



BULLETIN

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Editorial

The opinions expressed here are solely those of the Editor, and do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its members.

The recent World Youth Bridge Championships produced yet-another adjusted-score controversy.

U-21 Pairs Final, Session 2. Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

An East player held ♠J9843 ♥KQ1086 ♦6 ♣K6 and saw the following:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT'
Pass	2♥	??	
I. (9)10-13			

North and East were on the same side of the screen and West and South were screenmates on the other side. One notrump was (9)10-13, and was clearly marked as such on the North/South convention card. There was no alert of two hearts by North and no explanation was asked of the bid by East. East doubled, assuming the bid to have been a transfer whereas, in fact, it was natural: North held ♠ Q6 ♥ AJ974 ♦ A9752 ♣ 4. On the other side of the screen, when the tray was returned, West asked South the meaning of two hearts and was told, "Natural, to play". West assumed that his partner had made a takeout double of hearts and guided the partnership to a way-overboard level (auction not available) where they were doubled and went four off for minus 800. (The results can be obtained from the WBF website but the auctions are not recorded and BBO did not broadcast the event.)

East called the Tournament Director to complain that he should have been alerted that two hearts was natural and that he had assumed it was a transfer, thus his double showed hearts. The TD agreed and awarded an adjusted score. That decrease in their score on the board meant that North/South, Oscar Nijssen and Tim van der Paverd, finished fourth in the event, just one match point out of the bronze-medal position.

In the appropriate section of their convention card, the North/South responses to one notrump are: "2♣ Stayman, 2♦ GF any, 2NT invitational, Others natural). One notrump is described as "(9)10-13 non-vulnerable, except in 4th chair".

Quite apart from whether a natural response to one notrump should have been alerted or not (we think the TD's ruling was, at best, misguided), East (and, for that matter, the TD) was certainly inexperienced in mini-notrump methods and negligent in not asking about the meaning of two hearts. What a state we're in when powers-that-be think a natural bid needs to be alerted.

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Subir Roy, New Delhi

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.

With more than a quarter of a million dollars at stake, the annual HCL International Championships is one of the largest prize-money tournaments in the world. Divided into three categories – Gold, Silver and Bronze (in its inaugural edition, to promote beginners), the tournament this year attracted over 190 teams.

Foreign teams dominated the championships. K1 Plus (Bulgaria) emerged as the champions, putting them across Team Russia by 73 IMPs in an all-East-European final. Team Russia scored a facile 100-IMP victory over reigning champions, South Sweden, a South Africa-Sweden combo, in the semifinals, while K1 Plus had a comfortable victory over Iceland's Don Julio. Up for grabs was also a Pairs tournament with prize money of over \$70,000. This event was dominated by the Indians, with Sumit Mukherjee and Debabrata Majumder emerging as winners and collecting over \$14,000.

The Gold Teams Championship featured several interesting deals:

Omens – Mark Horton

Round 1: South Sweden v. Maya Mera Sneha

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room: South Sweden NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Das</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Roy</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
—	Pass	Pass	INT
2♣ ¹	Double	2♥	3♦
3♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. Majors		

You can see why East bid two hearts, but it would have been better to pass the double, showing a club suit. West's three hearts was very unsound.

South led the king of hearts. The defenders played three rounds of the suit, North switching to the eight of diamonds. When declarer played low from hand, South does best to overtake and switch to a spade, but he followed with the six. Declarer ruffed the next diamond and played the king of clubs. South won the second club and played the ace of diamonds. If declarer ruffs this and exits with a low spade he saves a trick, but that is not an easy play to find and he pitched a spade, ruffed the next diamond and exited with the king of spades for minus 1400.

Closed Room: Maya Mera Sneha NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjerregård</i>	<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Morath</i>	<i>Chakraborty</i>
—	Pass	Pass	INT
2♣ ¹	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
	1. Majors		
	2. Transfer		

West led the two of hearts. Declarer put in dummy's jack, played a heart to the king and tried to cash two rounds of diamonds. West ruffed and exited with a heart. Declarer won perforce with dummy's ace, pitching a club, came to hand with the ace of clubs and played a spade for the queen and ace. A club ruff now ensured ten tricks, plus 420 but, at 14 IMPs, it was very expensive.

Having ruffed the second diamond, West should exit with a top spade. Declarer wins in dummy, pitches a club on the ace of hearts, crosses to the club ace and plays a diamond, but now West throws the king of clubs. He will then be able to overruff in clubs and play two rounds of trumps, leaving declarer a trick short.

Round 7: KI Plus v. Team Russia – Subir Roy

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

<p>♠ J 10 7 2 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ 10 6 5 ♣ 5 4 3</p> <p>♠ A Q 9 3 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ 7 3 2 ♣ J 9 7</p>	<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ A J 10 5 3 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ A 10 6</p> <p>♠ K 6 5 ♥ 9 8 ♦ A J 8 4 ♣ K Q 8 2</p>
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Open Room: KI Plus NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Gunev</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	3♥ ²	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Do you have a five-card major?
2. Yes, hearts.

South led a trump. Declarer won in hand and passed the eight of spades to North, who won with the ten. North returned a diamond, declarer put up the king and South encouraged with a low card. Declarer won in dummy, drew trumps ending in dummy and ran the nine of clubs, which lost to South's queen. South exited with a spade, which declarer finessed to get a club pitch, but he then had to lose two diamonds to go one down.

Closed Room: Russia NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Nanov</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass
3♦ ²	Pass	3♥ ³	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. I have a five card major
2. Which one?
3. Hearts

The Russian South also led a trump. However, the Bulgarian declarer, after winning it, played the jack of clubs around to South's queen. South returned a low diamond to the declarer, who then played a simple finesse of the spade queen. When it won, he cashed the spade ace, ruffed the third spade high in hand, led

a trump to dummy's king and ruffed the last spade in his hand. South could see himself being thrown in if he discarded a diamond, so he pitched a club. Declarer, however was alert and cashed the club ace bringing South's king crashing down and made two club tricks for plus 10 IMPs to Bulgaria.

The Indian Rope Trick – Mark Horton KO Round of 16: Formidables v. Monica Jajoo & Hemant Jalan v. Poddar Housing

Most players will tell you that they hope to avoid anything too challenging at the start of a match, preferring something straightforward that will allow them to settle down. A simple three notrump is always welcome. Without further ado, here is the opening deal of the Round of 16:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ K 9 7 5 4 ♥ K Q J 10 ♦ K 9 ♣ 8 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 2 ♥ 8 7 6 3 ♦ 5 ♣ K Q 10 9 7 5</p> <p>♠ 10 3 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ 10 8 7 6 3 2 ♣ J 6</p> <p>♠ A J 8 6 ♥ A 2 ♦ A Q J 4 ♣ A 4 2</p>
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In Formidables versus Monica Jajoo ...

Open Room: Monica Jajoo NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Basak</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Roy</i>
—	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	3♠ ³	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet Stayman
2. One 4-card major
3. Hearts

West led the king of hearts. Declarer ducked, took the next heart and cashed six clubs, coming down to the ace-jack of spades and the ace-queen-jack of diamonds. West had blanked his diamond king, keeping two spades and two hearts. Declarer finessed in diamonds, so just made nine tricks, plus 400.

Closed Room: Formidables NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Bhatta-charya</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Jajoo</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
—	3♣	Pass	4♦ ¹
Pass	4♥ ²	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Key-card ask
2. 1 key card

East led the three of diamonds. Declarer put up dummy's ace and exited with the two of hearts, aiming to ruff one in the short hand. West won with the king and tried to cash the king of diamonds, which declarer ruffed. On this layout, cashing two trumps would have brought instant gratification, but a 3-1 break would have been a problem. Declarer played the queen of spades and, when it was not covered, overtook it with the ace, then tried the jack of diamonds, but West ruffed, removing one of declarer's tricks. Declarer overruffed, cashed the king of clubs, then went to dummy with a club to cash the queen of diamonds.

From here, it appears that declarer must lose one more trick but, in the manner of the Indian Rope Trick, declarer had found a way to make his loser vanish. West, down to king-third of spades and the queen-jack-ten of hearts, was caught in a trump squeeze. Discarding from either major would allow declarer to set up a long card in that suit. West went with a spade so declarer ruffed a spade, went to dummy with a heart, ruffed a spade and ruffed a heart to take trick thirteen with the jack of spades and collect 11 IMPs.

Suppose after winning a heart trick, West exits with a trump, covered by the ten, jack and ace. Declarer cashes the ace of hearts and, if he knew trumps were 2-2, can get home easily by ruffing dummy's low diamond. However, suppose declarer plays a diamond honour, covered by the king and ruffed. Now declarer cashes a top trump, ruffs a heart, pitches the queen of spades on the jack of diamonds, ruffs a diamond and cashes two trumps. At this point East is known to have started with three hearts, six diamonds and two clubs, so the odds favour West having the king of spades. Realising that, declarer plays for the squeeze to have operated and a spade to the ace brings unbounded joy, not to mention the IMPs.

Meanwhile, in Hemant Jalan v. Poddar Housing:

Open Room: Hemant Jalan NS

West	North	East	South
Shah	Kushari	Dhakras	Roy
—	3♣	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	5NT ³
Pass	6♣ ⁴	Pass	Pass

1. Key card ask
2. 1 key card
3. Any side kings?
4. No

East led the four of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's ace and returned the two, West winning with the king and exiting with the three of clubs. Declarer put in dummy's ten, took East's jack with the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the queen, covered and ruffed. Now declarer fatally ruffed a heart and tried to cash the jack of diamonds. West ruffed and declarer overruffed and played his last heart. East

could ruff that and there was still a spade to lose, so that was minus 100.

Closed Room: Poddar Housing NS

West	North	East	South
Nandi	Poddar	Bendre	Solani
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Double	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After West had doubled one club, disclosing the whereabouts of the missing high cards, six clubs would have been a heavy favourite to make, but it was no surprise to see North/South stop in game. Declarer won the heart lead and cashed six clubs. West blanked the king of diamonds and declarer played a diamond to the ace, securing 12 tricks, as West was now squeezed and could be thrown in to lead away from the king of spades. So, in both these matches 11 IMPs changed hands. Remarkably, they were the only IMPs Hemant Jalan gave up in the set.

La Belle Alliance – Mark Horton Quarterfinals: South Sweden v. FII

My featured match is between two cosmopolitan teams, South Sweden and FII (French, Italian and Indian, thus FII) that provide the inspiration for my title. You will all be familiar with the fact that is usually associated with an inn near Brussels that played a role in the Battle of Waterloo. It is less well known that the Prussian commander, Blücher, suggested the battle be named after the inn, as a tribute to the countries that had joined forces to defeat the French. Although Wellington got his way with Waterloo, Berlin's Rondell Plaza was renamed Belle-Alliance Platz.

Turning reluctantly to the bridge ...

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Open Room : South Sweden NS

West	North	East	South
Choksi	Gower	Gupta	Aptecker
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	3♠ ¹	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Shortage with heart support

Ignoring the Bols Bridge Tip – *The Five Level Belongs to the Opponents* – East took a second bite of the cherry. North led the queen of clubs and the defenders collected the first four tricks for plus 500. We will never know if West would have found the killing lead against five hearts.

Closed Room: FII NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjerregård</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Morath</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2NT ¹	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Heart support

West led the king of spades. Declarer ruffed in dummy, came to hand with a club, ruffed a spade with the ace of hearts and drew trumps. There was no way to avoid the loss of three diamond tricks, so that was one down.

To be certain of defeating five hearts, West has to lead the queen of diamonds – easy to see when all four hands are on view. However, with the bidding hinting that suits would not break, declarer was unwilling to follow what would have been the winning line: ruff the spade, one trump lead to hand, two top clubs, and a trump to dummy for the clubs.

That line needed trumps two-two and clubs no worse than four-two. Even if trumps had been three-one and either defender ruffed the third or fourth club, you'd still have a chance to play for the diamond ace onside. Instead, declarer arranged to ruff his other spade and play for the ace of diamonds onside. Unlucky – and a swing of 12 IMPs to South Sweden.

Quarterfinals: Hemant Jalan v. Don Julio – Subir Roy

On the following deal, with 12 top tricks in notrumps and multiple chances for a thirteenth, seven notrump was a good contract, but seven clubs was even better.

There are multiple lines of play to consider in seven notrump. However, it was academic ...

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room: Hemant Jalan NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Sigurjonsson</i>	<i>Bendre</i>	<i>Krantz</i>	<i>Nandi</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²
Pass	2NT ³	Pass	3NT ⁴
Pass	4♣ ⁵	Pass	4♦ ⁶
Pass	4NT ⁷	Pass	5♦ ⁸
Pass	5♥ ⁹	Pass	5NT ¹⁰
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Artificial game-force
2. No 3-card spade support, but 4 hearts
3. Marking time, showing further interest
4. Promises 1=4=4=4
5. Forward-going, confirms clubs
6. Control in diamonds
7. RKCB
8. 0 key cards for clubs
9. Trump queen?
10. Yes

That was plus 1470.

Closed Room: Don Julio NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Jalan</i>	<i>Nistor</i>	<i>Datta</i>	<i>Rotaru</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT ²
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5♦ ⁴
Pass	5♥ ⁵	Pass	5NT ⁶
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Inverted
2. Fast arrival
3. RKCB
4. 0 or 3 key cards
5. Trump queen ask
6. Yes, no spade king but at least one king higher-ranked than clubs

Thirteen tricks come rolling home here as well and Team Don Julio earned 12 IMPs for their efforts.

Semifinals: KI Plus v. Don Julio – Subir Roy

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Closed Room: Don Julio NS

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Rotaru	Nanev	Nistor
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. XYZ: puppet to 2♦
2. Forced
3. Invitational

West led the jack of hearts, Rusinow. Declarer won in dummy and contemplated his chances. While one can see three tricks in diamonds, two in hearts, and one in spades before the hearts are cleared, where does one find the other two tricks? Nistor tried the queen of spades, which was covered by the king and ace, and created his seventh trick. Another spade went to East's jack and he duly backed a heart which Nistor ducked to create a heart tenace in hand. West shifted to a low club, ducked in dummy and by East, which declarer won in hand with the club ten.

Now it seemed that all he had to do was to clear the diamond suit and claim eight tricks. Accordingly, declarer led a low diamond from hand. Unfortunately for him, West had other ideas. Hopping up with the ace, West now played his club queen, pinning declarer's jack and getting four more tricks for two off and plus 200.

In the other room:

Open Room: KI Plus NS

West	North	East	South
Nistor	Stefanov	Rotaru	Gunev
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. XYZ: puppet to 2♦
2. Forced
3. Invitational

West led the heart queen: king from dummy, four from East, reverse count, two from declarer. Declarer elected to knock out the diamond ace: nine, five, three, ace. The Don Julio West, Nistor, did not divine the club situation and passively backed another diamond. Declarer won the diamond in the dummy and played the queen of spades, king, ace, eight. Another spade went to the ten and jack and East played back a heart, ducked to West. West shifted to a club, ducked to the ten, but it was too late. With declarer to play his last diamond, this was the situation.

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

West was caught in a funny sort of three-suit squeeze. If he pitched a club, he would not be able to push the club queen through to maximum effect; if he pitched a heart, he would set up declarer's hearts. He therefore elected to pitch a spade. That revealed the spade situation and declarer scored his game with three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and one club for plus 600 and 13 IMPs to team KI Plus.

Deadlier than the Male – Mark Horton Semifinals: South Sweden v. Russia

When declarer is hoping to establish a long suit in dummy, it can be a sound policy for a defender to withhold a high card, but it is easier said than done. Look at this deal from the semifinal:

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Open Room: South Sweden NS

West	North	East	South
Gromov	Gower	Gulevich	Apteker
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. XYZ: artificial game force

West led the queen of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and played a diamond to the queen; when it held, he played a spade. West won with the six to return the nine of diamonds. Declarer played low from dummy and Anna Gulevich won and gave her partner a diamond ruff. Declarer ruffed the spade return, cashed the king of clubs and ruffed a club with the three of hearts. East could overruff that and exit with a trump, ensuring two down, minus 200.



2019 HCL Champions: Rossen Gunev, Ivan Nanev, Marta Nikolava, Julian Stefanov, Vladimir Mihov

Closed Room: Russia NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Bjerregård</i>	<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Morath</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. XYZ: artificial game force

After an identical start, East won trick two with the king of diamonds and switched to the four of spades, West winning and continuing with the three. Declarer ruffed and ran the jack of hearts. When it held, he crossed to the king of hearts, ruffed a spade, drew trumps and claimed, plus 650 and 13 IMPs.

The Final: Russia v. KI Plus – Mark Horton

KI Plus dominated the final, winning 129 IMPs to 56.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room: KI Plus NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Rogov</i>	<i>Gunev</i>
1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the six of hearts. Declarer won with the ten, cashed the king of clubs, and then played the jack of spades. When it held, he continued with the ten, and North won and exited with the diamond deuce. Declarer played dummy's seven and South won with the jack and switched to the five of clubs. When declarer finessed, North won, cashed the ace of hearts and played a diamond for down one, minus 100.

Closed Room: Russia NS

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Gulevich</i>
1NT	Double ¹	2♠ ²	Pass
3♣ ³	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. One-suiter
2. Range enquiry or clubs
3. Maximum

North led the six of hearts. Declarer won with the ten and played on spades, North winning the third round as South pitched the three of diamonds. When North played the nine of diamonds, declarer put up dummy's king and, when it held, he continued with a club to the ace and cashed two spades. When the queen of clubs fell under the king, there were nine tricks and a dozen IMPs.

HCL Roll of Honour

GOLD TEAMS

Winners: K1 PLUS – Ivan Nanev, Vladimir Mihov, Rossen Gunev, Julian Stefanov, Marta Nikolava
 Runners-up: RUSSIA – Andrey Gromov, Anna Gulevich, Dmitry Rogov, Aleksandr Dubinin, Yuri Khiuppenen, Vadim Kholomeev
 Third Place: SOUTH SWEDEN – Alon Apteker, Craig Gower, Sven-Åke Bjerregård, Anders Morath

SILVER TEAMS

Winners: TEAM PRADEEP – Sukalyan Sarkar, Rajendra Sirohia, Goutam Pore, Binod Kumar Shaw, Pijus Kanti Baroi, Pradeep Goenka

BRONZE TEAMS

Winners: TEAM SHIVA – S. Srinivasan, Abishek Mitra, Abhijit Pal, Arup Kumar Hudait, Animesh Majumder, H. Ramkumar

GOLD MP PAIRS

Winners: S. Mukherjee, D. Majumder

SILVER MP PAIRS

Winners: A. Chakraborty, S. Mukherjee



The festival was played in Drammen, south of Oslo, for the third consecutive year, from August 2nd to the 10th. Well over a thousand players competed in the different championships, and nearly all of Norway's highest-ranked players participated.

As usual, there was a prize for the best-played deal, this time awarded to Jo Arne Ovesen for this performance from the Mixed Pairs Championship, playing against the General Secretary of the Norwegian Bridge Federation, Allan Livgård:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Uran	Livgård	Ovesen	Anjer
1♣	Pass	1♦ ¹	1♠
2♠ ²	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Hearts			
2. Agrees hearts, better than 2♥			

Uran did well to pass three notrump, since four hearts would likely have been down one, and East/West had already secured a good board. South led a diamond, won by dummy's king. The ten of spades took the second trick, and the next spade was won by the king. South could have made life a bit more difficult by leading clubs, but it was not that easy to see – he led another diamond. The ace of diamonds took the trick, and Anjer won the next spade with the ace. The queen of hearts shift was won by dummy's king. Ovesen played a club to his king and cashed his queen of diamonds to leave this position:

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

Ovesen discarded dummy's nine of hearts on the queen of spades and claimed 11 tricks. The General Secretary in North nodded approvingly, gathered his cards and put them back into the board. Eleven tricks netted a formidable 86 out of a possible 93 matchpoints.

In the second round of the Patton tournament, Morten Iversen, South, executed a nicely-timed play against our superstars Boye Brogeland and Espen Lindqvist:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	1♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the knave of clubs to the queen and ace. The eight of clubs won trick two, and the king the third. Morten forwarded the ten of hearts (as copied from *The Rodwell Files*, Boye commented) and the knave won the trick. Hearts were continued to king, and a heart to the ace confirmed the layout. The next steps were a diamond to the queen, a spade to dummy's ace, then the thirteenth heart. East was compelled to discard a spade, otherwise Iversen could take the spade finesse and duck a diamond. He continued by taking the spade finesse to leave this position:

	♠ 8	
	♥ —	
	♦ K 9	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ Q
♥ —		♥ —
♦ J 10		♦ A 8
♣ 10		♣ —
	♠ K	
	♥ —	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 9	

On the king of spades, West had to part with one of his diamonds, a diamond went to the knave, king, and ace, and Espen Lindqvist had to give dummy the ninth trick with the nine of diamonds.

Back to the Mixed Pairs Championship to see how our international Nils Kvangraven earned himself a complete top in a somewhat daring six notrump contract:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ingebrigtsen</i>	<i>Nyheim</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>	<i>Paulsen</i>
—	Pass	2♣	2♥
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Rogeir Paulsen lead the king of hearts to the ace. Kvangraven cashed his clubs, followed by the ace of diamonds and a diamond to the king fetching the queen from South along the way. This was the end position:

	♠ J 7	
	♥ —	
	♦ 10 8	
	♣ —	
♠ 9		♠ A Q 6
♥ 10		♥ J
♦ J 9		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ K 10	
	♥ Q 9	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

Kvangraven discarded his knave of hearts on the knave of diamonds, and Paulsen naturally saw the pending endplay and took his only chance by discarding the ten of spades. Nils was not in the mood to be fooled. He played a spade to ace and claimed 13 tricks.



OZ BRIDGE
Ron Klinger,
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The 2019 Interstate Teams

Board 60. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

With South Australia NS and New South Wales EW ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Weston</i>	<i>Hilditch</i>	<i>Foster</i>	<i>Anderson</i>
1♥	Pass	Pass	2♦
Double	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

New South Wales won Set 4 of the Interstate Open Teams final by 22-4 and led 87-80.8 with 12 boards to go against South Australia. SA rallied and trailed 92.8 to 93 with one deal left. The last board:

West led the five of hearts, won by dummy's queen. Running the ten of diamonds could have brought three diamonds home, but South played the diamond five: four – nine – ace. West returned king of hearts; South won and played the king of diamonds and the queen of clubs. South lost a spade, two clubs and two diamonds, for one off, East/West (NSW) plus 50.

West	North	East	South
Lusk	Buchen	De Luca	Thomson
1♥	Pass	Pass	Double
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

South for NSW might have chosen two diamonds and North might have bid one notrump over one spade. If passed out, one notrump might have succeeded. Even one down would have left NSW in front. However, if East had bid two hearts over one notrump, that can make and SA would have led. It would be hard to find three diamonds over two hearts.

Anyway, none of that happened, and North led the six of diamonds against one spade. While one spade can be beaten, West made seven tricks, plus 80, 1 IMP to SA, leading by just 93.8 to 93. That score was not yet final. The correction period was 30 minutes later.

There were, of course, other deals where NSW might have picked up more than 1 IMP. While there are many ways to lose a final, there has probably not been one as strange as this. It happened on the first board of Set 4.

Board 37. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	INT ¹
2♣ ²	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. (11)12-14			
2. Majors			

West led the eight of hearts. Julian Foster (NSW South) won and reeled off six diamonds, followed by a spade to the king. He ended with ten tricks, NSW plus 430.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Lusk	Buchen	De Luca
—	—	Pass	INT ¹
2♣ ²	Double	Pass ³	Pass
Pass	3♦ ⁴	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 12-14
2. Majors
3. Offer to play 2♣
4. Not a misprint

Given East's pass of two clubs doubled, West led the king of clubs. The defence could have held three notrump to seven tricks, but South made eight, one down, East/West plus 50, 10 IMPs to NSW.

By now, you will have noticed that North's double was followed by three passes, thus ending the auction, in theory. Apparently, no one noticed. Had it been noticed and reported within the correction period to Laurie Kelso, the Chief Tournament Director, the contract would have reverted to two clubs doubled. With three spades, two hearts and four club tricks available for West, that would have given East/West plus 280, 12 IMPs and, ultimately, instead of a loss, a win to NSW by 1.2 IMPs. Strange days.

Open Butler Trials

These Trials, two days' qualifying, four days' final, were held in Melbourne immediately after the Interstate Teams and Pairs. The qualifying was in separate sections (good) and ten pairs North/South and ten East/West qualified for the final (19 rounds of 12-board matches).

Results: 1. Michael Courtney–Paul Wyer 2. Pauline Gumby–Warren Lazer 3. Lauren Travis–Sartaj Hans. After Round 16, the top three place-getters were within two Victory Points of each other and well clear of the field, by 30 Victory Points or so.

Stage 2, Round 5

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Note South's four-heart bid. Many might invite game with the South hand but, at IMPs, vulnerable games

are worth bidding at around 40% probability. South's diamond holding is excellent, much better than just ace-queen to four.

West led the king of clubs: ace – five – seven. South played the diamond deuce: ten – queen – king. West switched to the ten of spades: five – ace – seven. East returned the four of spades: king – three – six. South cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the diamond jack: heart seven – heart jack – diamond three, a club ruff and a diamond ruff with the six of hearts. This left:

<p>♠ Q</p> <p>♥ 5</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ Q 8 4</p>	<p>♠ J</p> <p>♥ Q</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ 10 9 6</p>	<p>♠ 2</p> <p>♥ K 8 3</p> <p>♦ 9</p> <p>♣ —</p>
	<p>♠ 8</p> <p>♥ A 10 9 4</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ —</p>	

When South played dummy's queen of hearts, East had a choice of poisons. If he had ducked, the heart queen would have won. South would then have ruffed a club and exited with a spade, scoring the last two tricks with his ace-ten of hearts.

In actual play, when the queen of hearts was led, East covered with the king in the hope that West had started with the nine-seven. It was not to be. South captured the heart king, drew East's trumps and had ten tricks. South lost just two spades and a diamond, North/South plus 620 and an 8-IMP gain.



This year's Club Championship was held in Luleburgaz at the end of July and was won by PAMUKSPOR, one of whose players was Salim Yilankiran. As you already know, he had been previously sentenced for cheating. At this tournament, he was not only a full sponsor of the team, but also a player.

Other teams in the tournament did not react negatively to his playing in the matches but, after the tournament, social media did. I joined the exchange of ideas with a short paragraph in which I tried to

give a message to young players about the importance of integrity in the game, and also to protect our bridge community. I received much positive feedback on this. By the way, Yilankiran won our most recent national open trials!

Now, the deal, played in Round 3:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Erol</i>		<i>Sahbal</i>	
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠ ¹	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Guarantees a singleton in somewhere

North led the three of hearts. Declarer, Burak Erol, won South's jack with his ace and played the jack of clubs to the king from dummy. After some hesitation, the experienced South player won with his ace and started to think. Deep Finesse says that it is impossible to collect 12 tricks in six spades. However, bridge was human play before ever becoming computer play.

What could be dangerous about playing the queen of clubs? South could not see the danger and continued with the club queen. This defensive play was enough for Erol. Now he had the entries to reduce West's trumps. Declarer ruffed the queen of clubs with the spade nine, cashed the ace-king of spades, ruffed a low heart in dummy, and ruffed the last club in hand. He returned to dummy with a trump, leaving:

<p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ 10</p> <p>♦ Q 9</p> <p>♣ 10 9</p>	<p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ K 9</p> <p>♦ A K 3</p> <p>♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 8</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ 10 8 4 2</p> <p>♣ —</p>
	<p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ Q J</p> <p>♦ J 7 6</p> <p>♣ —</p>	

When Erol played the last spade from dummy, South had no answer.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA.

965. Dealer South. NS Vul.

<p>♠ J 9 4 3 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ A Q J 4</p> <p>♠ 7 5 ♥ K Q J 10 7 4 ♦ A 10 8 ♣ K 9</p> <p>♠ A K 6 2 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ 10 7 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 8 ♥ 8 6 2 ♦ K 9 4 ♣ 8 6 5 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Double	Pass	2♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the king of hearts. Declarer saw that, to have any chance at his contract, he needed to keep his black suit losers to one. Consequently, he needed spades to be 3-2 and either a doubleton queen of trumps or the king of clubs onside. So, after winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, declarer led a low club to West's nine and dummy's jack. Once the latter held, declarer crossed back to hand with a trump to the ace to lead a second low club toward dummy. When the king of clubs appeared, declarer called for dummy's ace of clubs. Next he played a low trump to his king, gratified to see that the suit had broken 3-2.

Declarer now had the contract in sight: he continued by ruffing a heart, then played a low club to his ten. After ruffing his remaining heart in dummy, declarer cashed the queen of clubs, throwing a diamond from hand. Declarer had made nine tricks and as he had two diamonds and two trumps left; the defenders could score only two diamonds and a trump.

You should note that it was essential to play two low clubs from hand on the first two rounds of the suit. If declarer had led the ten of clubs at trick two, West would have covered it with the king, thereby restricting declarer to three club tricks, leaving him a trick short of his contract.

966. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ K 10 7 4 ♥ J 2 ♦ K 10 4 3 ♣ K 7 5</p> <p>♠ J 6 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ Q 9 8 2 ♣ Q J 10 4</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 3 ♥ A K 7 4 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ 9 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 2 ♥ Q 10 9 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ A 8 6 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT ¹
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 15-17			

After a simple Stayman auction to the game in spades, West led the queen of clubs. Declarer played low from dummy, so West continued with the jack of clubs, which also won the trick. The club continuation went to dummy's king and East's ace. Declarer ruffed the latter and paused to consider his options: he had a probable loser in trumps as well as an almost certain loser in diamonds. The best chance might be to make the former disappear in a "Devil's Coup". For that to occur, trumps would need to be 2=3 with split honours. Declarer would also need to be able to cash the red suit winners, with East having more hearts than West.

Accordingly, declarer continued by cashing the ace and king of hearts, then ruffing a heart low in dummy. Next, he cashed the king and ace of diamonds and led his remaining heart. West discarded a club and dummy's seven of trumps won the trick. Declarer next move was to lead a low diamond from dummy. East discarded his remaining club and West won the trick with the nine. West was now endplayed, reduced to the doubleton jack of trumps and the queen of diamonds. If he exited with a trump declarer

would make the rest of the tricks by playing for the queen and jack of trumps to be in different hands. So West played the queen of diamonds and East could do no better than ruff this with his queen of trumps. Declarer overruffed with the ace and then led a low trump from hand. When West played the six dummy's ten was played. When that held, the king of trumps was declarer's tenth trick.

Note that if East had started with a queen-low or jack-low in trumps on the above red-suit layout, then he could have defeated the contract by ruffing the third round of diamonds low and then exiting with his remaining trump.

967. Dealer South. EW Vul.

<p>♠ A K ♥ K 7 5 3 2 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ K 8 4</p> <p>♠ Q 9 7 2 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ Q 10 ♣ Q 10 9 2</p> <p>♠ J 6 3 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A K 6 3 ♣ A J 6 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 5 4 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ J 9 8 5 ♣ 7 5</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Against three notrump, West led a fourth-highest two of spades. When dummy went down declarer could count only six top tricks. Declarer judged that he needed spades to be 4-4 and either a very favourable position in both minors or hearts 3-3 with the ace onside.

As the last condition seemed to require less, declarer took the lead with dummy's king of spades and led a low heart away from the king at trick two. East won this with the jack and continued with a low spade. After winning this with dummy's bare ace, declarer crossed to hand with a low diamond to his king to lead a heart toward dummy. West rose with the ace of hearts and cashed the queen of spades then played his last spade to his partner's ten. Declarer threw a diamond and a low club from dummy on the spades while parting with a diamond from hand.

After winning the fourth round of spades, East exited with a diamond, which was taken by

declarer with the ace. Declarer then led a low club to dummy's king and cashed the king of hearts. When both opponents followed declarer had nine tricks: the six top winners and three hearts.

Note that if the king of hearts had revealed the suit to have been 4-2, declarer could still have made nine tricks if East had had the queen of clubs and either the suit was 3-3 or there was a squeeze in hearts and clubs.

968. Dealer South. NS Vul.

<p>♠ A J ♥ 7 5 4 2 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ K 9 8 6</p> <p>♠ 10 9 8 6 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ J 10 7 3 2 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ K 5 3 ♥ A J ♦ K 9 8 6 5 ♣ A 5 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 4 2 ♥ Q 10 9 6 ♦ — ♣ Q J 10 7 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This deal is from a knockout team game. The auction and the lead, the ten of spades, were identical. At both tables the jack of spades was covered by the queen and king (neither declarer wanted a heart shift at trick two – which was a live possibility if the spade lead was ducked).

The first declarer played the five of diamonds to the two and ace at trick two. When East discarded the two of clubs, declarer no longer had the entries to make four tricks in diamonds. So, declarer ducked a club at trick three. Alas, the original 5-1 break in that suit meant that the defenders were now sure to make five tricks, thereby defeating the contract.

The second declarer was a wily veteran. When he led the five of diamonds at trick two and West played the two he called for dummy's four of diamonds. As a result he had nine tricks: two spades, a heart, four diamonds and two clubs.

The question asked in the post mortem was, "Was the second declarer's play likely to be best over a hundred deals?" The answer was that, if it wasn't, then it was barely so, but it was hard to argue with the successful declarer since it won the match for his side.



2019 EYTC
Jos Jacobs,
Maarn, Netherlands

From Round 17 of the Under-21 European Youth Team Championship, Netherlands v. France ...

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
X Friesen	Fragola	R Goor	Tabata
—	—	3♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

An East pre-empt saw the French landing in a reasonable enough heart game after South had shown both his majors by bidding four clubs. How should you play the hand on a club lead by East to the queen?

Fragola made a good start by advancing the queen of hearts, covered by the king and ace. Declarer crossed back to dummy in clubs and led another heart, this time inserting his eight to guard against a 4-1 break. East won a surprise nine and, having nothing better to play, continued with a club. Declarer ruffed in dummy and led a spade to his jack. After seeing the break, he exited in trumps. West led a diamond and, somewhat surprisingly, East won with his ace and led yet another club, forcing out declarer's last trump. Headed for one off in a contract he could have made, declarer became flustered and pulled a wrong card, going three off instead of one off; plus 150 to Netherlands.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bellicaud	V.d. Paverd	Guth	Nijssen
—	—	3♣	Double
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A slightly different auction led to the same contract in the Closed Room, but from the other side. The play,

however, also went a little differently: club lead to the queen, heart to the ten, ace of hearts, ace of clubs, and a spade to the jack.

So far, so good, but next came a diamond to the king and a diamond to North's ten and East's jack. East could now cash the ace of diamonds as well, but then had to give a ruff and discard. Whenever West ruffed in with his king of hearts, or even worse, once declarer put him in with his lone trump, West would be forced to lead away from his king of spades, so South would not lose any spade tricks at all in the end.

This way, the Netherlands chalked up plus 420 for a fully-deserved 11 IMPs.

The winners were:

U-26 Open Teams – SWEDEN: Ida Grönqvist, Simon Hult, Johannes Matsson, Johan Safsten, Axel Selven, Tom Gards npc, Daniel Gullberg coach

U-21 Open Teams – NETHERLANDS: Xavier Friesen, Ronald Goor, Dieter Goudzwaard, Oscar Nijssen, Tim van de Paverd, Tobias Westerveld, Ruben Buijs npc, Berend van den Bos coach

U-16 Open Teams – ISRAEL: Lavi Batzia Greenberg, Noam Berger, Ido Moskovitz, Daniel Msika, Ofek Sabbah, Tal Samoelov, Danny Loonstein npc

U-26 Women's Teams – POLAND: Zofia Baldysz, Joanna Kokot, Dominika Ocylok, Monika Suchodolska, Joanna Zalewska, Anna Zareba, Rafal Marks npc, Zuzanna Moszczynska coach



The 2019 Spingold
Maurizio Di Sacco, Pisa, Italy
Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.
Ercan Cem, Istanbul
Jan Jansma, Malden, Netherlands

Ninety-eight teams entered the Spingold in Las Vegas. The top seeds were Zimmermann, Nickell, Blass and Fleisher, all perennial contenders for major championships worldwide. Nickell lost in the Round of 16 and Fleisher in the Round of 32. Zimmermann and Blass were fated to reach the final.



Pkoto: Francesca Canali, courtesy of ACBL

The 2019 Spingold champions: Sebastian Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Jacek Pszczola, Michal Nowosadzki, Sjoert Brink

We begin with an *amuse tête* in which North/South violated *Burn's Law of Total Trumps*: "As declarer, it is wise to have more trumps than the defenders."

Round of 32: Spector v. Lebowitz (Cem)

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Upmark	Demuy	Nyström
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♥	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Figuring that declarer might need ruffs in one or both hands, West (John Kranyak) led the six of spades. The lead suggested that East had the queen, so declarer (Fredrick Nyström) played the ace, and continued with a heart. And so began a series of falsecards from both East and West. At trick two, East (Vincent Demuy) smoothly inserted the queen. The fact that West did

not lead a heart was consistent with the play, so declarer placed the ace with West and played low. East persisted with trumps. Declarer won with the king, ruffed a heart in dummy, and continued with the ace, king, and jack of diamonds. East ruffed and played a club to West's ace. West now collected the remaining trump, and continued with the nine of clubs. If West had the aces in the pointed suits along with the spade queen, there was no way he could have the club king on the bidding; so declarer played low from dummy. The defence had the rest for down three, plus 150. The defence took three spades, two hearts and three clubs.

That was worth 6 IMPs to Spector when Gavin Wolpert (North) bid and made three diamonds in the Open Room.

Quarterfinals: Rosenthal v. Blass (Jansma)

My partner, Chris Willenken, performed a feat I'd never seen before on the following deal:

Board 24. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ 8 3 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ A K 8 2 ♣ Q 9 5 3</p> <p>♠ 10 7 5 ♥ A K Q 6 ♦ Q 10 9 3 ♣ 10 4</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 4 2 ♥ J 7 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K J 6 2</p> <p>♠ A K J 6 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ A 8 7</p>
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In the other room, South opened the bidding with a weak notrump and played there, making seven tricks. At our table ...

West	North	East	South
Nowosadski	Jansma	Kalita	Willenken
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
Double	Redouble	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♣ ²	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (i) 12-14/18-19 balanced; (ii.) 15+ with clubs; (iii.) any 18+ HCP
- Reluctant to reopen with double in case of two hearts from Partner

West led three rounds of hearts, then shifted to a spade: five, three, queen, ace. From the tempo of East's final pass, Willenken was inclined to believe he had a few values, and those seemed likely to include the king of clubs. Accordingly, at trick four, he led the club seven and ran it – East won with his jack. Back came a low club in an attempt to get declarer to rise with the ace, but Willenken trusted his judgement and let it run to the queen. Then he cashed his two spade winners and led the fourth spade.

Had West pitched his heart, he'd have been endplayed upon ruffing the third club. So, he ruffed in with the ten of diamonds. Willenken overruffed and had reached this ending.

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

Willenken now led a diamond to the seven, his second intra-finesse of the deal! West won and returned the thirteenth heart but Willenken could overruff the six of diamonds with the jack and finesse in trumps for his contract – and a flat board. He lost just one diamond and one club, along with the three hearts at the beginning.

Quarterfinal Scores

1.	Zimmermann	29	81	133	168
8.	(24) Verbeek	33	48	65	114
5.	(37) Gautret	25	56	96	137
4.	(29) Meltzer	13	22	65	89
2.	(15) Spector	47	62	107	166
7.	Lavazza	27	67	118	157

6.	Rosenthal	26	36	78	113
3.	Blass	24	61	91	126

The team number indicates its current seed number; the number in parentheses indicates its initial seed number if it differs from the current seed number.

The Semifinals pitted:

Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Tor Helness (Monaco); Piotr Gawrys, Michal Klukowski, Krzysztof Martens (Poland)

versus

Eric Gautret, Marc Mus, Cathérine Mus, Michel Abecassis, Pierre Franceschetti, Jérôme Rombaut (France)

and ...

Josef Blass, npc, Jacek Pszczola (USA); Jacek Kalita, Michal Nowosadzki (Poland); Sjoert Brink, Sebastian Drijver (Netherlands)

versus

Warren Spector, Gavin Wolpert, John Hurd, Joel Wooldridge, Vincent Demuy, John Kranyak (USA)

Notwithstanding their current allegiances, by birth, we had seven Poles, seven French, four Americans, two Dutch, two Canadians, one Norwegian and one Swiss in the semifinals, a pretty diversified and cosmopolitan bunch.

Semifinals (Horton)

Sometimes the foundations for a successful defence are laid during the auction. Look at this deal from the semifinal between Blass and Spector:

Board 6. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	Kranyak	Drijver	Demuy
—	—	INT	Pass
2♣	2♥	2♠ ¹	3♥
4♥	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♠	7♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 5 spades			

The critical point was North's decision over six spades. A Lightner Double might have attracted a diamond

lead, but West's four hearts suggested that the ace of hearts would not be a trick. Rather than speculate on the outcome, North took what he expected to be a cheap save against a likely 1430. Seven hearts doubled lost the four obvious tricks, minus 800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Spector</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣	2♥	2♠	3♥
4♥	5♥	Pass	Pass
5NT ¹	6♦	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Pick a slam

When West bid five notrump, Pepsi saw an opportunity and suggested a lead with six diamonds. East may have suspected a ruff was coming, but thought that that might be the only trick for the defence. After six spades, the spotlight was on South. Double was a possibility, hoping that the king of spades would be a trick, but that risked driving East/West to a possible six notrump, which might easily be laydown. South took the middle road, his pass perhaps suggesting that he was not averse to defending. He led the seven of diamonds and, moments later, the defenders were inscribing plus 100 and 14 IMPs onto their scorecards.

The critical moment for the defence frequently occurs at trick one. Here are a couple of examples from the semifinals.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

In the Open Room, Gawrys and Klukowski played in four hearts, recording plus 480. By contrast ...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Mus</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Gautret</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With only two points in the majors, South was perhaps unwise to go past four hearts but, looking at the position in hearts, it appeared that the contract was destined to succeed – at least until West tabled the ten of spades. That, and a spade continuation when in with the ace of hearts, destroyed declarer's transportation, and some desperate manoeuvres and diamond misguesses resulted in three down and the loss of 12 IMPs.

Board 37. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♥	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Naturally, West led a club, but that allowed declarer to win, take two rounds of spades and then play on hearts for plus 620. You can understand why East bid three clubs but, on this deal, it might have been better to await developments, only competing if North/South's auction died in two spades.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When West led his stronger(!) minor, selecting the two of diamonds, declarer could not avoid the loss of three diamonds and a heart.

Zimmermann defeated Gautret 110-86 and Blass had the better of Spector, 108-88.

The Final (Di Sacco)

Stanza I

The two teams, Zimmerman and Blass, had reached the final stage by rather different means: Zimmerman, the holders, annihilated all their opponents until the semifinal, where they struggled before eliminating Gautret (eventually winning by 24 IMPs); Blass, had a very easy round of 64 but needed to put up strong fights from then on.

It was an almost all-Polish final: Blass included four Polish-born players, while Zimmerman lined up with three Poles: Gawrys, Klukowski and Martens, the last, lacking Geir Helgemo, forming an unusual partnership with Tor Helness.

The first swing came on Board 3, double digits to Zimmerman, though it could have gone the other way after Brink's lead. Here are his cards and the auction:

♠ 8
♥ 9 6 2
♦ J 3
♣ A K Q J 10 6 4

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♣	4♣
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The Dutchman rejected a routine club lead, tabling his singleton spade instead, and he was right in principle, since here is the full layout:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul

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

After the spade lead, the defenders can prevail: North needs to win the spade lead and shift to a diamond, threatening declarer's transportation. Now it is no good for East to play a spade: South pitches the jack of diamonds and immediately afterwards scores a ruff. Nor does playing a club work: South allows North to win it (mandatory), and North cashes the second spade honour to allow South to throw his second diamond. Curtains.

However, reasonably enough, looking for a trump promotion, Drijver cashed the second spade immediately, and there was no rescue.

At the other table, Zimmerman's decision to save worked very well, since five clubs doubled was just one off.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>		<i>Pszczola</i>
<i>Multon</i>			
—	—	—	3NT ¹
Pass	4♣ ²	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	5♣	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Solid minor, no outside ace or king
2. Pass or correct

Pszczola could have saved 3 IMPs by leading a trump, but he tabled instead a normal king of hearts, but was awake enough to shift to a trump when Kalita gave reverse count, thus avoiding the fatal continuation of a second heart. That was 11 IMPs to the holders, Zimmermann.

The following board, despite being flat, was not at all dull.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>		<i>Pszczola</i>
<i>Multon</i>			
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²
Pass	1♥ ³	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ clubs
2. 4+ hearts
3. 12-14, 3 hearts

Four hearts failed by a trick, losing two clubs, one diamond and one heart.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Natural or a 3-card heart raise

Brink and Drijver had the possibility to score a big swing when they landed in three notrump, a contract which proved to be touch-and-go. A club lead would have beaten three notrump out of hand, but Gawrys tabled a normal diamond, won by Klukowski's ace. West reasoned that North had the king of diamonds for his three-notrump bid and there was no way East would have two entries to set up and run the diamonds, but there was room in East's hand for one big card, so Klukowski shifted to a club, leaving the defence ahead. Gawrys won and continued the suit, returning the eight (their systemic card). When Klukowski ducked, Drijver was one off for a push.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Multon</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Double	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Double	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The first stanza ended with a pushed board, but both North/South pairs missed the chance to score a 10-IMP swing, not finding the winning defence against four hearts. In the Open Room, Zimmerman led the six of diamonds, and when declarer ducked in dummy, Multon had the chance to win and play a spade. Had he done so, North could have won and continued with another spade, then, upon winning with the ace of hearts, a third round of spades would have allowed South to score the setting trick with the trump queen. However, Multon put in the ten, and Kalita did not have any further problems.

In the Closed Room Drijver led the ace of spades and another, setting up the winning position straight away, but when Klukowski won with the king of spades, he

came to hand with the queen of clubs and played a heart, won by North with the ace, who shifted with a diamond. This was not a silly mistake: Drijver had to decide whether to play his partner for the queen of hearts or the king-jack of diamonds. Shift the queen of hearts and the jack of diamonds between West and South, and North's play would have been the only way to spare his partner a fatal endplay.

Blass led 30-26.

Stanza 2

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p>♠ Q 9 8 6 4 3 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ Q J 6 2 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ J 5 ♥ A J 5 4 2 ♦ K ♣ A J 7 3 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 2 ♥ 6 ♦ A 8 7 3 ♣ 10 9 8 5 4</p>	<p>♠ A 7 ♥ K 9 8 7 ♦ 10 9 5 4 ♣ K Q 6</p>
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Multon</i>
1♥	1♠	2♦ ¹	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Heart support			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♥	2♠	2NT ¹	4♠
5♣	5♠	6♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Heart support			

The two auctions almost seem to belong to two different boards: Multon/Zimmerman bid their cards cautiously, not daring to go beyond the three level, while Brink/Drijver didn't care about the adverse vulnerability, bidding quickly to the five level, and then doubling the final contract! Five spades would have cost an easy 500 (two heart tricks, one spade and one diamond), but slam was not such a bad proposition, since it would have rolled home had the queen of hearts come in (well, with clubs 5-0 you also need hearts to be 2-2, not so far from even money).

A spade lead or a spade at trick two would have netted 300, but Drijver led the queen of diamonds, and Brink, in with the ace, simply gave his partner a club ruff. Blass picked 11 IMPs. After an even set, Blass still led by 4 IMPs, 58-54.

Stanza 3

Bridge is a fascinating game, as we all know, but sometimes it surpasses fascination. When a top-class player brings a spark of genius, and another is superlative enough to recognise it, this second fine player can fall into a trap that few mere mortals would contemplate. Such was the case in the third quarter. Our stars were Dutch champion Sjoert Brink and Norway's eminent Tor Helness. Here are the cards and auctions at the two tables:

Board 45 Dealer South. NS Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 ♥ K Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ K 5 3 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 8 4 2 ♥ J 10 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ A K 10 6 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A K 9 7 ♥ 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ J 9 7 5 4 3</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 5 3 ♥ A ♦ A J 10 9 4 ♣ Q 8</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Martens</i>
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♥ ²
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

1. Key-card ask
2. 2 key cards

Both North/South pairs bid exactly the same way, North chancing that South did not have the ace of clubs, and easily (or roughly, depending on your point of view) getting to six hearts. However, as Edgar Kaplan used to say, then came the tough bit: bringing it home.

After the king-of-spades lead and a trump shift – the identical sequence of plays at both tables – it is easy to spot, double dummy, that declarer does not need to guess diamonds: spades are guarded by East, and both top club honours are in West's hand, so a routine double squeeze was pending (well, technically, it is not exactly a double squeeze, since diamonds can be guarded by one player only, but the principle is exactly the same: you don't need to know who holds the diamond guard), and I can bet that had the declarers not been looking at the jack-ten of diamonds, the board would have been flat.

North runs hearts. When North cashes his last trump, it doesn't matter who holds three diamonds;

if it is East, he's squeezed in spades and diamonds, if it is West, when declarer ditches dummy's third diamond, West will be squeezed between the minors.

But, unfortunately for Helness and Nowosadzki, two players who can execute a double squeeze even when fast asleep, dummy held the jack and ten of diamonds and, to add to the problem, they were each opposed by two top-class defenders who, as we shall see, played a very important role.

Let's look at how play continued. Both declarers presented dummy's queen of spades at trick three, ruffing it, then started cashing hearts. Where Helness was at the helm, Brink pitched the ace of clubs at trick five and, had he been a normal player, Helness would have certainly taken it at full value and executed the double squeeze. Brink is certainly a defender who is able to think far ahead in the play of a deal. So here is the point that surely troubled Helness as he declared this slam: "My fine opponent knows double squeezes perfectly well, so he knew what was coming, yet he, for some reason, has told me how to play the deal. Hmmm, really, should I believe him?" In other words, Helness was thinking "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts." So, Helness evidently thought Brink had false-carded because, on his penultimate heart, Helness discarded the queen of clubs from the dummy. When declarer played the king of diamonds from hand, he was one off.

In the other room, Nowosadzki came to the same five-card ending, but with one significant difference: in the real position, West held the ace-king of clubs instead of the king-ten, so declarer knew that a double squeeze would have required West to hold both club top honours. Instead, Nowosadzki decided to read East's distribution, rather than going with the odds. Accordingly, he pitched dummy's queen of clubs and tabled his last trump. East's jack of clubs revealed him as the holder of a doubleton diamond, so declarer threw dummy's jack of spades and finessed West for the queen of diamonds. Well done, but kudos to Brink for sowing the seed of doubt in Helness's mind.

Perhaps, Gawrys (East), against Nowosadzki, might have tried some deception too: let's say that in the four-card ending, he had pitched a diamond instead of the jack of clubs. That discard might well have convinced Nowosadzki that he had pitched from an original three-card holding and he might then have misguessed diamonds.

The set ended with Blass ahead 114-79. The last board had been a killer.

Stanza 4

Board 49. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♦ ²
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards

Martens took Helness' three-diamond bid as slamish, or perhaps coming from a hand lacking a spade stopper (both options were reasonable), but Helness was just describing his hand. Clearly, the two were not on the same wavelength, or perhaps Helness was just trying to create a swing but, when the dust had settled, the two had landed in a makeable contract, while three notrump, played by South – the contract reached in the other room – fails by two tricks on the jack-of-spades lead.

Helness won the deceptive jack-of-clubs lead with dummy's king and played a spade to his king. Drijver won and shifted to a trump, won by dummy's queen. Declarer led a heart to his king and East's ace. It is not easy to see how East must continue to ensure the defeat of five diamonds, but he unerringly found it – the nine of hearts. A trump or a club continuation would have allowed declarer to set up a fourth club trick (assuming the finesse of the ten) with the queen of hearts as an entry, while the actual heart continuation knocked out that entry. Attempting to set up hearts or finessing the heart ten would have led to a trump promotion or a second heart trick respectively.

Helness could have succeeded, double dummy, by playing on hearts or trumps at trick two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room, Klukowski found the lead of the three of clubs (second- and fourth-best) and, with the ace of hearts with East, declarer had no trouble coming to ten tricks; 10 IMPs to Blass.

Down 35 IMPs to start the session and, having gone down in a game you could have made and failed to beat a game you could have defeated, it's tough to come back. Trying to make up some ground, with four boards to play, Gawrys and Klukowski bid a diamond grand slam with a trump suit of queen-jack-nine-seventh opposite ace-doubleton. Trumps were two-two, but the king was offside. As so often happens, their opposite numbers were in game, so a small slam would have won 11 IMPs instead of losing 11, giving them some faint hope. As it was, seven diamonds was the death knell.

On Board 60, with neither side vulnerable, the North players, Helness and Nowosadzki, held:

♠ A J 5
♥ A K 10 6 2
♦ A Q 4
♣ 8 7

They saw Pass–Four Clubs–Pass to them. Your choice? Nowosadzki raised to five, Helness to six. South held:

♠ 7 2
♥ —
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ A J 9 6 5 3 2

Trumps were two-two with the top honours split and there were no impending defensive ruffs, so six clubs could not go down. It was 11 IMPs to Zimmermann, making the final score 152-95 to Blass.



World Youth Transnational Championships

Opatija, Croatia
August 20-29, 2019

**Fernando Lema
& Ana Roth,
Buenos Aires**

On the following deal from the second session of the Under-21 Open Pairs, Ilai Ilan Baniri of Israel, playing with Alexander Sandin from Sweden, created a beautiful end position in executing an unusual safety play.

Baniri/Sandin won the silver medal.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North <i>Baniri</i>	East	South <i>Sandin</i>
1♣	1♠	2♥ ¹	2♠
3♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Not forcing			

The opening lead was the jack of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and led a diamond to the jack and West's ace. West returned another heart. Baniri won with the king and continued diamonds, leading to the king and ruffing a third diamond in hand. This was the position:

♠ A 10 8 7 5 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J 7 4 ♠ Q J 6 ♥ Q 5 ♦ — ♣ A 10 9	♠ 2 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ Q ♣ K 8 2 ♠ K 9 3 ♥ — ♦ 9 8 ♣ Q 6 5
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Baniri continued by leading the eight of spades, playing the three from dummy! West won the trick with his queen, but he was end-played. No card from his hand would defeat the contract: (a.) a heart return would give declarer a ruff-and-discard, (b.) a club return would give declarer a club trick and (c.) a spade return would give declarer two trump entries to the dummy to ruff a diamond and get back to the established diamond.

**Under-26 Open Pairs Qualifying, Session 6
Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

West	North <i>Scatá</i>	East	South <i>Donati</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♦ ¹	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠ ²	Pass	4♣ ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to hearts
2. Denies four spades and ask to choose between 3NT and 4♥
3. Club control, good fit in hearts.

Giovanni Donati's endplay on this deal helped them reach the final.

West led the six of clubs. Declarer won the first trick with dummy's jack and drew three rounds of trumps, seeing West discard a diamond. Declarer cashed the queen of clubs, West following with the three, and realized that West only had two clubs and probably five diamonds because of his discard on the last trump. His possible distribution was 4=2=5=2.

Declarer played another trump, watching West discard a spade, and afterwards ran the clubs, discarding dummy's spades. West discarded two spades and a diamond. At that moment, Donati knew that West only had one spade and three diamonds, so he ruffed a spade to take West's last spade (escape card). Now declarer was able to play the eight of diamonds from dummy; East played the ten, Donati the queen, and poor West won with the king. West had to return a diamond, giving declarer the rest of the tricks.

2019 WYTC Winners Joan Gerard Awards

U-16: Jasmine Bahkshi (England)
U-21: Rui Wang (China)

U-26: Team Australia (Renee Cooper, John McMahon, Nicholas Ranson, Matthew Smith, Andrew Spooner, Jamie Thompson, Michael Doecke NPC)
U-26 Women: Joanna Zalewska (Poland)

Teams

U-16: Sxmars (China) – Yanzhuo Fu, Zhuxiongjie Gao, Ningyu Lang, Haotian Shen, Zicheng Wang, Fanfei Yu, Wei Yang NPC, Yihong Liu Coach
U-21: Poland – Jakub Bazyluk, Krzysztof Cichy, Tomasz Kielbasa, Kacper Kopka, Marek Markowski NPC
U-26: Sivy B (USA) – Cornelius Duffie, Benjamin Kristensen, Kevin Rosenberg, Sarah Youngquist
U-26 Women: Sofies World (Norway) – Thea Lucia Indrebo, Agnethe Hansen Kjensli, Ida Marie Öberg, Sofie Grasholt Sjødal

Pairs

U-16: Louis Bonin / Clément Bens (France)

U-21: Tomasz Kielbasa / Kacper Kopka (Poland)

U-26: Amir Ezion / Lior Urman (Israel)

U-26 Women: Thea Indrebø / Ida M. Öberg
(Norway)

Individual

U-16: Tianle Yao (China)

U-21: Krzysztof Cichy, Poland

U-26: Mateusz Sobczak (Poland)

U-26 Women: Valentina Dalpozzo (Italy)

Editorial (continued) ...

The inexperience part comes in when pondering whether East could 'reasonably' have understood the meaning of a non-alerted two hearts. When playing a notrump range within the weak (11)12-14 or mini (9)10-12(13) limits, it is theoretically unsound to play transfers (as the Dutch knew, but neither East nor the TD seemed to). Let's look at a range of 10-13, the actual case, where the effects are more evident. The main advantage of transfers is to get the lead coming into, rather than through, the strong hand. If the partner of the mini-notrumper has as much as an invitation to game, his hand will be the stronger of the two, so that advantage is lost. But the main disadvantage to playing transfers over the weaker notrump openings is that it gives the opponents another opportunity to bid. Compare these two auctions:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass(1)	2♥	Pass(2)	Pass
Pass(3)			

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass(1)	2♦	Pass(2)	2♥
Pass(3)	Pass	Pass(4)	

In the second, transfer, auction, East has had twice the number of opportunities to bid and the partnership has had four, rather than three, opportunities in total. Not only that, but the transfer auction gives East a wider range of options to describe his hand. He can bid a suit immediately or later, delineating strength, or he can double two diamonds as a general-strength bid, or as a lead-director, as the partnership chooses. So, a pair playing a 12-14 or weaker notrump range would be wise to adopt the Dutch methods. Many but, it must be admitted, not all, weak notrumpers understand this principle. In our view, that is on the head of East/West and their NPC or coach, not the Dutch players.

Indeed, we'd go as far as reversing this 'unfortunate' ruling and awarding joint bronze medals to the Dutch kids and the winners awarded the medals at the event.



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.
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JC,

Barry Rigal's *Methods Matter* (August IBPA) is thought provoking. However, many pairs have decent methods over an old fashioned two-notrump opening. *Flags & Scrambles* is worthy of inspection – it was designed by a well-known Koach – in which three spades puppets to three notrump with minor-suit one- and two-suiters and major-suit shortage then shown.

Similarly, another method that would cope with Barry's example (♠A94 ♥A9 ♦KJ542 ♣AKJ opposite ♠J♥QJ10 ♦A10987 ♣9532) is one I developed for Sandra Landy and Sally Brock more than 30 years ago: three spades asks South to bid three notrump, and then one can make slam tries in the minor suits, as follows: 4♣=clubs and secondary diamonds; 4♦=diamonds and secondary clubs; 4♥=clubs; 4♠=diamonds, and; 4NT=5-5 or better in the minors.

The bidding in Barry's pair of example hands might then go: 2NT-3♠-3NT-4♦-4♥-4♠-5♣-5♦-6♦.

Regards,

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury



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World Bridge Calendar

2019

Sep 6-11	Festival du Liban	Baada, Lebanon	bridgeliban@cyberia.net.lb
Sep 6-15	Guernsey Congress	Les Cotils, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 6-18	58 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	http://pulabridgefestival.com/
Sep 13-15	Northern Lights Festival	Siglufoerdur, Iceland	www.vikingbridgeiceland.com
Sep 14-28	44th World Championships	Wuhan, China	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 18-22	9 th Internationales de Marrakech	Marrakech, Morocco	www.bridgemarrakech.com
Sep 21-22	Città di Roma	Rome, Italy	www.torneocittadiroma.it
Sep 26-29	7 th Bodrum Festival	Bodrum, Turkey	www.tbicfed.tr
Sep 26-29	XXIV Torneo Internacional	Cali, Colombia	www.campestrecali.com
Sep 27-Oct 5	NZB National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzbridge.co.nz/congress/
Sep 29	2019 IBPA Awards	Hainan Bridge Festival	lijie0511@hotmail.com
Sep 30-Oct 14	Hainan Bridge Festival	Sanya, Hainan, China	wangjj_bridge@yahoo.com
Sep 28-Oct 5	NZB National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 1-6	XXIII Festival Internacional dos Açores	Azores Is., Portugal	https://fpbridge.pt
Oct 7-10	6 th Merit International Festival	Kyrenia, Cyprus	www.bridgemerit.com
Oct 8-14	Sicily Overseas Congress	Palermo, Sicily, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 9-16	56 th Internacional de Las Palmas	Las Palmas, Canary Is., Spain	www.bridgelas palmas.es
Oct 11-12	Gold Cup Finals	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 11-15	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.bridgescanner.com
Oct 16-20	Jordan International Festival	Amman, Jordan	www.jordanbridgefederation.com
Oct 20-27	European Small Federations Champ.	Novi Sad, Serbia	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 24-31	5 th Festival de Bridge du Paris CC	Rueil-Malmaison, France	www.parisbridgefestival.com
Oct 26	2 nd Anna Maria Torlantino Memorial	Pescara, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Oct 29-31	KCBL Open	Seoul, South Korea	www.pabf.org
Oct 31-Nov 11	22 nd Madeira Open	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	www.madeira-bridge.com
Nov 7-9	6 th Marbella International	Marbella, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Nov 7-17	Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Nov 14-16	18 th European Champions Cup	Bucharest, Romania	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 20-24	6 th Festival el-Gouna	Qesm Hurghada, Egypt	maykhourig@gmail.com
Nov 28-Dec 8	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 29-Dec 4	National Day Festival	Dubai, UAE	amr.mekky@hotmail.com
Nov 30-Dec 8	4 th Sunway International Festival	Sitges (Barcelona), Spain	www.sunwaybridgefestival.com
Dec 6-8	SBU Winter Congress	Peebles, Scotland	www.sbu.org.uk
Dec 6-8	Città di Milano	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 14-16	Cape Town Festival	Cape Town, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Dec 27-30	Year End Congress	Blackpool, England	www.ebu.co.uk

2020

Jan 8-19	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 13-22	78 th International Tournament	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridge-stmoritz.ch
Jan 25-31	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 30-Feb 2	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.reykjavikbridgefestival.com
Feb 5-11	EBU Overseas Congress	Rome, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 10-15	29 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados	www.barbadosbridge.org
Feb 20-23	Slava Cup	Moscow, Russia	www.slavacup.com
Feb 21-29	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com.au
Feb 28-Mar 8	3 rd European Winter Games	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.wintergames.bridgemonaco.com
Mar 5-8	Tórshavn Bridge Festival	Tórshavn, Faroe Islands	www.bridge.fo
Mar 15-20	Dead Sea Festival	Be'er Sheva, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Mar 18-28	ACBL Spring NABC	Columbus, Ohio	www.acbl.org
Mar 26-29	Tasmanian Bridge Festival	Launceston, Tasmania, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 1-3	German Bridge Trophy	Berlin, Germany	bridge.schroeder@t-online.de
Jun 17-27	55 th Euro National Team Champs.	Funchal, Madeira Is., Portugal	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 2-11	Kongres Brydzowy	Slawa, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Jul 3-12	Dansk Bridgefestival	Svendborg, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 16-26	ACBL Summer NABC	Montréal, Quebec	www.acbl.org
Jul 24-26	Summer Congress	Dublin, Ireland	www.cbai.ie
Jul 24-Aug 2	26 th Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 25-30	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 31-Aug 9	Kongres Bałtycki	Sopot, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Aug 2-8	Wachauer Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 21-30	Grand Prix Warszawy	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Sep 11-16	World University Championships	Bydgoszcz, Poland	www.fisu.net
Nov 26-Dec 6	ACBL Fall NABC	Tampa, Florida	www.acbl.org