

# 1<sup>st</sup> WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS



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## Italy, Japan & Czech Republic in the final



*Japanese and Czech players after they made it to the top of the hill*

Yesterday was a sensational day. How often has it happened that two knock-out matches out of a total of 6 in a day were decided by 1 IMP? Still, this is what happened here. Firstly, Greecoura had to surrender to USA Blue by the smallest of (regular) margins in the quarterfinals. Late in the day, only by about 20.30, it turned out that the same fate had struck Netherlands Red who lost to Japan Czech by the same margin. So it's Italy Red v. Japan Czech today over 48 boards. Good luck and all the best to both teams and let's hope it's at least not going into that nail-biting extra-time.

### Today's - Schedule

- 10.00 KO Teams – Final & 3/4 1st set
- 10.00 B-A-M Teams - 4th Session
- 13.00 KO Teams – Final & 3/4 2nd set
- 13.00 B-A-M Teams - 5th Session
- 15.40 KO Teams – Final 3rd set
- 15.30 B-A-M Teams - 6th Session

# KO TEAMS

## ROUND OF 8

		1st	2nd	total
1	<b>USA BLUE</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>46</b>
	GREECOURA	11	34	45
2	<b>ITALY RED</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>71</b>
	FRANCE	5	12	17
3	<b>NETHERLANDS RED</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>91</b>
	NONAME	26	18	44
4	POLAND	15	38	53
	<b>JAPAN-CZECH</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>76</b>

## ROUND OF 4

		1st	2nd	total
1	<b>ITALY RED</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>72</b>
	USA BLUE	20	25	45
2	NETHERLANDS RED	43	18	61
	<b>JAPAN-CZECH</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>62</b>

## BOARD-A-MATCH

### RANKING AFTER SESSION 3

1	ITALY GREEN	32.00
2	POLAND	31.00
3	NETHERLANDS WHITE	29.50
4	CKIS SKAWINA	28.50
5	YALANKIRAN 2	28.00
6	SCOTLAND U26	27.00
	FRANCE	27.00
8	T42	26.85
9	USA RED	26.50
10	TOFAS	26.00
	AUSTRALIA	26.00
12	YALANKIRAN 1	25.00
13	POKEMON	24.00
14	NETHERLANDS ORANGE	23.50
	OZE-CKIS	23.50
16	NETHERLANDS BLUE	23.00
17	BELGIUM	22.00
18	YALANKIRAN 3	21.50
	JAPAN	21.50
	NONAME	21.50
21	NETHERLANDS GIRLS	21.00
	GREECOURA	21.00
	4 HEARTS	21.00
	GREECE BLUE	21.00
25	TURKIYE-GIRLS	20.00
26	SCOTLAND U21	19.00
27	VAX SAYLKAN	18.50
	VAX 2	18.50
29	ITALY WHITE	17.65
30	SWITZERLAND	17.50
31	KARACASU	16.50
32	VENEZUELA	16.00
33	PAKISTAN	15.50
34	GREECE SKY	13.50

## The beauty of our game

Board 30 (Round 12) revisited

In yesterday's Bulletin, we already had a report on the sensational board 30, played on Monday afternoon. For your convenience, here is it again.

Board: 30. Dir: East/None

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

Knowing nothing about the NS hands, you are bound to go down in 7NT (or 7♣) as there is no reason why you shouldn't combine your chances: first testing the spades and then relying on the heart finesse, if necessary. The success rate is about 70%.

So far for the percentage plays, because looking at what was happening at many tables, we felt and still feel that the other aspects of this hand are much more interesting. First of all, it is always depressing, or even disgusting, to find out that you can make a hand by adopting a technically inferior but artistically more satisfying line which, in this case, leads to a beautiful end position. The squeeze works, of course, but South might make life very difficult for you by discarding two spades. Wouldn't you be inclined to finesse the jack through North in that case? Now look at the hand again. Both top diamonds are with North so he would be squeezed in front of dummy, having to throw either his last top diamond or a spade - in which case you would have a perfect count on the hand.

However, if you were doubled in hearts and run to NT or clubs, you would know the heart finesse doesn't work. So in that case, it cannot cost to play a heart first - and then it turns out that you will be guided into the winning line almost automatically. That's why we feel bridge is such a beautiful game...

## The Quarterfinals, first half

by Jos Jacobs and Marjo Chorus

For the first half of the quarterfinals, we chose USA Blue v. Greecoura and Netherlands Red v. Noname as our two matches to watch closely. So far, the Americans have been doing very well, so one would expect them to take a big lead early on. As early as board 2, the Americans sprinted away:

Board: 2. Dlr: East/NS

♠ Q J 5 2

♥ 5 4

♦ Q J 9 8 3

♣ A 9

♠ K 8

♥ Q 3

♦ 10 4

♣ K Q J 10 6 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 7 6 4 3

♥ A 9 6

♦ A 6 5

♣ 7 5

♠ 10 9

♥ K J 10 8 7 2

♦ K 7 2

♣ 8 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Fournier</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	All pass		



Petros Roussos, Greece

Well, this is a decent enough contract, even more so as EW are not vulnerable. Ten tricks, Greecoura +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fay</i>	<i>Darkadakis</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Roussos</i>
		1♠	2♥
3♣	Pass	3NT	All pass

For USA Blue, Chiu boldly bid 3NT, leaving his opponents in the dark. Dummy's ♥Q was a welcome asset when South led the ♥J but on a diamond lead, it would have been a different story. This hand is a fine example of the young Americans' approach, we think: bid what you think you can make and leave the hard work (finding the killing diamond lead, for example) to your opponents. Eleven tricks, +460 to USA Blue and their first 8 IMPs.

In the other match, the unnamed (?) local heroes took the lead:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Imamoglu</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All pass		

On a diamond lead and continuation, Molenaar is an entry short to both establish the spades and enjoy them too. One down, Noname +50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozer</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
		1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All pass

After Ozer's invitational 3♣, Serdar, like Chiu in our other match, makes the practical bid of 3NT. Michielsen could not possibly find the diamond lead either, so she too led the ♥J. When dummy's Queen held the trick, Serdar quickly had 11 tricks. Noname +460 and 11 IMPs – a very useful start indeed.

Bidding aggressively apparently is the issue in these matches; doubled and undoubled undertricks, preferably vulnerable, can be seen everywhere. Even +800 need not be a winning score...so the players at the table could not possibly have had any correct idea about the running score in their match. Maybe, talented young players should be trained to play rubber bridge for money; too shaded over-

calls and sub-standard pre-empts will disappear very quickly, we would think.

Look at board 5, for example:

Board: 5. Dlr: North/NS

<p>♠ K 7 6 5 3 2 ♥ 9 8 5 ♦ - ♣ A Q 9 8</p>	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ A J 10 9 ♥ Q 2 ♦ Q J 7 6 2 ♣ J 10</p>	<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ J 10 7 6 4 ♦ 9 5 3 ♣ 5 4 3</p>
N						
W E						
S						

West can make 6♦ but neither table comes anywhere near:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozer</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
	2♦	Pass	2♠
Dble	All pass		

A nice Multi in shape but a shaky suit. Marion Michielsen gets the unpleasant job of trying to restrict the number of undertricks. She ruffs the opening lead of the ♦A and plays a heart. A diamond comes back, ruffed again and another heart, ruffed by East to prevent West from being sort of endplayed. ♠A and another spade now makes it an easy down three. Noname +800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Imamoglu</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All pass		

North has the good sense to pass as dealer but he cannot resist temptation at his second attempt, even less so as INT was explained as game-forcing. Molenaar doubles for take-out and Verbeek is happy to sit, so no slam here either. East is on lead here and produces the ♣J into declarer's tenace. Declarer wins the ♣Q, cashes the ♣A and exits in clubs on which East discards a very clear ♦Q. The defence can now play diamonds every time so declarer loses four trump tricks and three hearts for down three and...a flat board. Ouff!

In the other match, there also was no slam, though the Americans came close to it, and no swing. Neither EW pair

even bothered to defend 1♠, of course.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Fournier</i>
	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fay</i>	<i>Darkadakis</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Roussos</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	All pass

On the next board, however, there was a swing when the American approach failed, for a change:

Board: 6. Dlr: East/EW

<p>♠ Q 4 3 2 ♥ J 9 6 5 3 2 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 9</p>	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ 7 6 5 ♥ A 10 4 ♦ Q 10 9 4 ♣ J 8 2</p>	<p>♠ K J 9 ♥ Q 8 7 ♦ J ♣ A 10 6 5 4 3</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Fournier</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All pass			

This type of North hand does not look very suitable for a Strong Club system. You have to sign-off first and then show your suit, so you easily get far too high...

On a club lead, declarer went 250 down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fay</i>	<i>Darkadakis</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Roussos</i>
		Pass	1♦
All pass			

The Greeks follow exactly the opposite approach. This



time, it worked well as eight tricks were easy. Greecoura another +90 and 8 IMPs back to take over the lead: 10-8 to them at this point.

Board: 8. Dlr: West/None

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

Closed Room

West <i>Molenaar</i>	North <i>Imamoglu</i>	East <i>Verbeek</i>	South <i>Sofu</i>
1♦	1♥	Dble	2♥
Dble	Pass	3♥	Dble
Pass	Pass	Redble	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All pass

This was an interesting auction. East's double showed four spades and West's double showed three. South's double discouraged a heart lead. After all, EW get just enough room to investigate if 3NT was a possibility and thus, that's the place where it all ends for them. Nine tricks, NL Red +400.



Levent Imamoglu, Turkey

Open Room

West <i>Ozer</i>	North <i>Drijver</i>	East <i>Serdar</i>	South <i>Michielsen</i>
1♦	1♥	Dble	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All pass

After Michielsen's jump to 3♥, EW no longer dare to bid 3NT. With the clubs 4-1, their alternative game contract proved one too high at the table, though double-dummy, you might just make it. NL Red another +100 and 11 IMPs back.

And the Dutch strike again, one board later:

Board: 9. Dlr: North/EW

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

Closed Room

West <i>Molenaar</i>	North <i>Imamoglu</i>	East <i>Verbeek</i>	South <i>Sofu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
4♣	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All pass

Molenaar's 4♣ fitbid did the job for the Dutch. Verbeek now has every reason to launch RKC and the excellent slam is duly reached: NL Red +1430.

Open Room

West <i>Ozer</i>	North <i>Drijver</i>	East <i>Serdar</i>	South <i>Michielsen</i>
2♥	Pass	1♥	1♠
	4♠	Dble	All pass

When Ozer just bid 2♥ rather than 4♣, Serdar had far less info available when Drijver raised the pre-empt. So 4♠ doubled is the final contract. It cost the Dutch -800 but they gained 12 IMPs in the process to take the lead for the first time in the match: 24-19.

In the other match, a variety of pre-empts:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Fournier</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♣	4♠	Dble	All pass

Doxiadi's slow approach does not work at all. Greecoura +800.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fay</i>	<i>Darkadakis</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Roussos</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♠	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Dble	All pass

Darkadakis bids one more for the road when his opponents are willing to stop in 5♥. Roussos thus went down five for -1100, the extra undertrick being worth 7 IMPs to USA Blue who thus regain the lead: 16-10.

The next board is a partscore swing to USA Blue and then, the slow approach is beaten again by the fast approach:

Board: 11. Dlr: South/None

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kontomitros</i>	<i>Fournier</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	3♣	Dble
Pass	4♠	All pass	

Well, you might be content with bidding just 3♠. Or would you? Greecoura +200 but 6 more IMPs to USA Blue whose lead goes up to 27-10. The halftime score in their match was 30-11.

On the pre-last board of the segment, the Dutch increase their lead:

Board: 13. Dlr: North/All

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Imamoglu</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Sofu</i>
	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

2♥ by West showed diamonds. The contract is far too high but when South led the ♥J, there suddenly was an extra heart stopper as well as an extra trick. Declarer won the Ace and ducked a diamond to North's Queen. Hearts came back, dummy winning the Queen and next, the ♣10 was successfully run. After cashing four club tricks, declarer crossed to the ♠A and led another low diamond to ensure his 8th trick. One down, Noname +100.

Fireworks in the Open Room:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ozer</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Serdar</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All pass			

Seeing the suits behaving badly, Marion Michielsen doubled the final contract. She too led the ♥J, covered all round. At this table too, declarer ducked a diamond to North but Drijver now found the logical return (in view of the double) of the ♠8. Declarer next led a diamond off dummy, felling North's Ace but the defenders could simply cash out for down two. NL Red +500 and a very useful 9 IMPs to lead 35-26 at halftime.

What's the problem? USA Blue +450.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fay</i>	<i>Darkadakis</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Roussos</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	3♣	3♥
Pass	3♠	All pass	

## The Quarterfinals, second half

by Jos Jacobs and Marjo Chorus

For the second half, we will be watching Poland v. Japan-Czech and Italy Red v. France. In the Swiss, France managed to reach the last eight after a fantastic effort, coming from very far behind. At halftime in their quarterfinal, they were 5-31 down against Italy Red. Would the French do the nearly impossible again?

In another quarterfinal, Japan-Czech were comfortably leading by 22 over Poland and when we saw what happened on the second board, we thought this match would be over very quickly:

Board: 18. Dlr: East/NS

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

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Jochymski</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Kazmiercza</i>
		INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Dble	All pass		

After the transfer, North ventured a balancing 3♥ but partner did not quite pick up the message. Everybody passed after Macura's double and out came an unlucky ♠Q. Declarer won the King and led a diamond. Kopecky overtook partner's nine and produced the ♣J, a switch as obvious as it was devastating. Declarer tried the Queen but now, Macura could win and clear the clubs. With the help of the marked spade finesse, there are four tricks for declarer but he tried another diamond instead. West won the King and the defence had the rest...2000 to Japan-Czech.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tuczynski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Koike</i>
		INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All pass

One down, 50 to Japan-Czech and a 19-IMP gain to them.

They led by 41 now with 12 to go.

The French also picked up some IMPs on this board:

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Grosset</i>	<i>Manno</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paparo</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lebatteux</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		

West is playing 4♠ at both tables, after simple identical auctions. Both NS pairs are not aware of any club length in West. They both lead the ♣9.

In the Open Room, Manno, for Italy, wins the ♣A and continues the suit. Declarer plays low from hand, so dummy wins the jack and a spade is played to the Queen and Ace. North returns a spade to partner's King, hoping to get a



Wojciech Kazmiercza, Poland

club ruff in front of dummy but Mannno continues...a diamond. Curtains. France +420.

In the Closed Room, Lebatteux wins the ♣A and immediately continues a diamond. Dummy's Jack wins and a spade goes to the Jack and Ace. North now plays another club, making it easy for South to return a club upon winning his ♠K. After ample thought, during which the tension mounted (as it should), South did indeed return a club for partner to ruff. One down. France +50 and 10 IMPs back, exactly the start they needed.

Board: 21. Dlr: North/NS

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Jochymski</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Kazmiercza</i>
	2♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

The Czechs defended well after the Polish twosuit. ♥A and a heart, followed by a diamond. This way, East got his diamond ruff when West won the ♠A. One off, Japan-Czech +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tuczynski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Koike</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	All pass		

NS did not speak in the other room, so the Poles were allowed to play 4♥ in peace. Had South led the ♣A, this would have been another story but on the actual spade lead, declarer won the Ace, drew trumps and conceded a trick to the ♣A, a spade and a diamond. Just made, Poland +420 and 8 IMPs back. Would they do the impossible?

Italy also gained some IMPs as this is what happened in their match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Grosset</i>	<i>Manno</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble	2♥
Pass	2♠	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All pass			

The French were not on very firm ground once Grosset introduced his second suit. Franceschetti wisely ran to 4♣ which had to go one off on the 5-0 trump split. Italy +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paparo</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lebatteux</i>
	2♠	Pass	2NT
Dble	3♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All pass			

Two rounds of hearts and a diamond back meant the same one down as in the other match so another +100 and 5 IMPs to Italy.

Disasters all round on the next board:

Board: 22. Dlr: East/EW

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Jochymski</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Kazmiercza</i>
		1♠	3♦
3♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	All pass		

South duly led a diamond to partner's Ace but apparently lost count during the play of the hand. At trick 12 he had to find a discard from ♥K and ♦J. When he chose the former, having seen partner follow suit in hearts once with the Jack, declarer's ♥10 all of a sudden was good for +1430.



Needless to say: East's pass over 5♦ was forcing.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tuczynski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Koike</i>
2♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
		4♥	All pass

The correct final contract (or one of them; 4♠ is also OK). Poland +620 but 13 IMPs gone.

It could be much worse, as they showed at both (!) tables in the other match.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Grosset</i>	<i>Manno</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♠	All pass		

An easy lead for North: ♦A and a heart. Dummy's Ace is put up and declarer is down two: Italy +200.



Pierre Franceschetti, France

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paparo</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lebatteux</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	Dble
All pass			

The Italians get to slam in hearts, played by West. As it is North to lead, his ♦A is on the table in a flash. One down, France +200 and a "Mexican standoff" instead of a 3-IMP loss, thanks to Lebatteux' double.

Board 25 signals the end of any French hopes:

Board: 25. Dlr: North/EW

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Grosset</i>	<i>Manno</i>
	2♦*	Pass	2♠**
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♥	All pass	

\* 18-19 Balanced hand

\*\* xfer to 2n

The normal contract. Italy +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Paparo</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lebatteux</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	7♥	All pass	

After a long huddle, Lhuissier goes for all the honours and raises to seven! This can be made if Paparo is kind enough to lead the ♠A but he would not think of it for a second. A trump hits the table and a few moments later, Italy are writing +50 and can add 14 IMPs more to their tally. They lead 53-17 and the French are quickly running out of boards...

The other match was virtually over long ago, as you may remember. Still, the Poles leave the battlefield with honour due to two consecutive big swings:

Board: 26. Dir: East/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Jochymski</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Kazmiercza</i>
INT	Pass	3NT	All pass



Aymeric Lebatteux, France

On the ♥8 lead, Macura, apparently thinking the hearts are 4-4, exits with his last heart after establishing the clubs instead of taking a straightforward spade finesse. One down, Poland +100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tuczynski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Koike</i>
INT	Pass	3NT	All pass

On the lead of the ♥6, Tuczynski simply takes the spade finesse after winning the second top heart, Nine tricks, no complications, Poland +600 and 12 IMPs back.

Next:

Board: 27. Dir: South/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Jochymski</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Kazmiercza</i>
1♥	1♠	INT*	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All pass		

\* clubs

East led a helpful heart and West allowed dummy to win the trick. He took the ♠10 with his Ace and returned a necessary but in this case equally helpful diamond. Declarer won, ran the ♠9 successfully and from there, could no longer avoid the overtrick: Poland +690.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tuczynski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Koike</i>
1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	All pass

The Japanese would not think of such ambitious spade adventures and quietly sold out to 3♥ which went two off. Japan-Czech +100 but 11 more IMPs to the Poles. The final result in that match: 76-53 to Japan-Czech. They would progress to meet Netherlands Red in the semis.

In the other match, we saw yet another swing to Italy, be it not as substantial as a few earlier ones:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Grosset</i>	<i>Manno</i>
Pass	1♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Dble
All pass			3♠

East led a heart to dummy's jack and three rounds of trumps followed, West winning the second. As West was out of clubs from the beginning, declarer got two more heart tricks in the end for a fine score of +140. Just made.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Paparo</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lebatteux</i>
Pass	1♠	2♣	Pass
2♦	Dble	3♣	Dble
All pass			4♠



Pawel Jassem, Poland

Well, against friendly defence this can be made (as we saw) but not if East, as he did, leads a diamond. The hearts are blocked, the diamonds established for the defence, so declarer will have to concede defeat. The end came with just 7 tricks for Lhuissier and another +150, 7 IMPs more, to Italy.

The board below produced the final nail in the French coffin, and once again they did it themselves:

Board: 28. Dir: West/NS

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Grosset</i>	<i>Manno</i>
2♣*	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All pass		

\* Strong

Classic French strong bidding but they could not stop in time...Down three, Italy +150.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Paparo</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lebatteux</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All pass		

The Italian modern relays worked much better. Just made, Italy +420 and 11 IMPs more to lead 71-17 now, a nice little mirror score and also the final score of the match. Italy Red would have the pleasure (?) of facing USA Blue in the semis, the latter having just had the edge over Greecoura by the odd IMP.

# The Teams Semifinals, first half

by Marjo Chorus and Jos Jacobs

In this report, we will of course cover both our semifinal matches:

Netherlands Red v. Japan-Czech and USA Blue v. Italy Red.

The NL Reds definitely were not off to a good start:

Board: 1. Dir: North/None

♠ A Q 8 6 ♥ A 5 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ A Q J 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W                  E S                 </div>	♠ - ♥ Q J 10 9 6 3 ♦ K 9 8 7 ♣ K 10 7	♠ K J 9 7 2 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ 10 6 ♣ 9 5 2
--	---	--	---

♠ 10 5 4 3			
♥ 8 4			
♦ J 4 3 2			
♣ 8 6 4			

Closed Room

West <i>Molenaar</i>	North <i>Miura</i>	East <i>Verbeek</i>	South <i>Koike</i>
	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dble 4♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
	All pass		

Two overtricks when South led a logical heart rather than a diamond; NL Red +480.

In the Open Room, we saw a mistimed and therefore costly double by North:

Open Room

West <i>Macura</i>	North <i>Drijver</i>	East <i>Kopecky</i>	South <i>Michielsen</i>
	3♥	Pass	4♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All pass	

The opening 3♥ pre-empt and the raise to four effectively keep EW out of slam. However, Drijver decides to double in fourth seat and now, Michielsen can only pass and hope it's not going to be too expensive. She too leads a heart (who would lead a diamond anyway?) and thus writes -790. Japan-Czech register 7 IMPs and must be feeling quite comfortable at this table now.

We all know Bob Drijver as a person who very much likes to bid. His approach was more successful two boards later:

Board: 3. Dir: South/EW

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

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

Closed Room

West <i>Molenaar</i>	North <i>Miura</i>	East <i>Verbeek</i>	South <i>Koike</i>
			Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

In the Closed Room, the Dutch had bid and made an easy game for 11 tricks and +650.



Danny Molenaar, Netherlands



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
2♥	3♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	5♣
			All pass

2♥ showed spades. It took Michielsen some time but eventually she decides to raise to 5♣. West doubles and if East leads the ♦A and continues the suit, a lot of undertricks are looming: ♦A, ♦ ruff, ♠ underlead, ♦ ruff etc.

However, East tables the ♥K and now, declarer can win the Ace, cash the ♣A and exit in trumps. Only two down, 300 to Japan-Czech but 8 IMPs to NL Red.

The Dutchies take the lead on board 5:

Board: 5. Dlr: North/NS

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

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

	N	
W	E	
	S	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
5♦	1♣	Dble	1♥
	All pass		

East's double is either a weak NT or a strong hand. West did not care too much and made a sensible bid. No problems in the play; Japan-Czech +400.

In the Closed Room, there is another North who likes to bid:

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Koike</i>
4♦	1♣	Dble	1♦
	4♥	Dble	All pass

Verbeek leads the ♠K to dummy's Ace and a low heart is called from dummy. Molenaar goes up with the King, a fine de-

fensive play. Declarer takes the Ace and reverts to clubs, East ducking his Ace twice. West, however, can ruff the second club so that is down three, NL Red +800 and 9 IMPs.

In the other match, Italy had taken a 1-0 lead over 4 boards but this was the moment for them too to strike:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fournier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Paparo</i>
3♦	1♣	Dble	Pass
	All pass		

Surprisingly quiet bidding by Fournier, maybe... USA Blue +150.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Manno</i>	<i>Fay</i>
3♦	3♥	5♦	1♥
All pass			Dble

When Di Franco could bid 3♦ freely, Manno thought he had something in reserve. Fay did not believe him but Manno proved right: Italy +550 and 9 IMPs.

Then came a cold 7NT missed by the Americans:

Board: 6. Dlr: East/EW

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

♠ K Q	♠ K Q	
♥ K	♥ K	
♦ A K Q J 10 3	♦ A K Q J 10 3	
♣ A 10 9 7	♣ A 10 9 7	

	N	
W	E	
	S	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fournier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Paparo</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	5♠
All pass			7♦

One overtrick, Italy +1440 (and no more...).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Manno</i>	<i>Fay</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

One (more regular) overtrick as well but USA Blue only +1020 for a further 9-IMP loss and possibly some stuff for the next training session...

Another big swing goes the Netherlands' way on board 7:

Board: 7. Dlr: South/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♦*
Pass	2♠	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All pass

\* majors

In spite of North's spade preference, Marion Michielsen elects to lead a low heart. Declarer wins in hand, crosses to the ♠A and runs the ♣9 to South's blank King. ♥K and another now put the contract down two as North can overruff dummy. NL Red +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Koike</i>
			1♥
2♦	Dbf	Redbl	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥!!	3♠
3NT	All pass		

3NT on a spade lead is easy. You simply cash your nine top

tricks only to find out you've got 13. NL Red another +720 and 14 IMPs.

On the next board, Italy gained heavily because of a bad American defensive mistake:

Board: 8. Dlr: West/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fournier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Paparo</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dbf	Pass	4♥
All pass			

West led a trump. Declarer won, drew four more rounds of trumps and exited with the ♠Q. He knew the Ace was behind him as West had discarded ♠J. West took his Ace and, rather than attacking clubs and thus preventing any



Marion Michielsen, Netherlands

trouble, persisted with spades. Now, Paparo won and cashed the last trump on which a club from dummy went. East had come down to ♣KJ and when he forgot to unblock the King under the Ace, he got endplayed to bring a diamond trick and the contract. Italy +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Manno</i>	<i>Fay</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All pass	

West led a club and that was it. Italy another +50 and 10 IMPs.

Two boards later, USA Blue gained heavily because of a bad Italian defensive mistake:

Board: 10. Dlr: East/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fournier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Paparo</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All pass

South led the ♠10 to North's King. Now North cashed the ♣A and continued clubs, rather than spades to prepare the defensive ruff. Dummy won and led a trump. North jumped in with the Ace to continue yet another club but declarer ruffed high, drew trumps and had the rest. USA Blue +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Chiu</i>	<i>Manno</i>	<i>Fay</i>
		2♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

South led the same ♠10 as his counterpart but here, North won the King and continued the suit. South thus got his ruff and North his two club tricks for down two, USA

Blue -200 and 13 IMPs back.

Halftime in the match came with the score on 32-20 to Italy. Everything to play for.

In the meantime, nothing very much was happening in the other match but on the dreaded board 13, the Czech defence suddenly went astray, which proved to be expensive:

Board: 13. Dlr: North/All

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Macura</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All pass	

NS had reached a stratospherical contract against which West led the ♣K. He continues a low club to partner's Ace and Kopecky's next move is to cash the ♥A on which Macura contributes the King. What does this mean? East thinks it's asking not for a heart continuation but rather for a club, so he next plays the ♣J. South ruffs, cashes the ♠A (thank you) and finishes off the good work with a flying diamond finesse. Just made, NL Red a tremendous +620.

Tremendous, we wrote and rightly so. In their match v. USA Blue, Italy managed to declare 3♠ from the North position (transfer preempts are in use) and got a friendly diamond lead after which they made the contract for a very good 140. However: +620 is much, much better, we feel...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Koike</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♦
Dble	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♥	All pass		

EW finally stop at a shaky 4-3 fit and one down is the outcome. Japan-Czech +100 but 11 more IMPs go Dutch. The halftime score in the match thus is 43-13 to NL Red. It would be an uphill task for both the Czech Republic and Japan.

# Mixed impressions by the Dutch kibitzer

by Kees Tammens

Bidding more and more becomes the cornerstone of the game at the international level. Especially the preemptive moves can create big problems. I am always anxious to see how things develop, so please inform me if you have the right answers. As an intermezzo some problems for declarer and defenders.

Is the vulnerable north really preempting you? After a trump lead (club on  $\diamond A$ ) and a spade for the ace and another trump declarer had no problems collecting twelve tricks. Leaving Gerbrand Hop (west) behind with the question if his hand really had no defensive trick at all.

Board: 16. Dlr: West/EW

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> -  <math>\heartsuit</math> K J 2  <math>\diamond</math> A K Q 10 7  <math>\clubsuit</math> K J 9 4 3</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E S</div> </div>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K 9 8 6  <math>\heartsuit</math> A Q 9 8 4 3  <math>\diamond</math> 8 3  <math>\clubsuit</math> A</p>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> A 5 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> 10 7 6  <math>\diamond</math> J  <math>\clubsuit</math> Q 10 8 7 5 2</p>
---	---	--	--

West	North	East	South
1 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	3 $\spadesuit$
4 $\clubsuit$	5 $\spadesuit$	Dble	All pass

The full blooded 3 $\spadesuit$ -preemptive by Marion Michielsens and the ever so cooperative 5 $\spadesuit$  by Bob Drijver really jammed all possible bidding space for east-west who had to be satisfied with +800 (and +3 imps when at the other table east-west stopped in 4 $\heartsuit$ ). Was it the 4 $\clubsuit$  bid, the double at 5 $\heartsuit$  or the pass at the double?

Board: 22. Dlr: East/EW

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K J 9  <math>\heartsuit</math> 10 9  <math>\diamond</math> Q J 6 5 4  <math>\clubsuit</math> J 9 7</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E S</div> </div>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> A 3  <math>\heartsuit</math> 6 4  <math>\diamond</math> K 9 8  <math>\clubsuit</math> A Q 8 4 3 2</p>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> Q 10 8 7 6 4 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> Q J 8 7  <math>\diamond</math> -  <math>\clubsuit</math> K 10</p>
---	---	--	--

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	INT	Dble
Dble	4 $\heartsuit$ All pass	Pass	Pass

Dble of INT shows major/minor

Board: 4. Dlr: West/All

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> 10 5 3 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> 9 2  <math>\diamond</math> 10 2  <math>\clubsuit</math> A K J 4 3</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E S</div> </div>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K 9 6  <math>\heartsuit</math> K J 4  <math>\diamond</math> A J 8  <math>\clubsuit</math> 10 7 6 5</p>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K Q  <math>\heartsuit</math> Q 7 5 3  <math>\diamond</math> Q 7 6 5  <math>\clubsuit</math> Q 9 2</p>
--	---	---	--

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 $\diamond$
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	2 $\spadesuit$	Pass	3 $\clubsuit$ (short)
Dble	4 $\heartsuit$	All pass	

A defensive intermezzo. Of course not everything is decided in the bidding. How about this defensive play.

Partner leads a club for  $\clubsuit K$  and what can you do now to induce declarer to go down?

Club seems no use, spade? trump? Or  $\diamond 10$  in the opening of south?

If it goes  $\diamond 10$ ,  $\diamond Q$ , then East has an interesting choice:  $\diamond 10$  singleton or doubleton? Anyway, if East takes  $\diamond A$  or ducks, declarer will have a harsh time playing hearts for one loser.

Board: 7. Dlr: South/All

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> K Q 9 5 4  <math>\heartsuit</math> 8  <math>\diamond</math> A 4 3 2  <math>\clubsuit</math> A K 7</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E S</div> </div>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> A J 3  <math>\heartsuit</math> A 9  <math>\diamond</math> K J 9 7 5  <math>\clubsuit</math> J 9 6</p>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> 8 7 6  <math>\heartsuit</math> J 4 3 2  <math>\diamond</math> 8 6  <math>\clubsuit</math> Q 8 5 2</p>
--	---	--	--

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	10 2
Pass	Pass	Pass	K Q 10 7 6 5
Pass	Pass	Pass	Q 10
Pass	Pass	Pass	10 4 3



West	North	East	South
??Dble/2♠	Pass/3♥	??	2♦ (♥)

One more for the bidding quiz:

East: ♠A J 3 ♥A 9 ♦K J 9 7 5 ♣J 9 6

interesting stuff for profound systemdiscussion.

Board: 13. Dlr: North/All

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

West	North	East	South
All pass	1♣	2♥	2♠



Bob Drijver, Netherlands

A different view

Did East, Bob Drijver, here preempt himself? He was unlucky not being able to bid his twosuit after the 1♣ opening. But should he be content with -170?

Judith Nab, Bob's girlfriend, showed her hand in great style

West	North	East	South
<i>Laura</i>		<i>Judith</i>	
Pass	INT	2♥	2NT
5♣	3♣	Dble	3♠
	5♠	Dble	All pass

The great effort by Judith was well enjoyed by Laura Dekkers with 5♣ (it even takes a diamond lead to defeat 6♣!) and north-south in fact did the right thing in saving for -200. It must have been a big board for the Dutch because at both other tables north-south were allowed to play 4♠ for 620.

Board: 17. Dlr: North/None

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Michielsen</i>		<i>Drijver</i>	
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	INT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

A small heart went to ♥10 and a club to ♣J followed. Then ♦10, ducked all around. Diamond for ♦J and ♦A. A spade, ducked in dummy for ♠J. Club for ♣A and a second spade left declarer helpless.

It took some time unless a peculiar winning line was discovered. Suppose declarer plays ♠Q in the first spade trick. If west wins, ♠10 will become an entry for the ♥-finesse. And if west ducks, declarer takes all diamonds and plays ♠A and a spade. Am I right?



# Teams Semifinals, second half

by Marjo Chorus and Jos Jacobs

Netherlands Red v. Japan-Czech and Italy Red v. USA Blue

Italy led by 12 at halftime but the first two boards brought them as many big swings:

Board: 17. Dlr: North/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fournier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Paparo</i>
	1♥	4♠	All pass

Paparo's conservative pass over 4♠ was the winning action. Down two, Italy Red +100.



Aldo Paparo, Italy

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Manno</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
	1♥	4♠	5♣
Dble	All pass		

Bidding on with the South hand will be right at times but not this time. Italy Red +300 and 9 IMPs.

On the next board, it all boiled down to finding the right lead against 3NT:

Board: 18. Dlr: East/NS

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fournier</i>	<i>Franchi</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Paparo</i>
	2♥	3NT	All pass
		1♦	INT

Would you lead your suit or your secret weapon? Fournier opted for the latter and soon wrote -600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Manno</i>	<i>Dwyer</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

Manno's wait-and-see policy paid off when he went for his longest and strongest. After the heart lead, declarer could make only eight tricks. Italy Red another +100 and 12 IMPs.

The Italian lead suddenly stood at 53-20. Had they put the match out of reach for their opponents just within two boards?

On this same board, the Japan-Czech team continued

their rally. They had already scored 5 IMPs on #17 when they doubled their opponents in 4♠ which went two off at both tables:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Koike	Drijver	Miura	Michielsen
		1♣	Dble
1♦	2♦	2♥	2NT
4♥	Dble	All pass	

This contract quietly went one off, +100 to NL Red.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Molenaar	Kopecky	Verbeek	Macura
		Pass	1♣*
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣


All pass

\* 11-20 nat or 18-20 bal. or +21

Over Macura's double, Michal Kopecky decides to offer his minors by bidding 4NT. West leads a heart against 5♣. Declarer next plays ♣Q and a diamond to the Jack and Queen. The return of the ♠10 solves all declarer's problems. Japan-Czech +600 and 11 IMPs more. In two boards, their deficit has been reduced to just 14 IMPs.

Three boards later, Japan-Czech deal the Dutch another big blow:

Board: 21. Dlr: North/NS

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Koike	Drijver	Miura	Michielsen
	Pass	2♠	3NT
All pass			

Michielsen, taking into account that partner has a passed hand, overcalls a simple 3NT over the 2♠ opening by

Miura. She collects all 13 tricks for a score of +720 to NL Red.


Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Molenaar	Kopecky	Verbeek	Macura
	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥
All pass			

Milan Macura gets the same obstruction from his RHO but he decides to double first. North now can bid 3♥ which is constructive; he would have bid 2NT (Lebensohl) otherwise. So a series of cuebids is launched and slam is duly reached. Both the red suits are splitting quite friendly so 13 tricks are easy and Japan-Czech can chalk up +1460 and 12 more IMPs to trail by only five after just five boards of the set. The running score in the set stands at 28-3 to them at this point...

In the USA Blue v. Italy Red match, after a few quiet boards (among them a push on the previous slam hand #21) the Americans were doubled into game on this one:

Board: 22. Dlr: East/EW

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fournier	Franchi	Lall	Paparo
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	INT	All pass

Just made, USA Blue +90.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	Dwyer	Di Franco	Meckstroth
		INT	Dble
Redble	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All pass		

Meckstroth doubled the weak NT and North ran to 2♠ when West redoubled. He was promptly doubled but the layout in both pointed suits was such that the contract had good chances when East led a trump. Dummy's King held, a trump was returned and a diamond came back, revealing the fortunate position in that suit. Eight tricks, USA Blue +470 and 11 IMPs back to trail by 23.

A low club lead seems best for the defence but even then, South's ♣8 grows in stature. Declarer may run out of trumps but the defenders won't have any tricks to cash...

The late rally USA Blue needed, did not materialise, however. They picked up a partscore swing and another one when the Italians let a non-vulnerable game through but even if they had bid the slam on board 29 (for a push), it would not have been enough for them. Italy Red advances to the final, winning eventually by 72-45.

In the other match, Japan-Czech are closing the remaining gap on an IMP by IMP basis. On board 26, the Dutch pick up 10 IMPs when Kopecky overbids to 4♠ and goes down two, doubled, whereas the Dutch stop in 3♠ making. The next two boards are pushes but might as well have produced swings either way. A disastrous bidding misunderstanding on the penultimate board (Drijver-Michielsen go down one in 6♦ on a 3-3 fit with 6♥ cold), gives the Japan-Czech team 17 IMPs out of the blue when the Czechs end up in the correct slam.

With one board to go, the score reads 62-61 to Japan-Czech. What a fightback...they have reached the top of the



Noriaki Koike, Japan

hill they had to climb when the set started and now it will do for them to stay there for just one more board.

Board: 30. Dlr: East/None

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
		All pass	

The Dutch are allowed to play INT and Drijver manages to collect five tricks. Japan-Czech +100.

If you happen to end up in NT played by EW, you would probably make nine tricks which would bring you 2 IMPs – enough for a berth in today's final.

However...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Macura</i>
2♣	Pass	Pass	INT
		2♥	All pass

Macura opens his weak NT which makes it difficult for EW to end up in INT themselves. The best they can do is double their opponents for penalties but in today's bridge, this seems no longer possible.

Molenaar overcalls 2♣ for the majors and shortly afterwards, Verbeek has to declare 2♥. If he makes an overtrick, we will go into extra-time; if less, Japan-Czech are through. There are at least four losers so two overtricks, which would see NL Red through, are out of the question.

Macura virtually secures his team's berth by leading the ♦K. Whatever declarer does, he is bound to incur a diamond ruff which gives the defenders their 5th and decisive trick. NL Red +110, a flat board and Japan-Czech will face Italy Red today!