10.00

**U26 ROUND 14**

BBO 1	DNK RUS
BBO 2	EST ENG
BBO 3	TUR FRA
BBO 4	AUT CZE
	ISR SER
	BEL SWE
	SCO HUN
	HRV ITA
	SVK LAT
	SPA NOR
	POL POR
	ROM GER
	GRE IRE
	NED Bye

TIME: 12.20

**U26 ROUND 15**

BBO 1	POL NED
BBO 2	SWE FRA
BBO 3	SVK ENG
BBO 4	ISR BEL
	NOR RUS
	LAT DNK
	GER GRE
	EST SCO
	TUR IRE
	SER POR
	SPA ITA
	HUN AUT
	CZE ROM
	HRV Bye

TIME: 15.30

**U26 ROUND 16**

BBO 1	NOR SWE
BBO 2	SER CZE
BBO 3	NED EST
BBO 4	DNK ISR
	RUS AUT
	ROM SPA
	SVK POR
	IRE FRA
	GER BEL
	HRV GRE
	SCO LAT
	ITA TUR
	POL HUN
	ENG Bye

TIME: 17.50

**U21 ROUND 16**

	CZE POL
	TUR ITA
	ISR ENG
	BEL FIN
	BUL GER
	SVK NOR
	NED IRE
	SWE HUN
	FRA Bye

TIME: 10.00

**U21 ROUND 17**

	GER NED
	HUN FIN
	SWE ISR
	TUR IRE
	POL SVK
	FRA BUL
	BEL CZE
	ITA ENG
	NOR Bye

TIME: 11.50

**U21 ROUND 18**

	IRE GER
	HUN NED
	BEL ENG
	SVK POL
	FIN ISR
	NOR ITA
	TUR SWE
	CZE BUL
	FRA Bye

TIME: 14.30

**U21 ROUND 19**

	GER SVK
	NED IRE
	ENG HUN
	FRA BEL
	POL TUR
	ISR CZE
	ITA FIN
	SWE NOR
	BUL Bye

TIME: 16.20

**U21 ROUND 20**

	GER NOR
	NED TUR
	ENG SVK
	FRA IRE
	POL FIN
	ISR BEL
	SWE CZE
	BUL HUN
	ITA Bye

TIME: 18.10

**W. U26 ROUND 13**

	CZE HUN
	FRA NOR
	NED GER
	LAT TUR
	POL ENG

TIME: 10.00

**W. U26 ROUND 14**

	CZE TUR
	POL NED
	ENG FRA
	HUN LAT
	GER NOR

TIME: 12.20

**W. U26 ROUND 15**

	CZE NED
	TUR FRA
	POL HUN
	NOR ENG
	LAT GER

TIME: 15.30

**W. U26 ROUND 16**

	CZE ENG
	LAT POL
	GER TUR
	NED NOR
	HUN FRA

TIME: 17.50

**U16 ROUND 13**

	FRA NOR
	GER NED
	CZE ITA
	SCO BUL
	ENG DNK
	SWE POL
	GRE IRE
	ISR TUR

TIME: 10.00

**U16 ROUND 14**

	FRA TUR
	ISR IRE
	GRE SWE
	POL DNK
	SCO ENG
	BUL CZE
	GER ITA
	NOR NED

TIME: 12.20

**U16 ROUND 15**

	FRA GER
	CZE NOR
	SCO NED
	DNK ITA
	BUL SWE
	IRE ENG
	POL TUR
	GRE ISR

TIME: 15.30



# BELGIUM vs PORTUGAL

by Brian Senior

## Junior Teams, Round 8

Belgium had a big win in Round 8 of the U26 Open series, 75-5 IMPs, translating to 20-0 VPs. These three deals contributed greatly to their win.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ A Q 10 7 6 2		
	♥ 9 8		
	♦ K 7		
	♣ 9 7 3		
♠ 9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 2px;"> <span>N</span><span>E</span></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 2px;"> <span>W</span><span>S</span></div> </div>	♠ K 5	
♥ J 5 4 2		♥ A K 7	
♦ 9 3		♦ A Q J 8 2	
♣ K Q 10 6 5 2		♣ A 8 4	
	♠ J 8 4 3		
	♥ Q 10 6 3		
	♦ 10 6 5 4		
	♣ J		

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewit</i>	<i>Coutinho</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>	<i>Moraes</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2♦	Dble	4♦
Pass	4♠	Dble	5♠
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Brochado</i>	<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Corte-Real</i>	<i>Van Overmeire</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2♠	3♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

For Belgium, Sam Bahbout opened a natural weak two bid in third seat and Luis Corte-Real made a very heavy overcall – there is nothing on their card to suggest that 3♦ was other than natural. Jens Van Overmeire raised to 4♠ and when that came back to Corte-Real he doubled to show his extras. With no guaranteed fit, Marta Brochado passed the double and Corte-Real kicked off with a top heart then switched to ace and another diamond. Bahbout won the king and led his remaining heart up so Corte-Real won the king and cashed the ace of clubs. There was a spade to come so the contract was two down for –300.

For Portugal, Francisco Coutinho opened 2♦, multi, and Emiel Vandewiele doubled. Jose Moraes jumped to 4♦, asking partner to bid his major at the four level, and Coutinho duly did so. When Vandewiele doubled again to show his big balanced hand-type, Moraes raised the level of the pre-empt once more but that was insufficient to silence Dennis Dewit, who trusted his opponents' bidding, which suggested that they were afraid that E/W had a slam, and bid 6♣. That ended the auction and Coutinho led a heart. Dewit won the ace and played ace and another club to the king, took the diamond finesse and came back to hand with a third trump and repeated the diamond finesse. He had to lose a heart at the end so the slam was just made for +1370 and 14 IMPs to Belgium.



Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ 6 5 2		
	♥ 8		
	♦ A K 10 6 5 2		
	♣ Q 6 4		
♠ K J 8 7 4 ♥ Q 10 ♦ 7 3 ♣ A J 9 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                 N W     E S             </div>	♠ Q 10 ♥ 9 6 4 2 ♦ Q J 8 4 ♣ 10 8 3	
	♠ A 9 3		
	♥ A K J 7 5 3		
	♦ 9		
	♣ K 7 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewit</i>	<i>Coutinho</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>	<i>Moraes</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Brochado</i>	<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Corte-Real</i>	<i>Van Overmeire</i>
–	2♣	Pass	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Moraes opened 1♥ then jumped to 3♥ at his next turn and, with nothing in the opposition's spade suit, Coutinho raised to game on his small singleton. Dewit led the seven of diamonds. Moraes won the ace and cashed the king for a spade discard then led a heart to the jack.



**Marta Brochado**  
**PORTUGAL**

That lost to the queen and back came the ♥10. After winning and drawing a third round of trumps, Moraes cashed the ace of spades then led a club to the queen, ruffed a diamond and exited with his remaining spade. However, Vandewiele won that and cashed the nine of hearts then led a winning diamond and there was no way to avoid the loss of two club tricks; down two for –200.


Bahbout opened 2♣, strong and artificial or, as here, a weak two in diamonds. Two Hearts was constructive non-forcing and Brochado competed with 2♠. When that came back to Van Overmeire he doubled to show extras and, knowing of a misfit and seeing that he had good defensive values, Bahbout was happy to leave it in. Bahbout cashed the king of diamonds and switched to the singleton heart. Van Overmeire won the king, cashed the ace and continued with the ♥7. Brochado would have done best to discard her losing diamond on this trick, after which it should be possible to come to six tricks, but she actually ruffed with the jack then led the diamond up. Bahbout ducked, forcing his partner to ruff so that he could lead a fourth heart through, the jack. Brochado ruffed with the eight and led a spade to the ten and ace. Van Overmeire returned a spade to dummy and declarer took a losing club finesse. Bahbout now played the ace of diamonds and when Brochado ruffed she could do no better than cash the ace of clubs for three down and –500; 12 IMPs to Belgium.



**Jose Moraes**  
**PORTUGAL**



Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A Q J 8 3 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ J ♣ J 7 4 3		♠ 10 ♥ K 4 ♦ A 9 7 5 ♣ A 10 8 6 5 2	♠ K 4 ♥ J 10 9 7 6 5 ♦ K 10 8 4 3 ♣ -
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**Jens Van Overmeire**  
**BELGIUM**

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewit</i>	<i>Coutinho</i>	<i>Vandewiele</i>	<i>Moraes</i>
Pass	1♠	2♣	Dble
2♠	Pass	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	5♣	5♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Brochado</i>	<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Corte-Real</i>	<i>VanOvermeire</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	4♥
Dble	Rdbl	All Pass	

Coutinho opened the North hand, a very aggressive action at adverse vulnerability, and Vandewiele overcalled.



**Sam Bahbout**  
**BELGIUM**

Moraes made a negative double then introduced his long hearts on the next round of the auction, thereby showing a hand not strong for an immediate 2♥ call. When Coutinho raised to 4♥ and Vandewiele went on to 5♣, Moraes in turn went on to the five level.

Dewit led the king of clubs, ruffed by Moraes, who led a spade to the queen then the jack of diamonds towards his hand. Vandewiele rose with the ace and played a club, again ruffed. Moraes ruffed a diamond then tried to come to hand with the king of spades to take another ruff. However, that was ruffed by Vandewiele, who got out with another club. Moraes ruffed another diamond then played the ♥Q and had just to lose the two top hearts; down two for -200.

The auction was rather different in the other room, where Bahbout did not see an opening bid in the North cards. Here it was Corte-Real, East, who opened the bidding with 1♣, and Van Overmeire made a simple overcall rather than anything more dramatic like 2♥ or 2NT. Bahbout showed a constructive raise with a 2♣ cuebid and Van Overmeire jumped to the heart game on the strength of his great distribution. When Brochado doubled because of her extra values, Bahbout redoubled and that was that.

Again the lead was the king of clubs, ruffed. However, Van Overmeire did not cross to dummy to play a diamond, instead leading low from hand towards the jack. Brochado went in with the queen and returned a spade in response to her partner's ♦9, but declarer won the king and led a low heart to the queen and king. Corte-Real returned his remaining trump to his partner's ace and Brochado played another spade. Van Overmeire called for the eight and when that held had three more spade tricks and ten tricks in all for a rather nice +1080 and 15 IMPs to Belgium.

# MEET THE BELGIANS

After having missed the previous Youth Championships in Tromsø, which were really too expensive for our poor federation, Belgium is very happy to be back in the beautiful resort of Samorin and to try and compensate for the lost time, we for the first time brought an U21 team with us. Time for some presentation.

We start with the U26 team, featuring a player who is arguably the very best of the field, **Sam Bahbout (23)**, who finished some weeks ago at the tenth place in the European Open Pairs, despite partnering Mike Vandervorst, well known in Belgium as 'le gros boulet'. Sam plays his third and last Youth Championship, after Albena 2011 and Wrocław 2013. In all those years (he is playing for 10 years) he made some improvements, although still studying psychology at Antwerp, his native town. But in many ways he is already a professional. His other interests are drinking a pint with his numerous friends in Antwerp, and even in Brussels if he gets the occasion.

His partner is **Robert Khomiakov (24)**, also from Antwerp, although he was born in Kiev (the legend says he was born in a train). He has played the game for six years, including Wrocław, and is Sam's best friend away from the table (and sometimes his best enemy when playing the game). He is a bartender, so Sam is regularly drinking a pint at his cafe. He likes running marathons and his favorite quote is 'one down is good bridge'. Don't be afraid when he doubles you, it usually means that your contract is on the right track.

**Jens Van Overmeire (24)** plays also his third and last Youth Championships, as he will turn 25 this year. He has played almost as long as Sam, is working for three years as an engineer and likes to play football at amateur level. He lives

somewhere between Antwerp and Ghent, in a region called Waasland, which is best known by soccer freaks because of Lokeren and Beveren. He is expert in slam bidding (inclusive when they are insane). His partner is a rookie and also my godson, **Clovis Dehaye (19)**, playing the game for just two years and of course this is his first appearance at a Euro. He studies as an engineer in Louvain-la-Neuve and arrived in Samorin with some delay, due to his activities in Youth movements. In his first match, he was trashed by Ireland (0-20) but didn't go back home yet. Probably his play level will improve in the coming days. His parents Bernard Dehaye and Isabelle Dewasme have represented Belgium many times.

Our third pair consist of two rookies: **Dennis Dewit (23)** is from Antwerp too. After four years of bridge, his other interests include tennis and table tennis. His favorite quote is 'we can't find it with our system'. He achieved a Master in physics. He partners **Emile Vandewiele (23)** from the well known bath place Knokke-Heist, which was sung about by Jacques Brel. He plays the game already for 10 years but is afraid he doesn't improve. This is mostly because in his hotel room he plays chess all the day. Beware of him at the chessboard, since his Elo rating is already 2050 (and there, he improves). He is the only one not to like a beer, because he tried already too hard, he says.

In our U21 team, we have a girl, **Laure Mommaerts (19)**, from Brussels. She started precisely three years ago in Deauville. You could think she is a bridge professional, because you can find her name in almost every French festival, but actually she studies to become a school teacher. When she doesn't play bridge (that means not so often) she takes pictures of everybody and

sometimes rides in a kart.

Aside from her, we have four young boys who compete for the first. **Arthur Massar** (King Arthur) is also from Brussels, is 17 and is a small genius, studying Greek and Mathematics, but is also passionate about informatics. He even will go to Iran this summer for the Olympiad of this speciality. I hope he comes back alive! He sometimes sings in a choir in his free time. His favorite quote is 'This is as beautiful as physics'.

**Bjorn Van Velthoven (17)** is from Mechelen, in the middle between Antwerp and Brussels. His father is an accurate player too. He almost perfectly speaks both our national languages, and is very surprised that the coach does the same. He will start to study as an engineer (one more!) in French in Brussels next September. He likes horse riding too.

**Kamiel Luycx (16)** from Lier is our youngest player, a better snooker and bowling player but a rising star at bridge. He learned the game three years ago and studies Latin and Mathematics at school, although he will switch to Sciences and Maths next autumn.

Finally, **Emile Huybrecht (20)** from Affligem (in the middle between Brussels and Ghent, famous for its beer) plays for six years. His father won the first session of Juan Les Pins this year. He starts his fourth year Medicine, having been one year early at school. He likes cooking and bidding all his five-card suits at the level of two, or three if necessary. So don't be afraid of doubling him!

**Dominique Stuyck** (npc) **Bert Geens** (coach U21) and **Jean-Francois Jourdain** (coach U26, who wrote this article) are here to see what happens with our teams, and hope to escape from heart failure until they go back to Belgium. So please be kind to us!

**We would be very pleased to publish more team presentations from any team interested. A presentation can be serious or humorous, as you wish (there are limits, of course).**

**You can bring your presentation to the bulletin/press room/ebf office or email to: bsenior@hotmail.com**



# DENMARK vs ENGLAND


by Daniel Gulyas

## Junior Teams, Round 8

After seven rounds, the standings started with: Denmark first, England second – who could hope for a better afternoon’s entertainment than this?

After three quiet boards, on which Denmark took the lead with an extra overtrick, Peter Jepsen got punished for entering the bidding belatedly, vulnerable against not.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

1♣ promised at least two cards, 1♦ was a transfer to hearts, and 1♥ was showing a mild fit and a minimum, so Jepsen thought it was time to fight for the partial. Lam doubled to show values, Bilde had a normal raise, and Lam’s second card-showing double gave his partner a chance for an easy pass. After three rounds of diamonds, West thought the reason for not returning a club was East holding the king, but when East discouraged on the ace, he switched to hearts so East could put a club through, and the contract went down two, for –500. The other table stopped in 3♥, which could have been beaten by repeated club plays, but wasn’t.



Majka Cilleborg Bilde

However, England still gained 8 IMPs to go into the lead. Both teams could feel they missed an opportunity when they stayed out of a reasonable slam, England gaining an overtrick IMP, then it was Jepsen's turn to shine in the bidding, finding a club slam not many pairs managed to bid:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ Q J 9 6 3 ♥ 8 ♦ A 10 9 7 ♣ J 6 4		♠ A K 10 5 ♥ J 9 7 3 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 10 5	♠ 8 7 4 2 ♥ A K 10 ♦ K J 5 3 2 ♣ 9
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West	North	East	South
<i>Lam</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Nonnenmacher</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Dble	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

After four natural bids Bilde tried 2♠ fourth suit, which East doubled, helping Peter realize that the hand belonged in clubs (several tables attempted 3NT after North showed his four-card spade suit, usually leading to down two). After South heard his partner



**Peter Japsen**  
DENMARK

cuebid hearts and never bid no trump, he knew she had to have enough red honours for slam to be a good proposition.

There was nothing to the play, Denmark gaining 13 well deserved IMPs when England only got to 5♣ in the closed room. Denmark led by 5 IMPs.

A different auction led to a different opening lead, and a different result on this next deal:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lam</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Nonnenmacher</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both North and South were a bit overly optimistic here, having a singleton in partner's suit, and three cards in the opponent's suit that was not raised are both bad signs. Yet, 4♥ was not a terrible contract, it was just not making. On a diamond lead, declarer took his spade discard, then took the trump finesse and ended up down two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>BuusT.</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Plejdrup</i>	<i>Shah</i>
–	2♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			


This time West had reasons to think South had a longer heart suit, and a probable diamond fit to go with it, so he wanted to cash side tricks while possible, and tried the club ace. This gave away one trick, but it also made declarer realize that West's strange looking lead must be due to a bad trump holding, so he banged down the trump AK to bring home his vulnerable game! 13 IMPs to England, and another lead change; 22-14 to England.

Proper defending could have beaten 3NT on the next board, but leading low from KQ865 is normal when partner raised you – leading the king would have worked as declarer would need to duck, and an obvious switch would have netted five tricks for the defense; 10 more for England, up by 18.

The lead did not last long, as the next two boards were all Denmark.



Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ K Q 8 4 ♥ 6 3 ♦ K 6 4 2 ♣ J 8 5		♠ 10 9 6 2 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ Q 3 ♣ K 10 9 7	♠ J 7 3 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ A 6 4 2 ♠ A 5 ♥ K 10 9 8 2 ♦ J 10 9 5 ♣ Q 3
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West	North	East	South
Lam	Bilde	Nonnenmacher	Jepsen
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	


In the Closed Room, Roberts simply passed 1♥, which came from a passed partner, and Shah made nine tricks.

Here, the stakes were much higher. Bilde not only rebid 1NT, but when Jepsen showed an invite via the 2♣ relay, she accepted! We all know that the Work Count undervalues aces, and you should upgrade if you have more of them, but you have to draw a line somewhere. A 4-3-3-3 pattern, no intermediates, and even Jxx in an unbid suit, looked to be deterrents. Yet, it was exactly this stray jack which let the contract make when Lam elected to lead the spade king – not that a club lead would have helped much, just the orders would have been reversed, the spade loser going away on clubs. It would have created other problems, as

you cannot draw two rounds of trumps until you have taken a diamond finesse, lest East cashes a trump, and a fourth round of clubs could have become problematic if the heart honours were split. Not on this layout, though. A vulnerable game is a vulnerable game, so who are we to argue with success? 10 IMPs.

Board 24 was all about mind games in the Open Room.

Board 24. Dealer West.. None Vul.

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

Once more, 1♥ was a transfer and, following the support double, East took the push to 3♠, and West, despite having nothing extra, went on to game.

The Closed Room got to the same contract, and the top heart lead allowed declarer to ruff his losing hearts and give up the three obvious tricks only, for +420.

In the Open Room, Jepsen led the club ace, and Bilde followed with the NINE. According to their card, they play low from doubleton only, so the nine denied that. How they manage to figure out what cashes and what does not is beyond me, but that is perhaps best left as a topic of a different article.

After a bit of a huddle, Jepsen played a diamond, and somehow declarer thought all he needed was the trump finesse, fearing the diamond ruff, so he ran the spade queen. North won and returned a diamond. Now declarer was at he crossroads: if we look at the cards, we see that the club king comes down with two ruffs, while he can enter dummy in trumps, and make his contract. But declarer thought this was a very small chance – maybe it is North, after all, who is trying to hide her club king, so he took the ruffing finesse – and that's what he got, the diamond ruff he was fearing all long! Down two, and 11 IMPs more to Denmark, regaining the lead once more at 35-32.



 **Toby Nonnenmacher**  
ENGLAND



**Junior Teams, Round 9**

**The Texas Chainsaw Massacre**

In 1974 the Texas Chainsaw Massacre was released. At that time it was seen as one of the most violent movies ever made, and in fact it was a movie that was banned outright in several countries. The movie was about a group of friends who fall victims to a family of cannibals, you may guess from the title how they did the work. Nevertheless, the movie cost \$300,000 to produce but went enormously profitable when it turned over more than \$30 million from the box offices selling tickets!

On Monday evening Sweden played Ireland in the U26 Open and a 'The Samorin Massacre' occurred; checking the official scorecard it said, 6,11,12,12, push, 13,13,13,13, push, 13, 1 and 7, before the Irish team got 15 IMPs on the very last board making the score 114-15.

Who could believe that a sequel was to be released already the morning after when Sweden released 'Samorin Massacre II', having Denmark on the menu. The final scorecard looked like this: 3, 3, push, 1, 15, 12, 1, 11, 11, 8, push, 4 and a 2. The Danes finally got 10 IMPs, and yes, on the very last board of the match, making the final score 71-10. That's how to quickly wrap up 40 VPs from two matches and take a strong command of the U26 series. Here comes some action from the two tables.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Stokka</i>
–	4♣	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Hult led the queen of clubs and when Stokka overtook with the king to return a heart that North could ruff there wasn't much to hope for – seeing it all from declarer's point of view. Hult returned a diamond and declarer took the wrong guess by going up with dummy's king.

Another ruff in hearts followed and the queen of diamonds was cashed for three down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Todd-Moir</i>
–	3♣	4♦	5♣
5♠	All Pass		

Ola Rimstedt also got the queen of clubs lead, overtaken by South with the king. When South then continued with the 'safe' ace of clubs declarer ruffed in dummy, pulled two rounds of trumps and cashed the ace of hearts, discovering the break when North pitched a club. A heart to the ten followed when South played low, North pitching another of his clubs. When the moment of truth had arrived the two of diamonds was put on the table by declarer, North followed with the four...

Ola Rimstedt, who knew about North's distribution and that he had more diamonds than South, but had little clue regarding which honour he might hold as either would be consistent with the bidding, went up with the king. That meant one down when South could win the ace and return a second diamond to partner's queen.

That was 3 IMPs to Sweden that could have been a lot more if with a right guess.



Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Stokka</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Bilde wasn't even close to making his 1NT when he got a diamond lead from North which went to South's ace, when declarer had called for the queen from dummy. A low diamond was returned to North who cashed a third round and finally played his last diamond to South's ten. The real disaster was now a fact when declarer decided to pitch a heart from dummy. South played a heart back. That went to North's king and he cleared the suit with another heart. Declarer tried the ace and king of clubs, but when there was no queen dropping he couldn't get more than three tricks. Four down was 200 to N/S, when by keeping dummy's hearts declarer could have escaped for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Todd-Moir</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♣	Dble	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♦
All Pass			

Ola Rimstedt led the ace of clubs and shifted to a spade. Declarer finessed and immediately played a diamond to the ten, which held the trick. Todd-Moir then finessed in spades, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of diamonds and played a spade to the ace to ruff dummy's last club. If declarer at this point would have played a heart to the king he would have got 10 tricks. However, now he tried another finesse that lost to East's queen and when he played another club declarer couldn't get more than nine tricks. Plus 110

didn't match the 200 that was paid out in the other room and Sweden got another 3 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Stokka</i>
–	3♠	Dble	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Since N/S made Three Spades, Four Spades was a great sacrifice (even at the bad vulnerability) against E/W's eventual minor-suit games, (E/W were even cold for Six Diamonds). Jepsen led the ace and king of diamonds and, when they held, put the king of hearts on the table, his partner presenting the nine and declarer the eight.

A shift to a club was now essential to defeat the contract, but when Jepsen believed that his partner only had two hearts he continued with the suit.

That was all Hult needed as he ruffed, pulled trumps and set up dummy's last heart for a club discard and +790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Todd-Moir</i>
–	4♠	5♦	All Pass

Five Diamonds was a great call from East. South was in the tank for a long while before he suddenly passed.

Mikael Rimstedt had no problem getting his twelve tricks after the ace of spades was led. That was 15 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Stokka</i>
1♠	2♦	4♠	5♣
5♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Todd-Moir</i>
1♠	2♦	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

In the Open Room, North led the ten of clubs. Declarer won the trick to attack trumps and could claim his twelve tricks. Things didn't go much better on the other table, but the stakes were far higher as the twins had bid slam. When Bune choose to lead a heart, declarer won, played trumps and could claim; 11 IMPs to Sweden that easily could have been IMPs going in the other direction if North just would have led his 'longest and strongest'.



**Soren Bune**  
 DENMARK

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Stokka</i>
-	1♣	Dble	1♠
2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Stokka got a heart lead from West and went up with dummy's king to immediately attack trumps. A spade to the king followed and that held. When the second round of trumps was played West discarded a heart and dummy's king was allowed to hold the trick when East again played low. Stokka then played a club to the ace and a club to the king and, when the queen dropped, a trump to East's ace followed, but there was nothing the defense could do to prevent declarer from coming to his eleven tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Todd-Moir</i>
-	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Bune declared as North in the Closed Room and East led a heart. Bune went up with the ace and went for another game plan where he wanted to make sure to ruff his diamond loser in hand and therefore immediately fired away a diamond to the king. East won and played a second heart which went to declarer's king, Bune now tried a spade to the king and that held, then continued his plan by playing a diamond to the queen and ruffed a diamond in dummy – why that was so urgent when he could have pitched it on dummy's fifth club we don't want to know more about... Declarer continued by calling for the ten of spades from dummy, East ducking to put pressure on declarer. Bune cashed the ace of clubs and took a



club finesse, believing the clubs weren't going to break when the spades were four-one. When East got in he could cash the ace of trumps and continue with hearts so declarer, who had lost control of the trumps, was suddenly not just one but two down; another 11 IMPs to Sweden

Why he thought that trick would disappear we won't get any answer to. But it was helpful for declarer who now had escaped one less down. Declarer ruffed the diamond return and pulled trumps but had to concede another diamond to North for three down; 4 Swedish IMPs for that phantom sacrifice.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ –		
	♥ K Q 8 6 5 2		
	♦ A Q 7 6 2		
	♣ 8 2		
♠ 10 4 3 2 ♥ J 9 7 4 ♦ 9 ♣ Q 6 4 3	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; color: white;">             N W   E S           </div>	♠ Q ♥ 10 ♦ K J 10 8 5 3 ♣ A K 9 7 5	
	♠ A K J 9 8 7 6 5		
	♥ A 3		
	♦ 4		
	♣ J 10		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Stokka</i>
Pass	1♥	2NT	3♦
5♣	Dble	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Todd-Moir</i>
Pass	1♥	2NT	3♣
5♣	Dble	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♣	Dble
All Pass			

A very difficult board to play by guessing who has the highest contract. N/S were good for four in each of the majors and E/W could make Three Clubs.

When Bilde in the Open Room led the nine of diamonds, declarer went up with the ace, played a heart to the ace and cashed the ace of spades, noticing the queen dropping from East. Stokka simply cashed king-jack of spades and played his high hearts, pitching one of his club losers in hand. Another impossible contract has been allowed to make.

In the Closed Room the Rimstedts weren't sure at all who had the highest contract, from East's perspective Six Spades could very well make so he sacrificed in Seven Clubs – which would have been correct IF the slam could be made... A diamond was led to South's ace, who cashed the ace of spades, ruffed by North to ensure that they could cash the ace of diamonds.

Board 14. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

	♠ Q 10 8 6 5 4 3 2		
	♥ K 4		
	♦ 10 4		
	♣ 6		
♠ A J 7 ♥ 10 8 ♦ 8 7 5 ♣ Q J 9 4 3	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; color: white;">             N W   E S           </div>	♠ 9 ♥ Q J 6 5 2 ♦ A K Q J 2 ♣ 10 2	
	♠ K		
	♥ A 9 7 3		
	♦ 9 6 3		
	♣ A K 8 7 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Jepsen</i>	<i>Stokka</i>
–	–	1♥	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Jepsen cashed the ace-king of diamonds. Hult had nothing to do when trumps broke three-one and he had two losers in that suit too. One might think that would be rather a standard result, but no...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>O Rimstedt</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>M Rimstedt</i>	<i>Todd-Moir</i>
–	–	1♥	2♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Mikael Rimstedt led the ace of diamonds, getting the eight from partner (UDCA). Why that got him to shift to the two of hearts is written in the sky. Declarer won with the king, cashed the ace and king of clubs with a diamond discard and 'only' made 10 tricks when he had two trump losers. That was the 10 IMP swing to Denmark that finished the match off. Since the Swedes had a massive 71-0 lead going into the last board it didn't matter at all that they gave away 10 IMPs as it was still 20-0 and that was the story of the Samorin Massacre II.


Another aggressive game contract went two down for Denmark, the English timidity paying off, for 7 IMPs, then a more aggressive reopening got the Danes a partial swing for 6 IMPs. Once more, Denmark found a better partial but misguessed a queen, gaining two, so it was 43-39 Denmark, when the last hand flashed on the screen (which is probably the most swingy hand of the tournament so far – almost every match had a double digit number next to this board. It is highly unusual that one side can make 3NT while the other can make four of a major).



 **Shivam Shah**  
ENGLAND

Opening 1♠ on the West hand is not ideal, but hey, everyone opens on 11 counts with a five-card suit. East forced to game with 2♣, South, Jepsen, showed both his long suits with 2NT. North tried a cue-bid of 3♣ to get information, and 3♥ probably showed six cards, but no extras. When East tried 3NT, Bilde thought this had to go down; all we need is a spade lead, then I can push a heart through if necessary. Jepsen looked at his hand and thought: this double had to ask for a spade lead, but hey, I HAVE the KING! This cannot be for real, I will lead our bid and raised suit...-550. Leading the spade king would have netted one down of course – not that it would have mattered much, as certain things happened in the other room:

Board 28. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



 **Kyle Lam**  
ENGLAND

Closed room.

West	North	East	South
BuusT.	Roberts	Plejdrup	Shah
Pass	1♠	2♣	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♥
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

So once more England opened on a janky 11 count and five spades, this time with the North cards, and they got to a doubled game here as well! This time there was no defense. West led a spade, ducked the heart to partner's king, who underled the ace of clubs to get his spade ruff, but declarer had the last laugh: Shah ruffed and played another trump, and eventually got the diamonds right for 10 tricks; +790 and 16 huge IMPs to have the final twist in the story. England had won by 55-43 IMPs, and are currently second behind 'blitzmaster' Sweden, while Denmark are lying fourth.





### Junior Teams, Round 10

Israel and Norway are regular challengers for medals in European Youth Championships. In Samorin, however, while Norway were very much in contention, lying fourth after nine rounds of the U26 Championship, Israel were struggling down in sixteenth position.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ – ♥ A K 10 8 7 6 4 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ J 9 2</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">             N W     E S           </div>	<p>♠ K J 9 8 7 ♥ Q J ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ 10 8 3</p>	<p>♠ A 10 4 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ K 6 3 ♣ K 6 5 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
Saether	Toledano	Gundersen	Urman
–	1♥	1♠	1NT
2NT	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Bakke	Ezion	Flaatt
–	1♥	1♠	1NT
2♥	4♥	All Pass	

The two Wests both made some kind of constructive spade raise but both Norths were allowed to declare 4♥, against which East led a spade.

For Israel, Oren Toledano ruffed the spade in hand and cashed the top hearts then crossed to the king of diamonds to take a diamond pitch on the ace of spades. Next he led a low club away from the king and when Joakim Saether went in with the queen had 11 tricks for +450.

Christian Bakke too ruffed the spade lead in hand and cashed the ace of hearts. However, a little learning can be a dangerous thing and, being familiar with the principle of restricted choice, Bakke crossed to dummy's diamond, took the diamond pitch on the spade, then led a heart and finessed, losing to the jack. Now all the defence had to do was to avoid touching clubs and they were assured of three tricks in that suit and the defeat of the contract. That they duly managed to do, so Saether was –50 and Israel had 11 IMPs seemingly from nowhere.

Clearly, the combination play of cashing both top hearts then trying to play clubs for at most two losers is superior to that of banking everything on the heart guess.



Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Saether	Toledano	Gundersen	Urman
1♥	Pass	2NT	3♣
Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Bakke	Ezion	Flaatt
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Both Easts responded with their version of a Jacoby 2NT to the 1♥ opening. For Israel, Lior Urman now overcalled 3♣ for the lead and Saether passed. That was alerted but I don't have their agreements and, whatever it meant, it didn't excite Andreas Gundersen sufficiently as he simply jumped to 4♥, ending the auction. Twelve tricks were easy for +680.

For Norway, Espen Flaatt did not overcall. Ami Zamir's 3♠ rebid looks natural but I can't guarantee its meaning. Amir Ezion cuebid 4♦ then asked for key

cards over Zamir's spade cuebid. On finding that all the key cards were present, Ezion looked for a grand slam but Zamir was not interested and signed off in 6♥, where he made the same 12 tricks for +1430 and 13 IMPs to Israel.

Board 24. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Saether	Toledano	Gundersen	Urman
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Bakke	Ezion	Flaatt
2♥	Pass	4♠	5♣
All Pass			

Both Wests opened with a weak bid of 2♥, but they had quite different meanings, leading to very different auctions. For Saether, 2♥ was simply a weak two bid, so Gundersen had no reason to bid on and Urman could make a comfortable 3♣ overcall and Toledano convert to 3NT. Gundersen led a low spade to declarer's queen and Toledano cashed out his nine tricks for +400.

In the other room, Zamir's 2♥ showed at least four-four in the majors with below opening values. Knowing of an at least nine-card fit, Ezion jumped to 4♠ to put on maximum pressure. The best that the Norwegian N/S could do from here was to defend to limit the damage, but of course Flaatt was not going to pass with a solid seven-card suit and he duly overcalled 5♣, ending the auction. After a heart lead, Flaatt could win and ruff a heart, draw trumps and lead a spade to the king and ace, win the spade return and ruff another heart. However, there was nothing better than to play for west to hold a bare queen of diamonds by leading low from hand and, when that was not the case, there were two diamond losers for down one and -50; 10 IMPs to Israel.



**Ami Zamir**  
ISRAEL



That was the end of the scoring but there was still some good bridge to come.

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 4 2 ♥ Q 7 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ A Q J 10 6 4	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W E S                 </div>	♠ 6 5 ♥ K ♦ A Q J 8 6 4 2 ♣ K 9 5	♠ A Q 10 9 8 ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ 7 3
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West	North	East	South
Saether	Toledano	Gundersen	Urman
–	1♦	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Bakke	Ezion	Flaatt
–	1♦	1♠	4♥
All Pass			

At both tables the defence began with a spade to the ace and a club switch to the ace followed by a second club to dummy's king. Declarer cashed the king of hearts, ruffed a club back to hand and played ace and another heart. Now the paths divided.

For Israel, Zamir now led a diamond. Convinced by the bidding that the ♦K must be offside, Flaatt rose



**Amir Ezion**  
ISRAEL

with the ace, took the spade finesse and cashed his trumps. Ezion pitched one too many spade and the seven of spades won the last trick; +420.

At the other table, Saether failed to find the diamond switch, instead getting off play with a club. Urman ruffed, cashed his last trump, and led a diamond to the ace. Because declarer had been able to cash all the trumps here, East was legitimately squeezed and had been forced to come down to only two spades so Urman could lead a spade to the jack then cash the king and seven; just made to flatten the board.

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ 3 ♥ A K 7 6 3 ♦ A K Q 7 5 ♣ Q J	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W E S                 </div>	♠ K J 5 4 2 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ J 8 2 ♣ A 9	♠ Q 10 9 8 ♥ Q 9 5 ♦ 10 ♣ 10 7 4 3 2
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West	North	East	South
Saether	Toledano	Gundersen	Urman
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Zamir	Bakke	Ezion	Flaatt
–	–	–	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass
All Pass			

Twenty Wests declared the heart game in the U26 Open, the contract making 13 times and being defeated only seven times. Both our N/S pairs found the killing defence. Both Toledano and Bakke led ace and another club to their partner's king. Now it was necessary that South cash the ace of spades before playing a third club and both Urman and Flaatt rose to the occasion – spade ace, third club – and that promoted a trump trick for North for down one and an honourable push board.

Israel ran out winners by 41-10 IMPs, 17.19-2.81 VPs. That was enough to move them up four places in the rankings to twelfth, while Norway slipped four places to eighth.

# 'DOUBLE UNBLOCK by Martin Lofgren

## Under 21 Teams, Round 11 Netherlands vs Sweden

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K 8 5 2 ♥ 4 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ K 10 7 6 2	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 10px;">N</span> <span style="font-size: 10px;">W</span> <span style="font-size: 10px;">E</span> <span style="font-size: 10px;">S</span> </div>	♠ J 10 6 3 ♥ A K 10 6 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 8 5	♠ Q 4 ♥ Q J 9 5 3 2 ♦ Q 10 6 ♣ Q 4
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North	East	South	West
<i>vdPavert</i>	<i>Hansson</i>	<i>Nijssen</i>	<i>Mann</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	2♦*	Dble	Rdbl*
Pass	2♥	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♦ One Major  
Rdbl Bid it!

Lead: ♥Q

In the match between third-placed Netherlands and Sweden, who were quite far behind, this match would either give the Dutch a chance to get closer to the top or Sweden an opportunity to start climbing...

In the Closed Room East bid a natural 2♥ over 1NT, but on the other side of the screen it was explained as 'hearts and a minor'. West subsequently bid 3♣ and when East led the ♥Q North was a bit powerless.

In the Open Room, Erik Hansson led the ♥Q and North took the trick to play a low spade to the nine and king. When West didn't return a heart, the position in that suit was confirmed; Castor Mann instead shifted to a nice low club to the queen and ace.

Tim van der Pavert played the hand very well when he entered his hand courtesy of the ♦K and after

having the spade Jack covered let the ♠7 run towards his own 10-6.

Tim continued his good play by exiting with a low club from dummy which left the defendants powerless. West took his two club tricks – dummy now dead – and exited with his remaining spade to North:

♠ – ♥ K 10 ♦ A 4 ♣ –	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 10px;">N</span> <span style="font-size: 10px;">W</span> <span style="font-size: 10px;">E</span> <span style="font-size: 10px;">S</span> </div>	♠ – ♥ J 9 ♦ Q 10 ♣ –	♠ – ♥ 8 ♦ 9 8 ♣ J
-------------------------------	---	-------------------------------	----------------------------

When declarer next cashed his ♦A, East could either unblock his queen and let West be endplayed, or keep the queen and be endplayed himself. 'Better let partner be the one to give away the trick', Erik thought and ditched his queen.

After all this brilliancy from North, he erred by cashing the ♥K and the spotlight shifted to West. Now **he** had to be the unblocking guy (I thought it would be a bit unethical as a spectator to start humming 'hit the road Jack'), and when he didn't find the play he had to see the last two tricks won by two minor-suit jacks...

Netherlands won by 12 IMPs, 14-6.



**Tim van der Pavert**  
NETHERLANDS



# COUP OF THE DAY: PIGPEN COUP

by Brian Senior



Yesterday we took a look at the Bath Coup, a common ducking play by declarer.

Today's coup is not quite so well known and, to be honest, opportunities to use it do not come along very often.

Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Let's see what will happen if declarer wins the ace of spades. When East gets in with the king of clubs she will return a spade and down will go the contract. So it must be correct to duck the opening lead, mustn't it? However, declarer follows with the ♠8 and West can see that she has just used the Bath Coup so will switch to a heart, and that will see the contract defeated once again.

So is there no hope? The solution is a little sleight of hand. Suppose that declarer ducks the spade lead, but does so by dropping the jack! That is the Pigpen Coup (no bath). If West is taken in and continues spades, declarer wins the ace and takes the club finesse in safety.

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

It takes a very strong defender to overcome this play. It should always work against people who use attitude signals but, in theory, should fail against people who show count on the lead as West should know that East has only a doubleton spade. Mind you, the only time I ever used it was against a pair of international calibre count signallers, and West got it wrong. He trusted declarer rather than partner.

West, who overcalled 1♠, leads the king of spades against 3NT. The situation in the black suits is identical to the one we saw last time out. Does that mean that declarer should play in identical fashion?

# UNDER 26 RESULTS

## ROUND 9

1	TURKEY	NORWAY	33	43	7.03	12.97
2	CROATIA	ROMANIA	44	15	16.88	3.12
3	SERBIA	GERMANY	38	37	10.33	9.67
4	SWEDEN	DENMARK	71	10	20.00	0.00
5	SCOTLAND	RUSSIA	26	25	10.33	9.67
6	CZECH REPUBLIC	POLAND	41	23	14.85	5.15
7	PORTUGAL	ESTONIA	22	73	0.44	19.56
8	ENGLAND	LATVIA	39	28	13.23	6.77
9	ITALY	GREECE	35	28	12.16	7.84
10	NETHERLANDS	HUNGARY	49	17	17.34	2.66
11	IRELAND	BELGIUM	85	17	20.00	0.00
12	ISRAEL	SLOVAKIA	17	48	2.81	17.19
13	SPAIN	AUSTRIA	16	53	1.96	18.04
14	FRANCE	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## ROUND 10

1	SWEDEN	ITALY	37	13	16.03	3.97
2	POLAND	ESTONIA	60	12	19.28	0.72
3	GERMANY	FRANCE	9	37	3.28	16.72
4	ISRAEL	NORWAY	41	10	17.19	2.81
5	BELGIUM	CZECH REPUBLIC	25	23	10.66	9.34
6	HUNGARY	SERBIA	13	46	2.51	17.49
7	NETHERLANDS	SLOVAKIA	40	23	14.64	5.36
8	SCOTLAND	ENGLAND	20	56	2.09	17.91
9	CROATIA	TURKEY	34	33	10.33	9.67
10	SPAIN	GREECE	17	30	6.28	13.72
11	AUSTRIA	LATVIA	26	37	6.77	13.23
12	PORTUGAL	DENMARK	5	53	0.72	19.28
13	RUSSIA	ROMANIA	54	8	19.08	0.92
14	IRELAND	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## ROUND 11

1	NETHERLANDS	ISRAEL	26	33	7.84	12.16
2	SWEDEN	POLAND	10	6	11.28	8.72
3	GREECE	BELGIUM	35	40	7.92	11.08
4	ITALY	NORWAY	38	15	15.85	4.15
5	ESTONIA	RUSSIA	26	42	5.58	14.42
6	SERBIA	TURKEY	9	34	3.79	16.21
7	ENGLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC	40	12	16.72	3.28
8	SCOTLAND	GERMANY	25	9	14.42	5.58
9	HUNGARY	LATVIA	18	22	8.72	11.28
10	CROATIA	DENMARK	29	37	7.56	12.44
11	ROMANIA	FRANCE	5	62	0.00	20.00
12	AUSTRIA	IRELAND	39	14	16.21	3.79
13	SLOVAKIA	SPAIN	83	7	20.00	0.00
14	PORTUGAL	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## ROUND 12

1	FRANCE	RUSSIA	61	28	17.49	2.51
2	SERBIA	ENGLAND	23	5	14.85	5.15
3	ISRAEL	GREECE	69	3	20.00	0.00
4	GERMANY	CROATIA	37	15	15.66	4.34
5	HUNGARY	NORWAY	23	57	2.37	17.63
6	ITALY	CZECH REPUBLIC	49	19	17.04	2.96
7	AUSTRIA	NETHERLANDS	42	17	16.21	3.79
8	SWEDEN	TURKEY	22	51	3.12	16.88
9	SCOTLAND	POLAND	14	29	5.81	14.19
10	BELGIUM	LATVIA	36	37	9.67	10.33
11	DENMARK	ESTONIA	63	29	17.63	2.37
12	IRELAND	SPAIN	53	22	17.19	2.81
13	ROMANIA	PORTUGAL	16	57	1.47	18.53
14	SLOVAKIA	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## RANKING AFTER ROUND 12

1	FRANCE	175.95
2	SWEDEN	167.31
3	ENGLAND	166.03
4	DENMARK	157.90
5	POLAND	151.26
6	NORWAY	141.33
7	NETHERLANDS	141.32
8	ISRAEL	141.11
9	TURKEY	139.68
10	BELGIUM	131.56
11	SLOVAKIA	131.07
12	CZECH REPUBLIC	130.38
13	SERBIA	129.66
14	CROATIA	129.60
15	SCOTLAND	128.42
16	ITALY	126.51
17	RUSSIA	113.61
18	AUSTRIA	107.97
19	LATVIA	107.87
20	ESTONIA	105.49
21	GREECE	99.43
22	HUNGARY	98.93
23	IRELAND	97.96
24	GERMANY	87.75
25	PORTUGAL	70.03
26	ROMANIA	56.15
27	SPAIN	26.72



# UNDER 21 RESULTS

## ROUND 11

21	NETHERLANDS	SWEDEN	44	32	14.00	6.00
22	IRELAND	NORWAY	4	56	0.00	20.00
23	SLOVAKIA	GERMANY	6	34	2.49	17.51
24	FINLAND	BULGARIA	4	64	0.00	20.00
25	ISRAEL	BELGIUM	49	15	18.44	1.56
26	TURKEY	ENGLAND	12	23	6.28	13.72
27	ITALY	POLAND	35	44	6.86	13.14
28	FRANCE	CZECH REPUBLIC	52	6	19.86	0.14
29	HUNGARY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## ROUND 12

21	FRANCE	TURKEY	35	1	18.44	1.56
22	ISRAEL	CZECH REPUBLIC	52	3	20.00	0.00
23	FINLAND	ITALY	20	25	8.15	11.85
24	ENGLAND	GERMANY	3	8	8.15	11.85
25	BELGIUM	NORWAY	25	40	5.20	14.80
26	BULGARIA	NETHERLANDS	43	26	15.29	4.71
27	HUNGARY	SLOVAKIA	13	22	6.86	13.14
28	IRELAND	SWEDEN	18	38	4.03	15.97
29	POLAND	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## ROUND 13

21	POLAND	ISRAEL	48	2	19.86	0.14
22	FINLAND	FRANCE	18	53	1.42	18.58
23	GERMANY	CZECH REPUBLIC	33	20	14.28	5.72
24	ITALY	NORWAY	39	36	11.14	8.86
25	ENGLAND	NETHERLANDS	19	33	5.46	14.54
26	BELGIUM	HUNGARY	25	18	12.51	7.49
27	SWEDEN	BULGARIA	37	16	16.18	3.82
28	SLOVAKIA	IRELAND	39	18	16.18	3.82
29	TURKEY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## ROUND 14

21	NORWAY	HUNGARY	25	43	4.48	15.52
22	SWEDEN	GERMANY	25	11	14.54	5.46
23	IRELAND	FINLAND	17	34	4.71	15.29
24	ISRAEL	SLOVAKIA	44	21	16.59	3.41
25	TURKEY	BULGARIA	14	41	2.66	17.34
26	POLAND	BELGIUM	41	13	17.51	2.49
27	ENGLAND	FRANCE	23	24	9.61	10.39
28	CZECH REPUBLIC	ITALY	14	30	4.95	15.05
29	NETHERLANDS	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## ROUND 15

21	ENGLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC	27	17	13.43	6.57
22	FRANCE	BELGIUM	42	8	18.44	1.56
23	POLAND	BULGARIA	11	22	6.28	13.72
24	SLOVAKIA	TURKEY	26	16	13.43	6.57
25	IRELAND	ISRAEL	8	33	3.03	16.97
26	SWEDEN	FINLAND	20	6	14.54	5.46
27	GERMANY	HUNGARY	13	10	11.14	8.86
28	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	60	0	20.00	0.00
29	ITALY	Bye	0	0	12	0.00

## RANKING AFTER ROUND 15

1	GERMANY	206.97
2	NETHERLANDS	206.34
3	ENGLAND	204.50
4	FRANCE	204.23
5	BULGARIA	197.47
6	ISRAEL	197.43
7	ITALY	194.45
8	SWEDEN	172.43
9	POLAND	162.91
10	CZECH REPUBLIC	154.34
11	FINLAND	136.24
12	NORWAY	118.11
13	TURKEY	102.45
14	SLOVAKIA	97.44
15	IRELAND	78.53
16	HUNGARY	74.00
17	BELGIUM	70.16



# WOMEN UNDER 26 RESULTS

## ROUND 9

41	CZECH REPUBLIC	LATVIA	75	4	20.00	0.00
42	GERMANY	ENGLAND	38	54	5.58	14.42
43	NORWAY	POLAND	41	45	8.72	11.28
44	TURKEY	HUNGARY	25	55	2.96	17.04
45	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	44	24	15.26	4.74

## ROUND 10

41	CZECH REPUBLIC	GERMANY	40	15	16.21	3.79
42	NORWAY	LATVIA	30	11	15.06	4.94
43	HUNGARY	ENGLAND	49	8	18.53	1.47
44	POLAND	FRANCE	42	9	17.49	2.51
45	NETHERLANDS	TURKEY	31	28	10.97	9.03

## ROUND 11

41	CZECH REPUBLIC	POLAND	24	20	11.28	8.72
42	ENGLAND	TURKEY	27	37	7.03	12.97
43	LATVIA	NETHERLANDS	15	59	1.13	18.87
44	FRANCE	GERMANY	32	13	15.06	4.94
45	NORWAY	HUNGARY	23	21	10.66	9.34

## ROUND 12

41	CZECH REPUBLIC	FRANCE	24	48	3.97	16.03
42	NETHERLANDS	HUNGARY	20	45	3.79	16.21
43	TURKEY	NORWAY	53	17	17.91	2.09
44	GERMANY	POLAND	18	39	4.54	15.46
45	ENGLAND	LATVIA	44	14	17.04	2.96

## RANKING AFTER ROUND 12

1	NETHERLANDS	158.62
2	POLAND	148.71
3	HUNGARY	136.27
4	FRANCE	133.50
5	ENGLAND	130.22
6	CZECH REPUBLIC	126.24
7	TURKEY	123.08
8	NORWAY	112.21
9	GERMANY	71.18
10	LATVIA	58.03

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# UNDER 16 RESULTS

## ROUND 9

61	FRANCE	ISRAEL	16	28	6.29	13.71
62	GREECE	TURKEY	13	67	0.00	20.00
63	POLAND	IRELAND	89	0	20.00	0.00
64	ENGLAND	SWEDEN	29	37	7.39	12.61
65	DENMARK	BULGARIA	54	20	18.00	0.00
66	ITALY	SCOTLAND	75	13	20.00	0.00
67	CZECH REPUBLIC	NETHERLANDS	36	34	10.71	9.29
68	GERMANY	NORWAY	14	75	0.00	20.00

## ROUND 10

61	FRANCE	SWEDEN	37	22	14.46	5.54
62	IRELAND	DENMARK	16	68	0.00	20.00
63	TURKEY	SCOTLAND	60	2	20.00	0.00
64	ISRAEL	CZECH REPUBLIC	64	2	20.00	0.00
65	GERMANY	GREECE	15	37	4.01	15.99
66	POLAND	NORWAY	12	23	6.55	13.45
67	NETHERLANDS	ENGLAND	15	31	5.30	14.70
68	ITALY	BULGARIA	45	12	17.86	2.14

## ROUND 11

61	FRANCE	POLAND	1	48	0.46	19.54
62	ENGLAND	GREECE	39	7	17.71	2.29
63	BULGARIA	ISRAEL	7	65	0.00	20.00
64	ITALY	TURKEY	19	14	11.70	8.30
65	IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	28	39	6.55	13.45
66	NORWAY	SWEDEN	20	58	1.46	18.54
67	DENMARK	GERMANY	17	28	6.55	13.45
68	SCOTLAND	CZECH REPUBLIC	7	71	0.00	20.00

## ROUND 12

61	FRANCE	CZECH REPUBLIC	53	19	18.00	2.00
62	SCOTLAND	GERMANY	6	66	0.00	20.00
63	DENMARK	NORWAY	44	6	18.54	1.46
64	SWEDEN	NETHERLANDS	4	39	1.86	18.14
65	ITALY	IRELAND	53	4	19.74	0.26
66	TURKEY	BULGARIA	57	17	18.78	1.22
67	ENGLAND	ISRAEL	13	17	8.62	11.38
68	POLAND	GREECE	25	20	11.70	8.30

## RANKING AFTER ROUND 12

1	POLAND	194.87
2	FRANCE	173.29
3	ISRAEL	172.89
4	SWEDEN	148.39
5	ITALY	147.42
6	NORWAY	144.01
7	TURKEY	137.72
8	GERMANY	130.36
9	DENMARK	127.23
10	ENGLAND	125.72
11	GREECE	125.06
12	NETHERLANDS	119.94
13	CZECH REPUBLIC	98.55
14	BULGARIA	37.65
15	IRELAND	27.24
16	SCOTLAND	7.66



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