

3rd World Youth Open Bridge Championships

Atlanta, Georgia, USA 3rd - 11th August 2013



Daily Bulletin



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Juniors Semifinal

Team	Segment					
	1	TOTAL	2	TOTAL	3	TOTAL
WAR OF ROSES	45	45	32	77	90	167
JAPAN	21	21	13	34	14	48
AUSTRALIA	55	55	26	81	25	106
TURKIYE	19	19	43	62	40	102

Youth BAM Teams

Round 11

Rank	Team	VPs
1	ARGENTINA	62.48
2	CALIFORNIAN ACES	59.40
3	ITALIA	58.80
	VENEZUELA	58.80
5	CHINA GIRLS SX CLUB	46.80
6	WERNIS	43.80
7	CHINA QFL	41.80
8	FCBC	30.80
9	ZHIHAOLE SCHOOL	28.80
10	GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL	25.80
11	MIDNIGHT SUNS	20.40

Youngsters Quarterfinal

Team	Segment			
	1	TOTAL	2	TOTAL
BERMAN	22	22	18	40
CHINA XNWX	48	48	32	80
USA JENG	63	63	91	154
LIN	14	14	0	14
CHINA WFL	35	35	22	57
BERK	44	44	50	94
KRISTENSEN	47	47	90	137
CHINA SX CLUB	27	27	23	50

Youngsters Semifinal

Team	Segment	
	1	TOTAL
CHINA XNWX	34	34
KRISTENSEN	51	51
USA JENG	39	39
BERK	29	29

Australia-Turkey The Very Last Board

by Murat Molva

Turkey started the third segment trailing by 19 IMPs. Would the Turkish team be up to this task? They certainly seemed to, as Turkey jumped to a lead of 38-0 in the first seven boards of the segment.

The next eight boards saw little scoring. When the last board was put on the table, Turkey led by 102-92:

Dir: West	♠ J
Vul: E-W	♥ A K 10 9 6 5
	♦ 4
	♣ A K 10 6 5
♠ 7 5	♠ Q 10 8 4 3 2
♥ 3 2	♥ Q J 4
♦ 10 9 8 6 5	♦ A K Q J
♣ J 9 4 3	♣ --
	♠ A K 9 6
	♥ 8 7
	♦ 7 3 2
	♣ Q 8 7 2

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hollands	Gokce	Howard	Gobekli
Pass	1♥	1♠	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East, Justin Howard, led the diamond ace and continued the suit, forcing declarer, Berk Gokce, to ruff. Gokce played his club ace and saw the trump void in East. So he cashed the top hearts and ruffed the third heart with the trump queen in dummy. Declarer played a trump from dummy, which West covered with the nine and declarer won with the ten. Now declarer went to dummy with the spade king. This was the position:

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

The last trump was played from dummy, but this time West did not cover. So declarer was stranded in dummy and had to lose another trick. Do you see the solution?

The declarer had to unblock the club seven or eight under his ace on the first round of trumps. Then he would have had the club two in the dummy in the diagrammed position above. He could have finessed in clubs and ended up in his hand. A fascinating deal.

The drama was by no means over. The other table had its own story to tell.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ozgur	Moskovsky	Uslupehlivan	Travis
Pass	1♥	1♠	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4*C
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

The same contract was reached, and East, Sarper Uslupehlivan, led his diamond ace, but then he shifted to a spade at the second trick. This was very effective in that it removed one of declarer's dummy entries prematurely. The declarer played a normal low club off dummy, and West went in with his nine!! Declarer, Ellena Moskovsky, took it with her ace and saw the trump void. She cashed the heart ace and king, and ruffed the third heart with dummy's club queen. But as the club nine was out of the way, it was all plain sailing for her. She took the finesse for the club jack and soon claimed his contract.

14 IMPs to Australia, who won the match by a mere 4 IMPs. So Australia took the ticket to the Junior Teams final on the very last board of the 48-board match.

But why did West spend his ♠9 so early at the second trick? After all, if he had held on to that card, Turkey would be a finalist now.

Well, he believed it was a mandatory false-card (to give the appearance of a singleton nine) to create a losing option for the declarer on the second round of the suit if her only problem was drawing trumps when holding ace-king-ten-fourth. If declarer drew the second high club from the wrong hand, West would have scored his jack. But when East showed void on the first round of clubs, his plan went out of the window, together with the contract and 14 IMPs.

Japan versus War of Roses (USA) Junior Semifinal

by Phillip Alder

The pundits were expecting the American team to win the 48-board match, but the United States has not had a good record in this event in recent years.

The match started with 3 IMPs to War of Roses for two fewer undertricks. There were two flat boards, then:

Dir: West	♠ K Q 6
Vul: Both	♥ A Q 9 7 6 4 3
	♦ A
	♣ K 3

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

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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Seshimo</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Oyama</i>	<i>Zach</i>
	<i>Grossack</i>		<i>Grossack</i>
3♦	4♥	5♥	6♦
Pass	6♥	7♦	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Agica</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Harada</i>
3♦	3♥	4♦	4NT
Pass	5♠ (1)	6♦	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Two key cards and the heart queen

If only East had kept quiet, this would have been an easy grand slam. After South learns about all of the key cards and the heart queen, he can invite seven with five notrump, and North, who has everything, should jump to seven notrump.

Admittedly it was hard for Yuki Harada to envision seven when his partner overcalled only three hearts, a big underbid.

At the other table, Zach Grossack in principle promised a first-round diamond control with six diamonds. And if he had passed over seven diamonds, he would have been guaranteeing one. But being a pupil at the Sylvia Shi school of psychology (see my article in yesterday's bulletin), he decided that they would never lead a diamond if he bid a smooth seven.

That was 13 IMPs to War of Roses. More came on the next deal.

Dlr: North	♠ 10 7 4 2		
Vul: N-S	♥ 9 6		
	♦ K J 7		
	♣ J 7 5 4		
	♠ A 8 6 5	♠ K 3	
	♥ K Q 2	♥ 10 8 4	
	♦ A 9 6 2	♦ Q 10 4	
	♣ 8 6	♣ A Q 10 9 3	
	♠ Q J 9		
	♥ A J 7 5 3		
	♦ 8 5 3		
	♣ K 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Seshimo</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Oyama</i>	<i>Zach</i>
	<i>Grossack</i>		<i>Grossack</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Agica</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Harada</i>
	Pass	1♣ (1)	1♥
Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Two-plus clubs

It was surprising that Ryoko Oyama did not open with his hand, which is stronger than several 4-3-3-3 twelve-counts. So Adam Grossack bought it in one spade.

East led the heart four. North won with dummy's ace and tried a diamond to his jack. East won with his queen, cashed the club ace, and played another club to dummy's king.

West went in with his diamond ace at the next trick, cashed the heart king, and played a diamond to declarer's king. North ruffed a club with dummy's queen, but West overruffed with his ace and led the thirteenth diamond. When North ruffed low, East and dummy discarded hearts. Declarer ruffed his last club with dummy's spade jack to give this position:

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

North ran the spade nine to East's king. Now

East had to execute a rare fratricide trump coup.

One spade bid and made.

In the other room, Adam Kaplan and Marius Agica pushed into three notrump.

South led his fourth-highest heart. After dummy's king held, declarer ran the club eight. South took his king, cashed the heart ace, and persevered with a third heart. East played a club to his ten and led a diamond to dummy's nine and North's jack. Kosuke Ito shifted to a spade. Declarer won with dummy's ace, played a spade to his king, cashed his clubs, and led his diamond queen, going up with dummy's ace when South did not cover. East had taken two spades, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs for his contract and 10 more IMPs to War of Roses, now up by 26.

Japan got on the scoreboard with two swings.

Dlr: East	♠ 6 5 4		
Vul: E-W	♥ 9 5		
	♦ 7 6		
	♣ K 10 8 7 4 2		
	♠ 9 3 2	♠ A K 7	
	♥ A 10 6 3 2	♥ K Q 8 7 4	
	♦ 10 8 4	♦ Q J 9 3	
	♣ 9 6	♣ J	
	♠ Q J 10 8		
	♥ J		
	♦ A K 5 2		
	♣ A Q 5 3		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Seshimo</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Oyama</i>	<i>Zach</i>
	<i>Grossack</i>		<i>Grossack</i>
		1♥	Dble
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Agica</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Harada</i>
		1♥	Dble
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Harada was cautious in not doubling for a second time. But he got a plus score. He cashed two diamonds and gave his partner a diamond ruff. A club to the queen set the contract. And it would have gone down two if South had led his fourth diamond, but he tried to cash the club ace. The point he overlooked was that if the club ace were cashing, declarer could not avoid conceding that trick later.

When Zach doubled four hearts, Adam felt it was too close to pass. In five clubs doubled, he lost the first three tricks to go down one.

That gave Japan 5 IMPs.

Dlr: South	♠ -		
Vul: Both	♥ A 9 8		
	♦ A K 10 8 7 3		
	♣ Q 10 8 6		
	♠ A 10 8 4	♠ 9 7 6 5 2	
	♥ J 6 5 4	♥ K Q 10 2	
	♦ Q 4 2	♦ -	
	♣ J 4	♣ A K 7 2	
	♠ K Q J 3		
	♥ 7 3		
	♦ J 9 6 5		
	♣ 9 5 3		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Seshimo</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Oyama</i>	<i>Zach</i>
	<i>Grossack</i>		<i>Grossack</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♠
Dble	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Agica</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Harada</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
3♦ (1)	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) A mixed raise: four spades, some 7-9 high-card points and, usually, nine losers

I am a firm believer in showing five-card majors at almost every opportunity, but I was surprised Kaplan did not double with his hand. Still, four spades was a reasonable spot until trumps broke 4-0. Declarer played carefully to lose only three spades and one heart for down one.

In the Open Room, Zach made a tactical raise to three diamonds, trying to obstruct West. But North now saw a chance for three notrump.

That contract looked hopeless at first. But after a heart lead to East's queen, Oyama chose to shift to a spade. When West took South's queen with his ace, suddenly there seemed to be nine tricks via two spades, one heart and six diamonds. And so there were, until diamonds went 3-0.

West switched back to hearts at trick three, declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the diamond ace to get the bad news. After conceding a diamond, South lost four more tricks to go down three.

Japan gained 11 IMPs to close the margin to 10. But War of Roses responded and ended the session ahead by 34 IMPs (45-21).

The second set had much lower scoring, with only two hefty swings, the first on Board 25:

Dlr: North	♠ K J 8 5		
Vul: E-W	♥ K J 8 6		
	♦ K J 4		
	♣ J 7		
	♠ 10 9 4 3	♠ Q 2	
	♥ Q 5	♥ A 3	
	♦ A 8	♦ Q 7 6 5 3	
	♣ Q 10 9 4 2	♣ 8 6 5 3	
		♠ A 7 6	
		♥ 10 9 7 4 2	
		♦ 10 9 2	
		♣ A K	

West	North	East	South
<i>Kikuchi</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Hashimoto</i>	<i>Zach</i>
	<i>Grossack</i>		<i>Grossack</i>

<i>Lien</i>	<i>Oyama</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>	<i>Seshimo</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Open Room, Tadahiro Kikuchi found the unfortunate start of the spade ten, covered by the jack, queen and ace. Zack, the declarer, led a heart to dummy's king, which I am sure he knows is not the percentage play.

East took the trick with his ace and returned a club. South won and gave up another heart trick. West shifted to the diamond eight, but Zack got this one right, putting up dummy's king. He crossed to his hand with a club, ran the spade seven, and claimed.

At the other table, Owen Lien led the diamond ace and continued with his second diamond. South won with dummy's king, played a club to his ace, and also tried a heart to the king. Here, though, it was fatal. East won with his ace and cashed the diamond queen. West's heart queen later defeated the contract.

That gave 10 IMPs to War of Roses.

With sixteen boards to go, the US team led by 43 IMPs (77-34). The match was settled early with back-to-back slam swings for War of Roses. The first was on Board 34.

Dlr: East	♠ A 4		
Vul: N-S	♥ K J		
	♦ A K Q 7 3		
	♣ J 5 3 2		
	♠ 9 7	♠ J 10 8 5 3	
	♥ 10 8 6 4 2	♥ Q 9 3	
	♦ J 10 2	♦ 8 4	
	♣ K Q 8	♣ 7 6 4	
		♠ K Q 6 2	
		♥ A 7 5	
		♦ 9 6 5	
		♣ A 10 9	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ito</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Harada</i>	<i>Zach</i>
	<i>Grossack</i>		<i>Grossack</i>
		Pass	1♣
2♥!	3♦	3♥	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦ (1)
Pass	4NT (2)	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Diamond support (four hearts would have been RKCB in clubs)

(2) Heart control-bid (cue-bid) because four hearts would have been RKCB in diamonds

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Agica</i>	<i>Hashimoto</i>	<i>Lien</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣ (1)	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Inverted minor-suit raise

I do not like Hashimoto's initial response, especially when partner might have three low clubs. The main feature of the hand is the diamond suit, so that should be shown first.

Given the 3-2 diamond split, the slams look fine, until you notice that both club honors are offside.

In the Closed Room, Agica led the diamond jack. South immediately took one losing club finesse. West exited with another diamond. Declarer wriggled for a while, thinking about a possible squeeze, but at trick eleven took a second club finesse to go down one.

That was some weak jump overcall by Ito, with 5-3-3-2 and a ten-fifth suit. And it came back to haunt him because what did East lead against six diamonds? A heart, of course, giving declarer three spades, five diamonds, one club and three hearts.

That was 16 IMPs to War of Roses.

The Americans gained even more points over the remaining boards, giving a final score of 167 IMPs to 48. This team will be tough for the Australians to beat.

Australia-Turkey Semifinal First Segment

by Murat Molva

The first segment of the semifinal knock-out match was full of action boards producing swings in all directions. Australia took more advantage of them and played more carefully on critical deals.

The suspense started with board 1:

Dlr: North	♠ 9 8 7 6	
Vul: None	♥ J 5 4 3	
	♦ 6 3	
	♣ Q 10 4	
♠ A K J 5		♠ -
♥ A 9		♥ Q 10 8 6 2
♦ J 8 7		♦ K 10 9 5 4
♣ A 6 3 2		♣ J 8 5
	♠ Q 10 4 3 2	
	♥ K 7	
	♦ A Q 2	
	♣ K 9 7	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Gobekli</i>	<i>Howard J</i>	<i>Gokce</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

It looks like the Australian pair were in agreement over the meaning of West's second-round double. In this age of negative doubles, it could have been taken as a balancing double. Despite the heart-ace lead that lost a trick, the defense still managed to take the contract down two for plus 300.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
1NT	2♠	Dble	All Pass

Here the Turkish pair had to be very careful with the defense. After the diamond lead, the contract went off one for 5 IMPs to Australia.

Board 2 looked like an everyday three notrump, but lightning struck:

Dlr: East	♠ Q 10 8	
Vul: N-S	♥ K 9 8	
	♦ A K 7 5 2	
	♣ Q J	
♠ A 7 6 4		♠ K 3
♥ A 7 3 2		♥ Q J 4
♦ 10		♦ J 9 6 4
♣ 7 6 4 3		♣ 10 8 5 2
	♠ J 9 5 2	
	♥ 10 6 5	
	♦ Q 8 3	
	♣ A K 9	

West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Gobekli</i>	<i>Howard J</i>	<i>Gokce</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led a club. Altug Gobekli, the declarer, won in his hand to play a spade towards dummy. East took his king immediately and shifted correctly to the heart queen. Now if West had ducked this, the defense would have been easy; but West went up with his ace to return the suit. Now the spotlight was on the declarer. If he had gone up with his king, the hearts would have been blocked and he would have made his contract. But when he ducked the heart, East took his jack and established a heart trick for his partner. When diamonds broke badly, declarer had to go down one.

At the other table, Maxim Henbest directly raised his partner's one-notrump opening to three notrump. That is a sound action with 4-3-3-3 distribution and a not so robust major suit. Here the defense did not find the switch to hearts in time, so declarer, Justin Howard, was able to establish his spade suit and make his contract with two spades, one heart, three diamonds and three clubs. That was 12 IMPs more to Australia.

Board 3 looked even more like an everyday three notrump where an overtrick or two would be normal, depending on how the play proceeded. However, lightning struck a second time:

Dlr: South	♠ 10 7 3	
Vul: E-W	♥ K J 10 6	
	♦ K J	
	♣ A 10 8 5	
♠ 6 2		♠ K J 9 8
♥ Q 9 5 4		♥ A 8 3
♦ Q 5 3 2		♦ 8 7
♣ 7 6 3		♣ J 9 4 2
	♠ A Q 5 4	
	♥ 7 2	
	♦ A 10 9 6 4	
	♣ K Q	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Gobekli</i>	<i>Howard J</i>	<i>Gokce</i>
			1♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

A spade was led, and Gobekli was the declarer again. Probably feeling unhappy about the poor result on the previous board, he called for dummy's queen. He played a diamond to his jack, unblocked the diamond king, and went to dummy with a club to play the diamond ace and another diamond. West took this and continued spades. Declarer ducked one

round and took the next in dummy with the ace. Now Gobekli cashed his established diamond winner and the club honor in dummy. Now he only had to guess the heart position to get his ninth trick. He played a heart from dummy and rose with his king to go down one. When the Australian declarer, Howard, made an overtrick at the other table, Turkey conceded another 10 IMPs. Australia led 27-0 after only 3 boards.

Board 6 revealed what looked like a blind spot for a defender:

Dlr: East	♠ 6 5 4	
Vul: E-W	♥ 9 5	
	♦ 7 6	
	♣ K 10 8 7 4 2	
♠ 9 3 2		♠ A K 7
♥ A 10 6 3 2		♥ K Q 8 7 4
♦ 10 8 4		♦ Q J 9 3
♣ 9 6		♣ J
	♠ Q J 10 8	
	♥ J	
	♦ A K 5 2	
	♣ A Q 5 3	

Both Easts opened one heart, both Souths doubled, and East-West arrived in four hearts. In the Closed Room, Gokce doubled four hearts, but rather than starting with a diamond honor, he chose to lead the spade queen. Now the diamond ruff disappeared and he had to be content with plus 200 only (instead of the 500 available, had he been able to lead a diamond honor).

In the Open Room, South did not double, but correctly started with three rounds of diamonds. North took his ruff and returned a club. Now, instead of returning a fourth round of diamonds (to kill declarer's diamond trick), South tried to cash a second club trick, and so Erkmen Aydogdu escaped for down one.

Assuming that North had a second trump to ruff the fourth round of diamonds, South should have seen that his club trick could not go anywhere. That was 3 IMPs to Turkey.

To me, some interesting things always seem to happen on Board 13. This was no exception:

Dlr: North	♠ A Q 4	
Vul: All	♥ A Q J 10 9 6 5	
	♦ -	
	♣ K 9 3	
♠ K J 9 5 3		♠ 8
♥ 3 2		♥ K 4
♦ J 3		♦ A Q 9 7 5 4 2
♣ Q 10 8 6		♣ J 7 4
	♠ 10 7 6 2	
	♥ 8 7	
	♦ K 10 8 6	
	♣ A 5 2	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Gobekli</i>	<i>Howard J</i>	<i>Gokce</i>
	1♥	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

This looks like a normal auction, with North-South reaching their making game to record plus 620.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
	1♥	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

It is interesting to note that the South player in the Closed Room chose not to try to punish the three-diamond overcall, whereas the South player in this room decided to punish two diamonds. Aydogdu went down one only to lose 200 but win 9 IMPs for Turkey.

Board 14 was also a swingy slam hand:

Dlr: East ♠ 5 2
 Vul: None ♥ 9 8 6
 ♦ Q 10 3
 ♣ Q 10 9 6 4

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

♠ K J 3
 ♥ K Q J 5 3
 ♦ J 6 4
 ♣ J 8

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Gobekli</i>	<i>Howard J</i>	<i>Gokce</i>
		1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

It was not so clear what West's five notrump bid meant, when he knew that a keycard was missing and he was looking at the trump queen in his own hand. But they seemed to be on the same wavelength, and when both missing trump honors were onside and the diamonds broke 3-3, the slam rolled in.

The Turkish pair stopped in game, giving 11 IMPs to Australia.

The swingy set closed with Australia leading Turkey by 36 IMPS (55-19).

Turkiye versus Australia Second Third

by David Stern

Australia came into this second set of sixteen boards with a lead of 36 IMPs lead. So an early taste of comeback was welcomed by the Turkish contingent.

Here is a lead problem to start. You hold the following hand:

♠ K 7 6 5 ♥ 7 ♦ A Q 10 6 5 ♣ J 9 6

and hear this auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgur</i>	<i>Moskovsky</i>	<i>Uslupehlivan</i>	<i>Travis</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	1NT	All Pass

What would you lead?

Now those of you have been following my musings will know my sage mother says "never have to apologize for leading partner's suit."

Dlr: East ♠ J 9 2
 Vul: N-S ♥ K Q 10 6 5
 ♦ K 7 4
 ♣ Q 10

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

♠ K 7 6 5
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A Q 10 6 5
 ♣ J 9 6

In practice declarer will always make one notrump on any lead. At the table, though, Travis chose a spade, which doesn't feel right to me with such a poor holding in the suit. My inclination would be to lead a diamond and hope for the king or jack in partner's hand or something else good in diamonds.

At the other table North-South won the auction for Turkey:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♣	Dble
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Making two diamonds was worth plus 90. Together with the plus 90 at the other table, that was 5 IMPs to Turkiye and the deficit down to 31 IMPs.

Australia fought back on the next two boards.

Dlr: East ♠ --
 Vul: E-W ♥ A K Q 4 2
 ♦ K 9 8 7 3 2
 ♣ J 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgur</i>	<i>Moskovsky</i>	<i>Uslupehlivan</i>	<i>Travis</i>
		Pass	1♣
2♠	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>
		Pass	1♣
1♠	2♦	2♠	3♣
3♠	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

If, as in the Closed Room, one was to opt for diamonds as trumps, then perhaps the five-level offers a lot of safety due to the possibility of bad breaks in the trump suit. If, however, you opt for clubs, the six-level is a safe place to be -- and I have been in worse grand slams.

It was interesting that in the Open Room East did not elect to support spades after partner's two-spade jump overcall.

Australia were ahead by 37. 12 more IMPs rolled Australia's way in an unusual manner on the next board.

Dlr: South ♠ Q J 10 5 2
 Vul: All ♥ A 9 2
 ♦ A Q 4
 ♣ A 9 5

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

♠ 9
 ♥ 3
 ♦ J 10 9 7 6 5 3
 ♣ A 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgur</i>	<i>Moskovsky</i>	<i>Uslupehlivan</i>	<i>Travis</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I'm not sure that a 1NT response to partner's one-notrump opening would be everybody's cup of tea, but it worked a treat here. Declarer won the second heart and played the diamond ace and diamond queen, East winning with his ♦K. Then something very odd happened in the defense. East cashed the heart ten and led the heart seven, but West left him on lead. East must have asked himself why his partner had done this rather than overtake, cash the remaining heart, and see what I discarded for guidance. East not unreasonable assumed partner wanted a club through and that was plus 120 to North-South.

But the real action took place in the Closed Room.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>
		Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

While three diamonds may not be everybody's choice at equal vulnerable -- oh, all right, it may have very limited support outside the Youth World -- but it isn't that bad.

Declarer won the third heart and not unreasonably played a club to the ace and tried the diamond finesse, after which the roof fell in with the defense taking four hearts, three clubs, two spades and a diamond for down six and minus 600. That was 12 IMPs to Australia, who led by 49.

Perhaps feeling the match was not going their way, the Turks bid to six spades on very thin values on this board:

Dlr: East ♠ J 10 9 8 3 2
 Vul: None ♥ A 10 3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 9 6 2

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

♠ A K 7 6
 ♥ J
 ♦ A K Q 6
 ♣ K 8 5 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>
		1♥	Dble
2♥	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With spades 2-1, two of North's clubs go on high diamonds and declarer simply loses one club trick. Australia by 24 with two boards to go.

Now it's not often you come back to the table with plus 800 and don't get something for your efforts, especially when your score came from three notrump redoubled and made. Well, that's what happened on the penultimate board:

Dlr: South ♠ Q 6 3
 Vul: North-South ♥ A 5 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ K J 10 9 3 2

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

♠ J 8 2
 ♥ J 9 8 4
 ♦ A 10 6 4
 ♣ 6 4

In the Open Room, Moskovsky-Travis suffered a penalty of minus 800 in three clubs doubled after a not unreasonable auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgur</i>	<i>Moskovsky</i>	<i>Uslupehlivan</i>	<i>Travis</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♣	Dble	All Pass

This is what happened in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Koclar</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>Aydogdu</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
1♠	Pass	Redble	Pass
Pass	Dble		
Pass	Pass		

Turkey picked up 5 IMPs on the last board to leave a 19 IMP deficit going into the last sixteen boards.