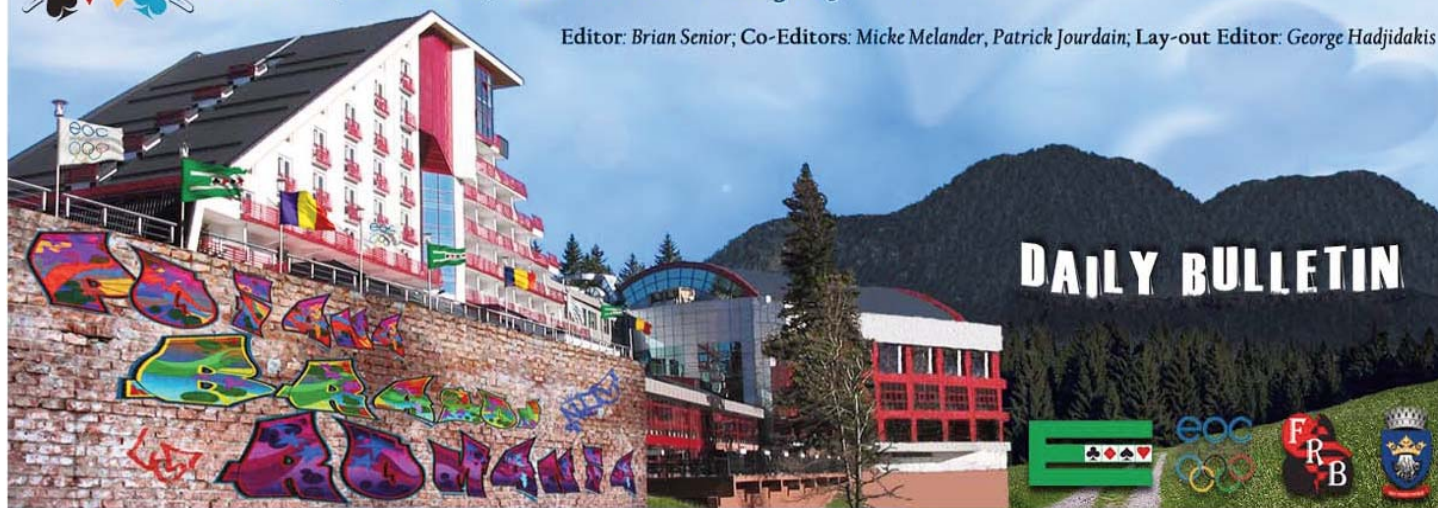


22nd EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



Poiana, Brasov, Romania 8-18 July 2009

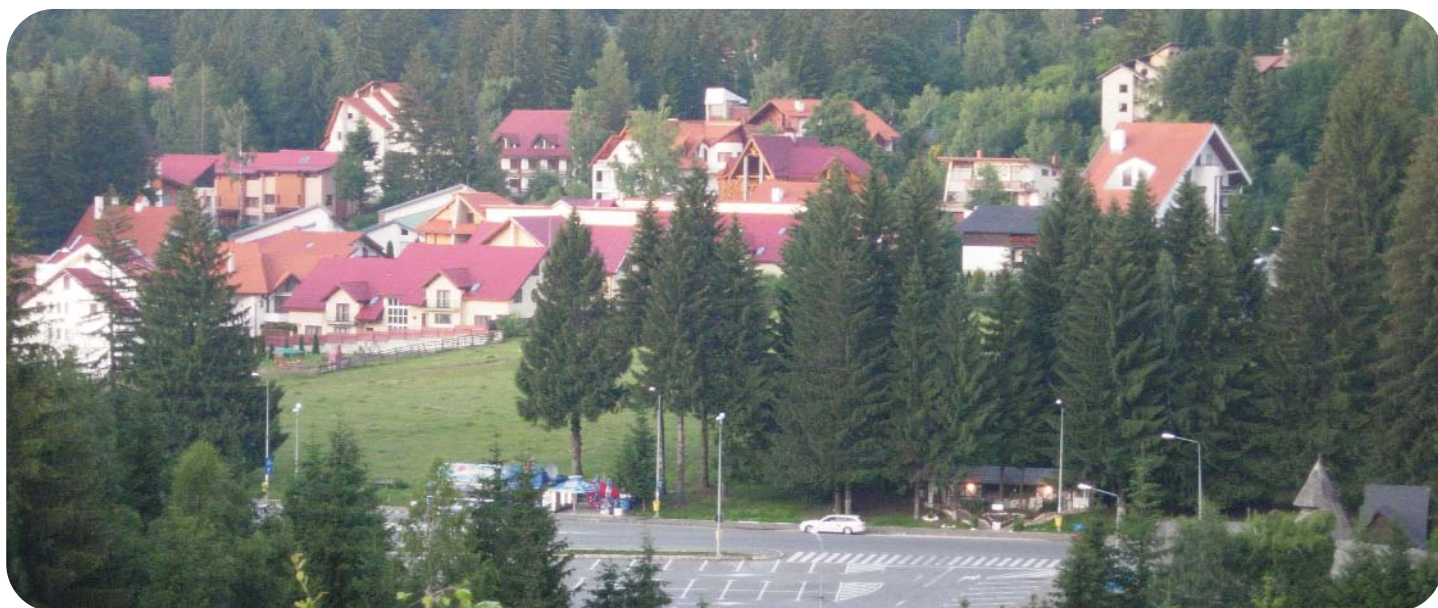
Editor: Brian Senior; Co-Editors: Micke Melander, Patrick Jourdain; Lay-out Editor: George Hadjidakis



Issue No. 2

Friday, 10 July 2009

UNDERWAY



View from the rear of the Piatra Mare

It was a great first day for Germany, with the Open scoring 68, including two maxima, to lie second, and the Girls 60, with two wins and a draw to lead their competition. Norway leads the Open with 72, following up a 22-8 win over Greece with the total demolition of Finland and Ireland. There is a 15VP gap to third-placed Russia, followed by Belgium, France, Netherlands, and Sweden. Hungary lies second to Germany in the Girls series, closely followed by France, Norway and Sweden.

Of the traditional powerhouses of Youth bridge, Denmark had a disastrous first day, last in the Open and next to last in the Girls. Surely that will change over the next few days.

Today's Vugraph Matches (also on BBO)

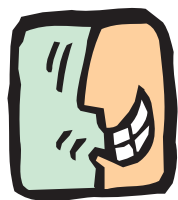
- 10.00 Netherlands v Germany (Open)
- 14.00 Norway v Sweden (Open)
- 17.30 Belgium v Israel (Open)

Additional BBO Matches

- 10.00 Croatia v Russia (Open)
- 14.00 Italy v France (Open)
- 17.30 Turkey v England (Open)



UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 1

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL BYE		18 - 0
2	AUSTRIA NETHERLANDS	34 - 42	14 - 16
3	ITALY GERMANY	31 - 46	12 - 18
4	HUNGARY BULGARIA	51 - 15	22 - 8
5	RUSSIA DENMARK	67 - 12	25 - 4
6	ROMANIA BELGIUM	61 - 25	22 - 8
7	LATVIA FRANCE	39 - 34	16 - 14
8	ENGLAND CROATIA	18 - 32	12 - 18
9	POLAND CZECH REP.	36 - 43	14 - 16
10	NORWAY GREECE	51 - 18	22 - 8
11	SWEDEN FINLAND	17 - 31	12 - 18
12	TURKEY IRELAND	23 - 18	16 - 14

ROUND 4

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

ROUND 2

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	NETHERLANDS ISRAEL	31 - 28	16 - 14
2	GERMANY AUSTRIA	74 - 18	25 - 4
3	BULGARIA ITALY	66 - 47	19 - 11
4	DENMARK HUNGARY	36 - 44	14 - 16
5	BELGIUM RUSSIA	64 - 52	17 - 13
6	FRANCE ROMANIA	60 - 29	21 - 9
7	CROATIA LATVIA	43 - 35	16 - 14
8	CZECH REP. ENGLAND	37 - 46	13 - 17
9	GREECE POLAND	49 - 35	18 - 12
10	FINLAND NORWAY	14 - 81	2 - 25
11	IRELAND SWEDEN	63 - 80	11 - 19
12	TURKEY BYE		18 - 0

ROUND 5

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

ROUND 3

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ISRAEL GERMANY	20 - 75	4 - 25
2	AUSTRIA BULGARIA	57 - 47	17 - 13
3	ITALY DENMARK	68 - 24	24 - 6
4	HUNGARY BELGIUM	17 - 96	1 - 25
5	RUSSIA FRANCE	49 - 47	15 - 15
6	ROMANIA CROATIA	51 - 49	15 - 15
7	LATVIA CZECH REP.	43 - 55	13 - 17
8	ENGLAND GREECE	36 - 54	11 - 19
9	POLAND FINLAND	51 - 41	17 - 13
10	NORWAY IRELAND	81 - 1	25 - 0
11	SWEDEN TURKEY	48 - 29	19 - 11
12	NETHERLANDS BYE		18 - 0

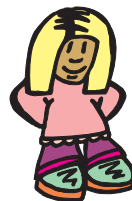
ROUND 6

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

UNDER 26 GIRL TEAMS



RESULTS



TODAY'S PROGRAM

ROUND 1

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	GERMANY ROMANIA	55 - 23	22 - 8
2	HUNGARY ITALY	43 - 48	14 - 16
3	ENGLAND TURKEY	42 - 49	14 - 16
4	CZECH REP. POLAND	16 - 19	14 - 16
5	SWEDEN DENMARK	81 - 27	25 - 4
6	NORWAY FRANCE	27 - 49	10 - 20
7	NETHERLANDS ESTONIA	27 - 24	16 - 14

ROUND 4

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

ROUND 2

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ESTONIA HUNGARY	44 - 64	11 - 19
2	GERMANY ENGLAND	56 - 16	23 - 7
3	ROMANIA CZECH REP.	33 - 56	10 - 20
4	ITALY SWEDEN	53 - 49	16 - 14
5	TURKEY NORWAY	24 - 52	9 - 21
6	POLAND NETHERLANDS	21 - 81	3 - 25
7	DENMARK FRANCE	57 - 36	19 - 11

ROUND 5

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

ROUND 3

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ESTONIA GERMANY	48 - 49	15 - 15
2	ROMANIA HUNGARY	14 - 70	4 - 25
3	ITALY ENGLAND	62 - 72	13 - 17
4	TURKEY CZECH REP.	50 - 50	15 - 15
5	POLAND SWEDEN	54 - 18	22 - 8
6	DENMARK NORWAY	9 - 72	3 - 25
7	FRANCE NETHERLANDS	71 - 23	25 - 5

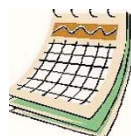
ROUND 6

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

World Championships 2010

The top four teams in the European U-26 and U-21 Championships here in Poiana Brasov will qualify for the 2010 World Championships, for the Jaime Ortiz-Patino Trophy and Jose Damiani Cup respectively.

The dates and venue for the World Championships have not yet been finalised, but may be held alongside the Open/Women/Seniors/Mixed Championships in Philadelphia in the first half of October 2010.



Today's Schedule

- 10.00** Under 26 Open & Girls (4th Round)
- 14.00** Under 26 Open & Girls (5th Round)
- 17.30** Under 26 Open & Girls (6th Round)

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 3

1	NORWAY	72
2	GERMANY	68
3	RUSSIA	53
4	BELGIUM	50
	FRANCE	50
	NETHERLANDS	50
	SWEDEN	50
8	CROATIA	49
9	ITALY	47
10	CZECH REPUBLIC	46
	ROMANIA	46
12	GREECE	45
	TURKEY	45
14	LATVIA	43
	POLAND	43
16	BULGARIA	40
	ENGLAND	40
18	HUNGARY	39
19	ISRAEL	36
20	AUSTRIA	35
21	FINLAND	33
22	IRELAND	25
23	DENMARK	24

UNDER 26 GIRL TEAMS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 3

1	GERMANY	60
2	HUNGARY	58
3	FRANCE	56
	NORWAY	56
5	SWEDEN	47
6	CZECH REPUBLIC	46
	NETHERLANDS	46
8	ITALY	45
9	POLAND	41
10	ESTONIA	40
	TURKEY	40
12	ENGLAND	38
13	DENMARK	26
14	ROMANIA	25

Past Play Problem No. 1

by Patrick Jourdain

Each day we will give you a play problem from previous European Youth Championships hoping you are too young to have seen it before. Then you can compare your skills with the Juniors of the past.

This is the first. Solution on page 8.

How should West play 5♦ on a spade lead?

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

Free Swimming!



Good news. The EBL has negotiated completely free use of the hotel swimming pool for all players, officials and staff. Simply show your badge and you will be let in at no charge.

Today in History - July 10th



1943: Allies land on Sicily
After months of preparation, the British Eighth Army under General Bernard Law Montgomery lands on the south-east corner of Sicily. British and American forces had raced across the Mediterranean from Malta and Tunisia to attack Sicily's shores while the U.S. Seventh Army under General

George Patton came ashore on the south western coast. On 17 August, Patton arrived in Messina before Montgomery, completing the Allied conquest of Sicily and winning the so-called Race to Messina.

1962: The launch of Telstar, the world's first television communications satellite, designed to bring live pictures from America to Europe.



1925: In Dayton, Tennessee, the so-called "Monkey Trial" begins with John Thomas Scopes, a young high school science teacher, accused of teaching evolution in violation of a Tennessee state law.

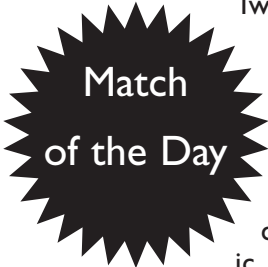
UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 1



FRANCE

v

LATVIA



Two of the best-regarded teams, France, well-favoured by the bookies, and Latvia, who have a fine recent record in Junior bridge, met in the first round.

The Bulletin watched in the Open Room where European Youth Pairs champions, Thomas Bessis & Frederic Volcker of France faced Martin Lorencs & Juris Balasovs of Latvia. Bessis, in his last year as a Junior, also has a World Open title to his name, the World Transnational from Shanghai.

Bessis/Volcker play fairly standard French style except for a strong two in hearts (the British standard many moons ago in Acol)! This is because they play a game-forcing 2♣ and a semi-forcing 2♦, making it awkward to handle the eight trick hands with hearts as the main suit.

Lorencs & Balasovs play mainly standard Precision except that their opening 1♦ promises four cards. This means their opening INT has a wider range than usual (12-15, even 16) and sometimes contains a singleton diamond.

The double-fit hands usually provide the most exciting auctions and the first deal of the championship fell into this category.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Balasovs	Volcker	Lorencs
	1♥	2♣	2♦
3♠*	4♥	4♣	Dble
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lauks	Grosset	Bethers	Lorenzini
	1♥	2♣	2♦
3♣	4♥	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, the French were allowed to play quietly in 4♥ for +450. There was more action in the Open Room where the auction was well-judged by both sides.

Three Spades by West was a fit-jump promising club support. South doubled 4♠, but would only have put it two down, so North's removal to 5♦ was the winning decision on the actual layout where the diamonds came in.

The West hand has the perfect black-suit holding for the fit-jump, but the fact that both defenders were 2-2 in the red-suits rightly put them both off going further than 4♠. If the defence cash four red winners and exit with a club South can cover the ten of spades to ensure a trump trick.

Against 5♦, Bessis cashed one top spade and switched to a club. The second club was ruffed, Lorencs cashed one top trump and then crossed to dummy with a heart, clearly intending to finesse in diamonds. But when the queen appeared he claimed for +400 to Latvia but 2 IMPs to France.

It did not take long for a thoughtful play by Thomas Bessis to appear. Look at this defensive problem he had on the second board:

The opponent to your right opens INT (12-15), LHO uses Stayman, and after a negative response bids 3NT. You hold:

♠ Q J 5 4 3
♥ 9 5 4
♦ J 6
♣ Q 4 2

and lead a fourth-highest spade. Dummy shows with:

♠ 10 9 7 2
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ A Q
♣ 8 5 3



Juris Balasovs, Latvia

The first trick goes ten, king, ace. Declarer cashes the ace of clubs, crosses to the ace of diamonds, and plays a second club. The jack appears from partner and declarer contributes a small club. What are your thoughts?

Most defenders would have played low without thought, but, as Bessis paused, your reporter also tried to read his thinking. Declarer's play was strong evidence that he had five clubs and had ducked the second club in case the suit was 4-1. So declarer had four club tricks. The diamond to the ace implied declarer held the king. Four clubs, three diamonds, and two major-suit aces added up to nine tricks. Could anything be done?

You have already inferred 14 points and a five-card suit with declarer. So partner is marked with the heart king and probably the jack as well. If he also has the $\diamond 10$ then maybe declarer can be cut off from his third diamond trick.

I put on my notepad that Bessis would overtake his partner's jack of clubs with the queen, and play a third club! He did not disappoint. Partner threw a diamond. Declarer cashed his clubs, throwing a spade and heart from dummy. Then he led a heart to the queen.

There was a slightly worrying pause from East before he won the king. Following the plan that declarer could have problems reaching the third diamond, Volcker returned a diamond.

Unlucky! Declarer had the jack of hearts and claimed ten tricks. But it was the sort of thoughtful defence by the French that will pay dividends as the week progresses.

The result was the same at the other table.

Board 3 was an easy $4\heartsuit$, and Board 4 a normal $3NT+2$ for flat boards.

On Board 5 the strong no trump led France to the inferior partscore of INT, missing the 4-4 heart fit that the weak-no trumppers uncover (isn't that what most people allege is a flaw in the WEAK notrump?). But Volcker made

two overtricks on a misdefence and France gained 7 IMPs. The first slam decision came on Board 7:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Balasovs	Volcker	Lorencs
$1\clubsuit$	$1\spadesuit$	Dble	$2\clubsuit$
3NT	All Pass		

Bessis gave thought to his opening bid as West, indicating that he was thinking of using the semi-forcing $2\diamond$. But he settled for $1\clubsuit$ and was somewhat stuck on the next round. A jump to 3NT hardly did the playing strength justice and he claimed 11 tricks as soon as dummy went down, noting that $6\clubsuit$ depended only on the overcaller having the missing ace.

But Latvia reached only $5\clubsuit$ for 1 IMP to France.

Latvia missed their heart fit on the next deal but the cost was relatively small:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Balasovs	Volcker	Lorencs
Pass	Pass	Pass	$1\clubsuit^*$
$1\spadesuit$	$2\spadesuit^*$	$3\spadesuit$	3NT
All Pass			

$1\clubsuit$ was Precision

$2\spadesuit$ showed 8+, balanced, asking for a spade stop



Cedric Lorenzini, France

Against 3NT, Bessis led ♠9 to South's ten. South cashed two top hearts and then had to clear the suit, East discarding a spade and a club. Bessis won, laid down his ace of spades, and then switched helpfully to the KING of diamonds. Five tricks in the suit saw South three off.

At the other table South was in 4♥. This time the hearts failing to come in led to just one down. It was a further 3 IMPs to France.

Board 9 was thrown in at both tables. Board 10 had interesting potential in the play of 4♠:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Balasoys	Volcker	Lorencs
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass	3♠	Pass

When Bessis picked up the dreaded 1-4-4-4 hand with 22 points, he decided to open it 1♦. That proved wise for when partner bid spades three times he was able to select the superior spot of 4♠ rather than the hopeless 3NT.

South led his singleton heart. Volcker won in dummy, released the ace of trumps and played three rounds of diamonds ruffing in hand before advancing the jack of spades. North won and played his last diamond. On this Volcker ditched a losing club. Now North played the ♥Q and South was careful not to ruff. Declarer could come to hand with a club ruff and lay down his top trump but when North showed out Volcker had to concede a trump to South and a heart to North for one down.

At some tables declarer chose to lead a small diamond at trick two to create a third-round winner to dispose of one of the losers. It is not clear to your reporter why Deep Finesse thinks West can make the game but not East (of course, Deep Finesse knows how to play the trump suit) but in practice one suspects the majority failed.

The match was half-way and France led 16-0. Your reporter now had to leave to write up some of the deals. The French captain will be wishing he stayed longer as the pendulum almost at once swung Latvia's way.

This was Board 12:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Balasoys	Volcker	Lorencs
1♣	1♥	1♠*	Pass
INT	Pass	2♥*	Dble
Pass	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

- 1♠ denied four spades
- 2♥ asked for a heart stop

3♥ asked again in case West did not hear the first time (one wonders whether East, having denied spades initially might now actually show three by bidding the suit!)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lauks	Grosset	Bethers	Lorenzini
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠??	All Pass

- 2♣ was Precision
- 2♦, 3♦ were relays
- 3NT showed the shape 4-2-2-5
- 4♥ was a cue
- 4♠ was explained by West as natural but by East as a cue-bid with clubs agreed

Bessis was in 3NT as West. On a heart lead everything depended on the club guess. When he got this wrong he went light.

At the other table, given the different explanations of the 4♠ call, one might think Latvia were a little lucky. But most partnerships play that four of a major suit bid earlier by partner should always be a playable contract (i.e. you don't cuebid shortages in the suit). In which case passing 4♠ made sense.

This is a superior game to 3NT, and even though declarer also lost a club it came home for 10 IMPs to Latvia.

Board 14 and 15 were both double IMP swings to Latvia. Here is the latter:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Balasovs	Volcker	Lorencs
Pass	3♠	4♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥?	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lauks	Grosset	Bethers	Lorenzini
Pass	4♠	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♥	All Pass

4NT was two places to play
5♦ was Pass or correct

At the Open Table one has to say that Volcker broke discipline but one has only to imagine that West's black ace was in clubs rather than spades to see how his bid might have worked successfully.

With Latvia stopping safely in 5♥ their gain was 11 IMPs. Latvia had won by 37-34 or 16-14 in victory points.

Past Play Problem No. 1 Solution

How should West play 5♦ on a spade lead?

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

Per Arne Flaatt of Norway solved this problem at the 1988 Junior Europeans in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. (Other Juniors to come to prominence there were Geir Helgemo of Norway and Jean-Christophe Quantin of France).

First Flaatt knocked out the ♥A. The defence won the second heart and continued with a spade. Flaatt ruffed, then cashed KING and ace of trumps. Diamonds did not break, but he was in the right hand to continue hearts. North did not ruff but was later put in with the third trump to lead clubs. Playing for split honours, Flaatt made his game.

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.



Sport News



Cycling

Britain's David Millar was denied victory in the sixth stage of the Tour de France as he was caught with less than 2km left in Barcelona. Norway's Thor Hushovd won the sprint from Spaniard Oscar Friere and GEC's Jose Rojas. Millar was part of a four-man break for around 130km of the stage. He left Sylvain Chavanel, Amets Txurruka and Stephane Auge to go it alone but could not quite hold on in the climb to the finish in Montjuic.

Fabian Cancellara stayed in yellow.

Swimming



Olympian Aaron Peirsol has become the first swimmer to break the 52 second barrier at 100m backstroke. The 25-year-old reclaimed his world record at the US Championships in Indianapolis in a time of 51.94.

The women's 50m breaststroke record has also been smashed as 15-year-old Amanda Reason clocked 30.23 at Canadian trials for the World Swimming Championships.

Athletics



Sweden's Carolina Klufft will miss next month's World Championships in Berlin and the rest of the season after suffering a hamstring injury. Klufft, the reigning world heptathlon champion, picked up the injury in a meeting on home soil on Monday.

Cricket



Australia ended day two of the first Ashes test in Cardiff on 249-1, chasing England's 435 all out.

Life is Orange



In Round 2 of the first day's play, both Netherlands teams, playing in their bright orange T-shirts, were given a set of orange boards to play.

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 1



POLAND

v

CZECH REPUBLIC



In the previous two championships Poland had won the U-26 Teams but in Jesolo 2007 the title went to the Netherlands with Poland having to settle for the bronze medal. Poland did, however, win both the U-21 and Girls championships in Jesolo. We can all be certain that the Poles will be looking to reclaim the U-26 crown here in Poiana Brasov. They started their campaign against the Czech Republic but the match did not go as well as they would have hoped.

Poland led by 10-5 after six deals but then the Czechs moved into the lead on this board:

Joanna Krawczyk did not come in on the North cards at the other table so Michal Kopecky could respond 1♥. Milan Macura made a natural jump rebid and drove to slam over Kopecky's splinter. Krawczyk cashed the ace of hearts and there was nothing to the play; +1370 and 12 IMPs to Czech Republic.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West <i>Macura</i>	North <i>Krawczyk</i>	East <i>Kopecky</i>	South <i>Wasiak</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West <i>Wiankowski</i>	North <i>Jankova</i>	East <i>Zatorski</i>	South <i>Hoderova</i>
1♣	2♣	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West <i>Macura</i>	North <i>Krawczyk</i>	East <i>Kopecky</i>	South <i>Wasiak</i>
1♣	1♥	2♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Pass

West <i>Wiankowski</i>	North <i>Jankova</i>	East <i>Zatorski</i>	South <i>Hoderova</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Dble

Six Clubs is cold if played by East but, as West will open with a club bid in almost any system, that is not really achievable. In our featured match, both Wests opened with 1♣, Polish for Wiankowski, natural, 18-20 balanced or any 21+ for Mancura. For Czech Republic, Jana Jankova overcalled 2♣, both majors, and Piotr Zatorski doubled. Pavia Hoderova redoubled to ask her partner to pick a trump suit, and Jankova duly bid 2♠. When that came around to Piotr Wiankowski, he cuebid 3♠ and passed the 3NT response. Zatorski won the spade lead and immediately led a heart to the king. When that held he had twelve tricks for +690.

Again, both Wests opened 1♣. Both Norths overcalled but the two Easts took different approaches to their hand. Zatorski passed as East and Wiankowski jumped to 2NT. Zatorski transferred to spades now but, after a discouraging double from South, Wiankowski chose to go back to 3NT, where he played. Jankova led the queen of hearts, which Wiankowski won with the ace. He cashed the ace of spades then tried a low diamond, Jankova going in with the queen and returning the suit to dummy's jack. Wiankowski played the queen of spades, throwing a club from hand. Jankova won the ♠K and exited with a diamond. Declarer won and cashed the fourth diamond, throwing a club and a spade from dummy, then tried a low club to the queen, jack and king. Hoderova returned the ♣10. Wiankowski won the ace and cashed the king of hearts then exited with the ♣8. Hoderova had to give the last trick to dummy's ♠J but that was still down one for -100.

Kopecky bid 2♥, a limited transfer, and Macura jumped to the spade game. The opening lead was the queen of hearts

to declarer's king. Macura could see two potential losers in the side-suits and two in trumps if the latter were not three-three. He found the excellent line of swapping those two side-suit losers for one loser in the one side-suit in which he did not actually have a loser, namely diamonds. At trick two he led a low diamond towards the jack-ten. Krawczyk went in with the queen and switched to the two of clubs to the jack, king and ace. Macura led a diamond to the jack, a spade back to his ace, and threw dummy's club loser on the ace of diamonds. Now he ruffed a club and played the queen of spades to Krawczyk's king. She returned the ♠J and Wasiak pitched a club, seeing no profit in ruffing a loser with his trump trick. Macura won the ♠K and threw dummy's remaining heart on the king of diamonds. Wasiak could ruff but that was all for the defence; +620 and 12 IMPs to Czech Republic.

Had North been able to ruff the ♠K, dummy would have over-ruffed and, while there would have been no discard for the heart loser, neither would there have been a second trump loser, so the contract would still have been secure.

At the midpoint in the match, the Czech Republic led by 34-16.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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



West Macura	North Krawczyk	East Kopecky	South Wasiak
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass
West Wiankowski	North Jankova	East Zatorski	South Hoderova
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

It seemed that Macura/Kopecky had a misunderstanding regarding the forcing nature of East's 3♣ bid after his previous cuebid. Macura made ten tricks for +130, losing a spade, a heart and a club. There would be a swing, but in which direction would be decided at the other table.

Wiankowski/Zatorski had the normal auction to the normal no trump game. On a heart lead, declarer would have to get clubs right, but Jankova led the queen of diamonds, not wishing to give declarer a cheap heart trick. Wiankowski won the diamond and led a club to his jack, losing to the queen. Again, a heart switch defeats the contract but Janko-

va continued with the jack of diamonds in response to her partner's encouraging two at trick one. Needing a second spade trick as well as a heart to bring his total to nine, Wiankowski could not afford to win this trick so ducked. But now Jankova had one last chance to find the heart switch. No, she returned a passive club, and now Wiankowski could win in hand and run the queen of spades. Though that lost and a heart came back, he had his nine tricks for +400 and 7 IMPs to Poland.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West Macura	North Krawczyk	East Kopecky	South Wasiak
Pass	Pass	1♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass
West Wiankowski	North Jankova	East Zatorski	South Hoderova
Pass	2♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	4♥	3♠	Pass
		All Pass	



Milan Macura, Czech Republic

Hoderova's simple overcall worked out much better than Wasiak's weak jump as Krawczyk felt no urge to get involved facing the latter, while Jankova bid to 4♥ opposite the former.

Against 3♠, Wasiak led the queen of clubs and Krawczyk ruffed and returned the queen of hearts. Kopecky won the ace and led a spade to his king then the ace of clubs, ruffed. Krawczyk cashed the ace of spades and there were two diamonds and a club to be lost for down two; -100.

Zatorski led the king of spades against 4♥. Jankova won and ruffed a spade low, crossed to hand with a diamond and ruffed a second spade high. That was over-ruffed and a trump returned, leaving a late spade loser; +450 and 8 IMPs to Czech Republic.

The Czechs led by 43-23 after 16 boards but Poland finished the match strongly.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Macura	Krawczyk	Kopecky	Wasiak
	1♣	Pass	1♦
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	4♠
5♦	5♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	Jankova	Zatorski	Hoderova
	1♣	Pass	2♠
3♦	4♠	All Pass	

Hoderova's weak jump shift got her side to 4♠ very quickly, though it was surprising that Zatorski did not try 5♦ facing a 3♦ overcall. Wiankowski cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to a low heart. Hoderova won and played a spade to her hand then tried the club finesse. Though that lost, she now had a discard for her third heart so had ten tricks for +420.

Wasiak started with a 1♦ negative response to the Polish Club and Macura made a two-way overcall, either spades or four hearts plus a five-card minor. Kopecky's 2♠ response was to play opposite spades and 3♦ showed the red suits. Kopecky raised diamonds and finally Wasiak could show his long spades. It did not sound as though North/South could make anything so, when they bid on to 5♠ over 5♦, Kopecky doubled. Macura led a low heart.

Wasiak won the ace and played ace of clubs and ruffed a club, then a spade to the queen and ace. Back came the jack of hearts. Wasiak won the king, ruffed a club, played a spade to the ten, ruffed a club bringing down the king, and crossed to the eight of spades to pitch his heart loser on the queen of clubs. Now he conceded a diamond and had the rest for +650 and 6 IMPs to Poland.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Macura	Krawczyk	Kopecky	Wasiak
INT	Pass	2♦	3♦
3♥	5♦	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	Jankova	Zatorski	Hoderova
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦
2♥	4♦	4♥	5♦
Dble	All Pass		

Though the methods in use varied, the final contracts were identical. However, there was still a swing.

Wiankowski led a heart, which Hoderova ruffed. She played a diamond to the king and ace and ducked the spade switch to Zatorski's king. A club through produced two more tricks for the defence; down two for -500.

Macura also led a heart and Wasiak ruffed and played a club to the king and ace. Macura led a second heart. Wasiak won this in hand to lead his remaining club towards the jack. Macura took the ♣Q and switched to a spade but the switch came too late. Wasiak won the ace of spades and threw his second spade on the jack of clubs. He could take a heart ruff in dummy so was just one down for -200 but 7 IMPs to Poland.

Had the North/South pairs judged correctly when they went on to 5♦ over 4♥? Yes, says Deep Finesse, 4♥ was unbeatable. If the defence plays on spades, declarer can eventually get rid of a club on the fourth spade, while if the defence does not play on spades one option is to go for an elimination and endplay North with the third club to open up spades. Alternatively, a spade to the king then ducking a spade to South's jack or ten will also produce an endplay if the other suits have been eliminated.

Poland will surely be in the hunt for medals at the end of these championships but for now they had to settle for a 36-43 IMP, 14-16 VP loss. Well done Czech Republic.

Aggressive Irish Bid

Many bridge juniors made their International debut yesterday. Being new to playing with screens, unfamiliar with the convention cards and, of course, a little bit nervous representing their country, it's not easy to be creative, to perform at one's best so to speak!

The first match started with several cold games in the first ten boards, just to bid and play, creating a nice comfort zone for our newcomers.

Irishman, Wayne Somerville probably felt a little bored after five boards and did what he could to spice it up – where he found the power to bid 3♣ is unknown... Irfan Ilgin was in trouble after that pre-empt but decided to go with the take-out double solution. Operation succeeded, when he found his partner with a major. He raised to 4♠ as soon as the tray came back.

Somerville chose to lead his singleton jack of diamonds. North won with the ace and shifted to the ten of clubs, which was won by South's ace. Somerville, South, now played a club, not wanting to lead away from either major. Ozgur, for some unknown reason, decided against the finesse in trumps and played ace then king of them. When no queen fell he exited with a small trump on which Somerville again was on lead. He really had no option left, except opening up the heart suit – unless he wanted to give declarer a ruff and discard in clubs.

Again Ozgur decided right, that South couldn't have the king of hearts, and therefore popped up with the ace of hearts. A diamond followed to the nine and that held the trick. Declarer was helpless and claimed for one down.

The question is, why did East play South, who pre-empted with 3♣, for queen second of spades and not the king of hearts? That we never will know.

A better line in the ending if 'you know' that all your key cards are wrong, must be to cash all the trumps, creating a pseudo squeeze against North in the red suits. When failing in that attempt you go one more off, but when it pays off you have your swing, and then you can say that at least you tried to make it.

At the other table they duplicated the result, 4♠-1. Ireland won the match by 16-14, with only 41 IMPs shared between the two teams.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 3 2 ♥ A 9 4 2 ♦ 4 2 ♣ K 2	♠ 5 ♥ K 10 8 7 ♦ A Q 8 6 3 ♣ 10 9 8	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A K J 6 ♥ Q 6 ♦ K 10 9 7 5 ♣ Q J
♠ Q 10 4 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ J ♣ A 7 6 5 4 3			
West	North	East	South
Ilgin	Jones	Ozgur	Somerville
Dble	Pass	3♠	3♣
4♠	All Pass		Pass



Wayne Somerville, Ireland

Team Profiles



We would like to publish as many team profiles as possible in the Daily Bulletin. These can be serious or humorous – but please keep the humour within common sense boundaries. The bulletins appear on the internet

all over the world and what we may consider funny has been known in the past to offend a small number of people.

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

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

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS

ROUND 1



AUSTRIA

V

NETHERLANDS



The first match of the day on viewgraph saw a relatively quiet start after four deals explode into life on the fifth deal.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Molenaar	Schulz	Verbeek	Bina
	Pass	INT	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Gogoman	Pagter	Islam	de Hop
	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	Dble ⁽¹⁾	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Spades and another

In the Open Room the strong no trump bought the pot, and a heart lead saw declarer win in dummy and advance the club ten, covered by the jack. That gave declarer seven top tricks and a he came to a spade for 120. Unremarkable – but in the Closed Room the double got South to pass and lead a low spade. North resisted the temptation to cover so East won in hand and finessed the club ten; can you blame him? The defenders had the spades to run and the diamonds to set up and all declarer took was the red aces and a spade; down 800.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Molenaar	Schulz	Verbeek	Bina
2♣	Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

We have already seen that for the Czechs, in 4♠ on the lead of the queen of hearts to declarer's king, Macura found the excellent line of leading a low diamond towards the jack-ten. Molenaar did the same but Schulz went in with the queen and continued a top heart on which South pitched a diamond. Declarer won in hand and unblocked spades and diamonds then led a top trump to North, who cashed a heart and got out with a club. Declarer could not avoid a second trump loser for down one.

(On a top heart lead the only way to make the contract legitimately is to play the trump suit at double-dummy by cashing the ace and leading a low one at your next opportunity.)

Board 11 saw some entertaining play in the diamond suit.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

The Austrians played 2♦, after a Precision 1♦ opening and INT rebid by South, to show 11-14. Bina finessed the ♦J successfully but eventually had to ruff the fourth club with ♦K and lead a trump to the ace, dropping the queen, to establish his ♦6 for the fourth round of the suit. Meanwhile, De Hop played 3NT after West had shown hearts and clubs and a good hand.

He could lead a diamond towards the king-jack, and when the eight appeared there were three options; play for the suit 3-3 with the queen right, play for ♦Q-8 onside by finessing, cashing the king, then running the nine, or play for ♦10-8 on his left by playing the king then advancing the jack to squash the ten. The last line gets style points, but alas led to 3NT down one instead of making when West had the wrong doubleton.



Adele Gogoman, Austria

Austria were trailing by 20 IMPs when this last board gave them 4 IMPs. Immediately, on the next three deals they bid to a 3NT that needed them to find a two-way guess for a ♣Q (negotiated successfully by Gogoman) and then a bidding accident by Molenaar/Verbeek cost them 5 IMPs. The Dutch play Pass – (1♦) – 1♥ – (Dble) – 2♣ as a heart raise and a 2♦ advance as clubs. When one member of the partnership forgot this, he pushed his partner a level higher and rather fortuitously tipped the opening leader off to his best start for two extra undertricks in total.

On the deal after that De Hop treated:

♠ 3
 ♥ K 7 6
 ♦ A 7 6
 ♣ Q J 10 9 6 4

as a pre-empt in clubs over a 1♠ opening, not a simple overcall, and as a result collected +50 from 3♠, not 450 from 4♥. The 9 IMPs to Austria here gave them a 34-28 lead.

Netherlands equalized when an ill-judged penalty pass by Gogoman netted her a sweaty +200 against her side's game. And on the final deal the same 7 IMP swing as described in the Poland-Czech match on board 20 saw Netherlands emerge with an 8 IMP victory.

BADGES

All participants in the Championships are required to wear their badge, showing clearly, staff included. Without a badge it is prohibited to enter the playing area.

If you lose your badge, duplicates will be issued at the following cost to you:

1st duplicate – 5 Euros, 2nd duplicate – 10 Euros, 3rd duplicate – 20 Euros
 And so on.

Lucky Simon

Sweden's Simon Beck was very lucky in the second round of the U-26 Championship.

Board 16. Dealer West . N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	2 NT	3 ♥
5 ♦	5 ♥	Dble	Pass
6 ♦	All Pass		

The jack of clubs was led and won by Simon's ace. Ace and king of trumps followed. He then tried a heart to the king and ace. South now played a low club to the king, ten and seven.

Lucky Simon continued to torment the opponents with all his remaining diamonds, making sure of watching all the played cards. When he reached the very last diamond the situation was:

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



North decided to throw away his nine of clubs, the eight went from dummy and South showed up with the miraculous queen. Lucky Simon quickly produced the two small clubs and claimed the contract. "I should have passed..." Lucky Simon tried to explain to his screenmate, who didn't want to listen at all!

UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS

ROUND 2



FRANCE

v

ROMANIA



France is one of the strongest teams here including, in Thomas Bessis, a player who is already a world champion in the Open game. After a narrow loss to well-fancied Latvia in Round 1, the French took on our hosts, Romania, in the second round of the U-26 championship.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Robert	Stafie	Lhuissier	Parvulescu
	Pass	Pass	3♠
Dble	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Mihai Lucian Parvulescu found an imaginative 3♠ opening in third seat, essentially giving up on game unless his partner had spade support and found that Diana Mihaela Stafie did indeed have sufficient support to raise to game over Quentin Robert's double. Robert led his trump. Parvulescu won, drew a second round and gave up a club, ruffing the club return. He led the ten of diamonds and Robert went in with the ace and returned the suit. After finessing the ♦J and cashing the king, Parvulescu still had to find the jack of hearts. He duly led a heart to his king and finessed and Robert's ace, finessed on the way back and had ten tricks for +420.

Thomas Bessis opened at the one level then made a game try when Frederic Volcker made a simple raise. The 3♦ game try convinced Raluca Elena Dobrescu that her diamond honours were well placed so she doubled. She too led a trump. Bessis saw that the defence could always force him to guess the hearts himself so, rather than eliminate and hope for a defensive error, he won the second spade

in dummy and led a heart to the king and ace. By committing to the position of the jack of hearts, he gave himself the option of going up with the king on a diamond switch and throwing his third diamond on the fourth round of hearts, thereby making the position of the queen of diamonds unimportant. In practice, Dobrescu switched to ace and another club when in with the ♥A. Bessis ruffed and ran the nine of hearts and followed his plan of throwing a diamond on the fourth heart then leading to the king of diamonds; +590 and 5 IMPs to France.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Robert	Stafie	Lhuissier	Parvulescu
1♦	Pass	INT	3♠
Pass	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♠
Dble	3♠	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

In the French East/West pair's style, Nicolas Lhuissier had to start with INT and was now pretty much endplayed into introducing his seven-card suit at the five level. The auction also made Stafie think that her partner's jump to 3♠ was probably stronger than was actually the case and she doubled the final contract – only to find that it was cold for an overtrick; +650.

Radu Nistor could make a two-over-one response of 2♣ – it churns my stomach to think of NOT being allowed to respond 2♣, but... The Romanian pair could now bid 5♣ with much greater confidence that they were doing the right thing, but the downside of that was, on this occasion, that North was no longer tempted to double the final contract. Nistor played very safely, taking his two club ruffs in

dummy and not risking the heart finesse. The missed over-trick cost nothing on this occasion; +400 but 6 IMPs to France.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Robert	Stafie	Lhuissier	Parvulescu
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT
West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
		2♣	Dble

All Pass

After Lhuissier's normal pass on the East cards, the Romania North/South had a quick auction to 3NT, the direct raise showing five spades and four hearts with only game values.

There is quite a lot of work to do to come to nine tricks on this deal. Robert led the king of clubs and Parvulescu ducked. Robert's continuation of the ♣Q gave declarer the help he required. He won the ace, pitching a diamond from dummy as East threw the ♥7, encouraging. Parvelescu led the king of hearts and when Lhuissier ducked continued with the queen. He won the diamond switch with the ace and played the ♠10, establishing the trick in the suit where his diamond position was protected. Robert won and switched to a spade, which Parvelescu won in hand to play the third heart to the nine and jack. He could win the diamond return, cash the ♣9 and take the rest of the tricks in dummy; +600. Nicely played.

Nistor had a toy for the East hand – 2♣ to show a weak hand with both majors. Bessis had a toy in defence – double to show a good hand. When Dobrescu passed, fancying clubs more than either major, that was that, Volcker being happy to trust his partner to have decent clubs – after all, where was a weakfish hand with five-four in the majors going to run to when the hand on his left had already shown a weakfish hand with five-four or better in the majors?

Despite dummy's imposing trump holding, 2♣ doubled was not a lot of fun for Nistor. Bessis led the two of clubs and it was too difficult to guess to finesse so Nistor put up dummy's king and returned the club queen. Bessis won the ace and switched to the king of hearts. Nistor won the ace

and ruffed a heart then played a spade, Volcker going in with the king. He played a diamond to Bessis who played the ten of clubs. Nistor came to five tricks for –800 and 5 IMPs to France.

Half-way through the match, France led by 24-2 IMPs. Then Romania struck back.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Robert	Stafie	Lhuissier	Parvulescu
Pass	4♣	All Pass	2♠
West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
			Pass
1♥	1♠	3♠	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The two-suited weak two struck gold as the French East/West pair were completely shut out of the auction.




Raluca Elena Dobrescu, Romania

For either East or West to have come into the auction would have been a huge gamble. However, passing can also be an expensive option, as they were to discover. There was nothing to the play, Parvulescu just conceding the four top losers for down one and -50.

Bessis passed the South hand, not having the methods to open such a hand and Dobrescu opened as West. Nistor made a splinter raise over the overcall and, when Dobrescu left the decision round to him after Bessis had raised to 4♠, he went on with a slam try. Looking at three key cards, Dobrescu was happy to accept and bid 6♥. Volcker led the queen of clubs and it was simply on a diamond guess. The simple way to play diamonds was to play for North, the overcaller, to hold the queen. Dobrescu took very little time to win the ace of clubs, draw trumps and play ace of diamonds and a diamond to the nine, claiming 12 tricks a moment later; +980 and 14 IMPs to Romania.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

	♠ K J ♥ A Q 8 7 4 ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ Q 8 4		
♠ A 7 5 ♥ 6 3 2 ♦ J 9 7 6 ♣ K 10 9		♠ 10 9 8 6 4 3 ♥ K 5 ♦ 3 ♣ J 7 3 2	
	♠ Q 2 ♥ J 10 9 ♦ A K 8 5 2 ♣ A 6 5		
West	North	East	South
Robert	Stafie	Lhuissier	Parvulescu
Pass	1♥	2♠	3♠
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	


Would you make a weak jump overcall on those East cards? Favourable vulnerability and the six-four shape more than make up for the weak spades for me – and for Lhuissier (the possibility for our new world-beating partnership are still alive!), but not for Nistor.

Given a free run, Volcker/Bessis had room to agree hearts and make a slam try at a comfortable level before stopping in game. Nistor's singleton diamond lead gave that suit to declarer who played ace and another trump and made eleven tricks, the clubs going away on the diamonds; +650.

Parvulescu showed a good raise to at least 4♥ then doubled 4♠ – he could hardly do more with those major-suit holdings. Just as well, as a club lead beats 5♥. In 4♠ doubled there were two clubs to be lost and one in each of the

other three suits so down two for -300 but 8 IMPs to France. But, just as we thought that normal service had been resumed came another big swing to Romania.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ Q 8 ♥ 10 8 7 3 ♦ Q J 8 7 ♣ 7 3 2		
♠ A 9 6 5 ♥ 5 ♦ A 10 9 6 3 ♣ A 9 5		♠ K J 4 3 ♥ A Q J 9 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ K 4	
	♠ 10 7 2 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ 4 2 ♣ Q J 10 8 6		
West	North	East	South
Robert	Stafie	Lhuissier	Parvulescu
2♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♣	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
2♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
		6♠	All Pass

Lhuissier knows a good hand when he sees one and when Robert could agree spades he was willing to cuebid twice. However, when Robert now signed off in 4♣, Lhuissier called it a day. He won the club lead in dummy and played a heart to the ace followed by the queen of hearts. Parvulescu ducked in tempo, hoping to make declarer change tack, but Lhuissier had committed himself to a line and discarded from dummy. When the ♥Q held the trick he continued with a low ruff and soon had all 13 tricks for a slightly worrying +710.

Nistor knows a VERY good hand when he sees one and, when Dobrescu could support spades, simply took control via Key Card, checked for the queen of trumps and settled for the small slam when it proved to be missing. Nistor too won the club lead in dummy, but he took a first-round finesse of the jack of spades then played ace of hearts and ruffed a heart, ace of spades, club to the king, heart ruff bringing down the king, and he too had all the tricks for +1460 and 13 Romanian IMPs.

While this line made everything look very easy, this is a tricky hand and it is not completely clear what is the best line. If someone bid and made it on what they think is a better line, we will be happy to consider it for the next bulletin.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	3NT	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

Five Diamonds and 3NT (by East) are pretty much the same contract, as you are not likely to survive losing a diamond to queen-to-three whichever game you play. France had a smooth auction to one of the top spots and the heart lead meant eleven tricks for +660.

The 2♥ overcall really shouldn't have made that big a difference in the other room but it generated a swing out of nothing. Volcker could raise to 3♥ but that did not prevent Nistor from trying 3NT. Dobrescu felt that she had not yet bid her hand so removed 3NT to 4♦. To Nistor it sounded as though his partner was very weak and didn't fancy his



Quentin Robert, France

chances in 3NT, so he passed – but isn't there an old rule about not running from 3NT to four of a minor, so that 4♦ should be forcing? Plus 150 meant 11 IMPs to France, who led by 44-29. The score was unchanged going into the final deal, but that deal produced the biggest swing of the match.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Volcker	Nistor	Bessis
1♦	1♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Such a simple decision yet such an important one – whether or not to bid 1♠ with the East cards. I don't think that bidding over the intervention promises anything more than if there had not been a 1♥ overcall, and surely East would have bid 1♠ had North passed, so I am with Lhuissier again. Having said which, Nistor was a little unlucky to be punished quite so severely – for example, had South held only a raise to 3♥, West would have had an easy take-out double. Facing a hand that could not act over 1♥, it was not unreasonable for Dobrescu to go quietly over the actual 4♥ raise.

Four Hearts can be beaten, of course, but Nistor's lead of the jack of diamonds put the defence under some pressure. Dobrescu won the ace and switched to the king of clubs. Not good enough – Volcker could win, draw trumps, unblock the diamonds and get back to the ten of diamonds to get a spade loser away and claim ten tricks and +620.

Of course, Dobrescu had a couple of chances to defeat the contract, either by ducking the opening lead or by switching to spades rather than clubs at trick two.

Lhuissier's 1♠ bid made it automatic for Robert to bid 4♠ over 4♥. Stafie's double was a dubious action as her partner had not promised any defence, but the board was already beyond saving. Parvulescu cashed the ace of hearts and switched to a diamond. Lhuissier rose with the ace and drew two rounds of trumps and had ten tricks for +790 and 16 IMPs to France.

The last board turned a modest win into a good one for the French, the final score being 60-29 IMPs, 21-9 VPs in their favour.