



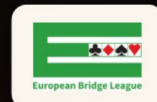
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♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ **DAILY BULLETIN**

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Editor: Eric Laurant

Head of Communication: Francesca Canali • **Journalist coordinator:** Brian Senior

Journalists: David Burn, Jos Jacobs, David Bird

WELCOME!



Dear Friends,
Welcome to the European Youth Championships.

The Open, Women's, Seniors and Mixed have just come to a close. I would love to celebrate the new champions by name in these very lines, but our local organiser Kārlis is so efficient that he had me preparing this welcome message over a month ago. I am sure you already know everything about the new champions. Some of them may even be the bridge heroes of your own clubs back home.

And now the stage is yours.

To represent your nation at any age is a privilege, but also a great responsibility. You are playing not only for yourselves and your teammates. You are playing for an entire country, for all the people who live there, and

for those who made its history before you. Think about it, and make sure you bring the highest standards of behaviour and fair play to every board. Honour is the most important thing you can give to your country. It shines far more brightly than any medal or trophy.

Before wishing you all the very best, I would like to say a few more words of thanks to our hosts: the Latvian Bridge Federation and its President, Imants Parādnieks, our on-site organiser Kārlis Rubins and on-site operations director Ilze Vārpiņa. Look around you. Every smallest detail has been taken care of, with one thing in mind: creating the best possible experience for their guests. That, too, is a way of bringing honour to a country. Thank you once again, Imants, Kārlis and Ilze!

Dear players, I will see you at the tables in the coming days, and as always I will think: here is the future of European bridge.

Good bridge to all of you.

Eric Laurant
President, European Bridge League



Rigo is here!

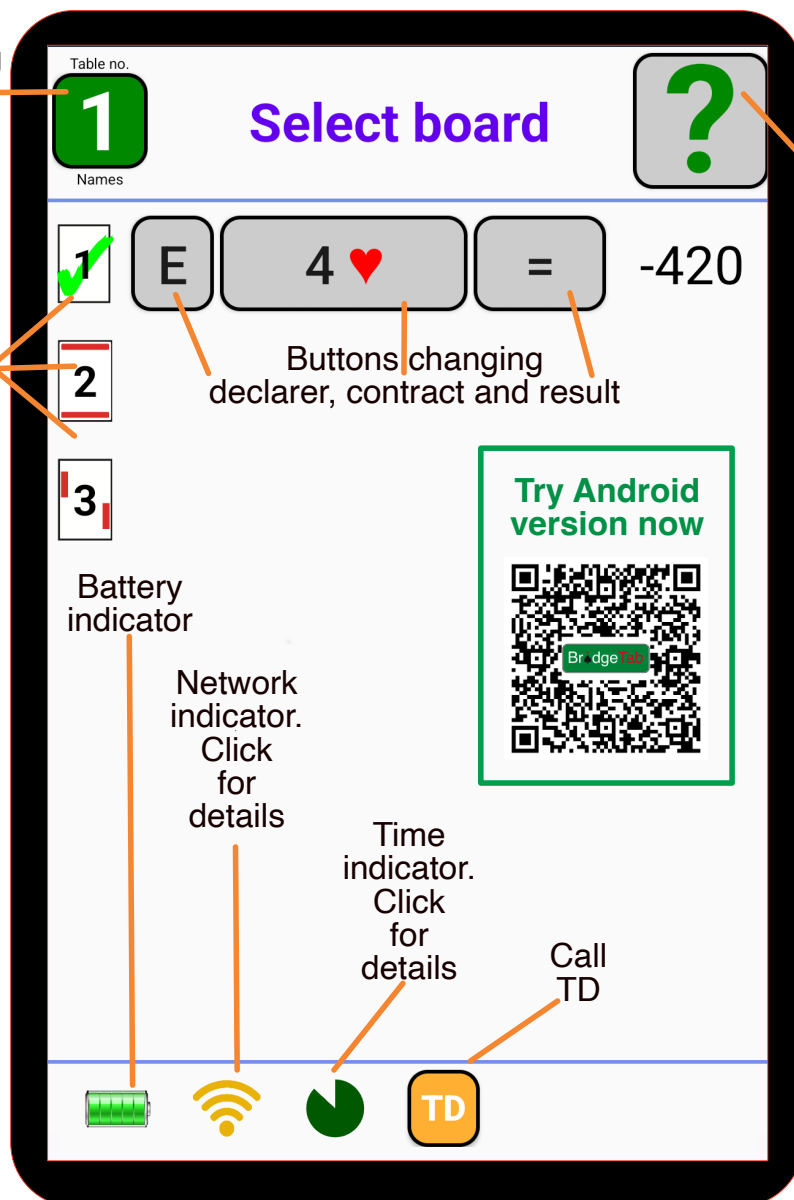
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Netherlands v France (U31)

by Brian Senior

We begin our coverage of the 30th RTU European Youth Championships with a look at the U31 match between Netherlands and France, two teams who I expect to be involved in the fight for medals at the end of the championship. The U31 matches are played over just 10 boards. First blood went the way of the French, though it was only a scratch.

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Oranje</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
–	1♣	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Boonstra</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Van Noort</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
–	1NT	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



A quiet start saw both E/W pairs bid to the spade game. For Netherlands, Arwen Oranje opened a potentially short club, Luc Bellicaud overcalled 1♠, and Romaric Guth's 3♣ response was enough for Bellicaud to go on to game.

Malou Sprinkhuizen led the jack of diamonds, Oranje winning the king and switching to the nine of spades. Bellicaud finessed, ruffed a diamond, and played a second spade. When the king appeared and hearts were three-three he had the rest; 12 tricks for +480.

In the other room, Nao Tabata, for France,



opened a strong NT and Bob Van Noort overcalled 2♠, spades and a minor. Aafko simply raised that to game.

Maxence Fragola also led the ♦J but Tabata, on winning the king, switched to clubs and the defence cashed two of those to hold the contract to 10; +420 but 2 IMPs to France.

On Board 2 both N/Ss bid to a normal heart game. It was on the position of a missing ace and, when that was offside, both were down one for no swing at -100.

One other pair were permitted to take two overtricks for +480, while six more made +420. The remaining five pairs stopped in partscore, making between nine and 12 tricks.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Oranje</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
–	–	–	1NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Boonstra</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Van Noort</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

For Netherlands, Boonstra opened 1♣

then showed the spades, and Van Noort's 1NT completed a simple auction. Fragola cashed the ace of hearts to take a look at dummy, and promptly switched to the jack of spades. Van Noort ducked but won the continuation of the ♠10 with the ace and led a club to the ace and a second club to the jack, which he ducked in dummy. Fragola continued with the third spade, Van Noort putting up the queen – not that it mattered. Tabata won two spade tricks then switched to the ten of hearts. Fragola won that and returned the two of diamonds to dummy's king. Van Noort conceded a club, so was down one for -100.

The auction was very different in the other room, as Sprinkhuizen opened a 10-13 NT as dealer. Guth made a penalty double and, when that came round to Sprinkhuizen she redoubled then converted the 2♣ response to 2♦. When that got round to Bellicaud he doubled. Clearly, that was take-out as far as Guth was concerned because he took it out into 2♠, where he played. Was it also take-out for Bellicaud, who held ten-to-four in diamonds?

Anyway, 2♠ it was, breaking Burn's Rule, that the declaring side should always hold more trumps than the defenders. Oranje led the six of diamonds to the three, eight and ace. Guth tried a low spade from hand, but Oranje made no mistake, playing low, so Sprinkhuizen won the eight and cashed the ace of hearts, getting a discouraging eight from partner. She switched back to diamonds, Guth winning the king and playing the jack of hearts. Sprinkhuizen won that and played a diamond, allowing Guth to make his remaining small trump. A club to the ace was followed by the queen of hearts for a pitch of a deceptive queen of clubs, followed by a club to Sprinkhuizen's jack and Oranje's king. It would have been better for Oranje to let partner hold the lead as a spade through would have held declarer to just one more trick. Instead, Orange had to

play the ♠10. The defence could still have recovered had Sprinkhuizen ruffed and led a spade through but, when the ♠10 held the trick, Orange was endplayed and Guth had escaped for down one; -100 and no swing.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Oranje</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	Dble	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Boonstra</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Van Noort</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
2♦	Pass	2♥	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Boonstra showed a weak two via a multi 2♦ opening, while Guth did not. It made no difference to the final contract, with both Souths becoming declarer in the borderline heart game.

Boonstra led the jack of clubs. Warned of potential bad breaks by the multi opening, and considering it unlikely that the lead would eb from a king-jack holding, Fragola rose with the ace and took an unsuccessful heart finesse. Boonstra returned the four of clubs, Van Noort winning the king and switching to the queen of spades. Fragola won the ace, drew trumps, and played on diamonds, losing one of those for down one and -100.

Guth too led the jack of clubs and Sprinkhuizen also won the ace and took the heart finesse. That lost and Guth led the two of clubs to partner's king. Sprinkhuizen won the spade switch and crossed to the nine of hearts to play the queen of diamonds. That was ducked to Guth, who ruffed and played two rounds of spades. There was a diamond to lose so thatw as down two for -200 and 3 IMPs to France; 5-0.

Four Hearts was played 12 times, always going down, six times by one, six times by two. Just two pairs stopped in 3♥ and both made their contracts. Neither gained a swing, because they were playing in the same match, England v Latvia; flat at +140.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Oranje</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	Dble	1♠	2♣
3♦	Dble	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Boonstra</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Van Noort</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
-	Pass	2♠	All Pass

For the second board in succession, a Dutch player opened a weak two bid while his French counterpart did not. Of course, this time the East hand did not resemble a French weak two bid at all, while Van Noort

only promised five spades plus a four-card or longer minor, so the second-seat opening was entirely normal.

Two Spades bought the contract, but was a decidedly inferior contract to 3♦ – and a 3♦ response would, of course, have been forcing. Fragola led the queen of clubs to Tabata's ace, and Tabata switched to the three of spades to dummy's bare ace. Van Noort played the king of diamonds to Fragola's ace, and back came the jack of clubs, which Van Noort ducked. That attracted a club continuation towards his remaining tenace, but the club was ruffed by Tabata, who played a low heart to the two, three and six. The queen of diamonds was cashed for a discard of the king of clubs, and Van Noort continued with the jack of diamonds, ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed. A spade exit was won by the king and a club return ruffed by declarer, who then exited in spades once more to endplay Tabata to get out for down one and –50.

After bellicaud's pass, Sprinkhuizen opened 1♣ and Oranje doubled the 1♦ overcall to suggest both majors. That did not prevent Bellicaud introducing his five-card suit, and Guth jumped to 3♦ over Sprinkhuizen's 2♣ rebid. When Oranje now doubled 3♦ for take-out, Sprinkhuizen bid the clubs for a third time and was left to declare 4♣. Sprinkhuizen won the diamond lead with the ace and gave up a diamond. Guth won and cashed the ace of spades then played another top diamond. The play record from this point on makes no sense, so all we can say is that 4♣ was down three for –300 and 8 IMPs to France; 13–0.

How do you like these two auctions?

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgez</i>	<i>Petrov</i>	<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Bauer</i>
–	Pass	Pass	3♣
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

That one saw the Turkish E/W pair go three

down in 3NT – by East – against Germany.

West	North	East	South
<i>Foale</i>	<i>Castells</i>	<i>Behr</i>	<i>Gardenghi</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♦	Dble	Pass	3♣
3♦	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

And this one saw Scotland collect +500 for down five against Spain.

In both cases, a pre-empt, coupled with a touch of over-optimism from the opposition, saw the pre-empter collecting a useful penalty. Scotland gained 11 IMPs, Germany seven.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Oranje</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
–	–	1♣	1♥
1♠	2♥	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Boonstra</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Van Noort</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
–	–	1♣	1♥
1NT	2♥	3NT	All Pass

Guth denied a major but admitted to a heart stopper, and found himself at the helm in 3NT. The eight of hearts lead was covered by nine and ten and ducked. Sprinkhuizen continued with the king of hearts, which

Guth won, perforce. He cashed four rounds of clubs, ending in hand, then led his low spade to the queen. That lost to the king and Sprinkhuizen cashed the hearts then switched to king and another diamond, and the defence had three diamond winners so the contract was down four for -400.

Boonstra bid 1NT immediately over the 1♥ overcall so Van Noort raised to game. The two of hearts went to the five, ten and three, and Fragola continued with the seven of hearts to declarer's ace. Boonstra also cashed four clubs ending in hand, but in a small deviation from the action in the other room, then led the ♠J and ran it. Fragola won the king, cashed the hearts, and the last three tricks were again defensive diamond winners; no swing at down four for -400.

No fewer than eight E/W pairs were down four in 3NT for -400, and one was down five. One pair got out for down two, while Spain played 5♣ down one. There were just two E/W plus scores, Austria playing 3♣+1, and:

West	North	East	South
<i>Luhaorg</i>	<i>Vladimir</i>	<i>Piirisild</i>	<i>Kovacic</i>
–	–	1♣	Dble
Rdbl	1♠	2♣	2♠
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

the Croatian South's decision to double rather than overcall led to a quite different auction, in which it was spade stoppers that were the centre of the E/W decision making, rather than hearts. Kovacic led the king of hearts against 3NT, but the defenders she didn't work out the position and the contract was made with an overtrick for a 14 IMP swing to Estonia.

Board 7 was flat in 3NT+1 for N/S and Board 8 was also flat, but a little more interesting.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Oranje</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	4♦
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Boonstra</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Van Noort</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
1♥	2♣	2♥	3♦
All Pass			

Both Souths showed admirable restraint with their eight sure tricks and, in Fragola's case, facing a two-level overcall. And right they were. The diamond void means that the South hand never gets in to cash all those lovely diamonds in a NT contract, while there are three aces to lose in a diamond contract. All of which means that +130 was the best that could be achieved on the N/S cards; no swing.

As we might expect, not everyone was so controlled with the South cards. In total, four stopped in partscore and went plus, while six played 5♦-1, in all but one case doubled. Three No trump was tried twice, down two and down three, while 4♦ was defeated once, and West made 3♥ at the remaining table

Board 9 was flat in 2♠ just making by N/S, so we came to the final deal with France still ahead by 13-0 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>	<i>Oranje</i>	<i>Bellicaud</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	3♣	Pass	4♣
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Boonstra</i>	<i>Tabata</i>	<i>Van Noort</i>	<i>Fragola</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♦	2♣	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Oranje made a weak jump overcall and collected a simple raise from partner. When her opponents bid to the spade game, Oranje took the save in 5♣ doubled, trading on her six-four shape.

Bellicaud led the queen of spades and, when that held the trick, switched to a diamond. Oranje won the ace and drew trumps but there was nothing to the defence and the contract was down three for –800.

Tabata overcalled only 2♣, so there was less momentum to the auction from the start. Fragola too made a simple raise, but Tabata was not tempted to come again when vulnerable, so Van Noort was left to declare the spade game.

Fragola led ace and another club against 4♠. Van Noort ruffed and played ace and another spade, losing to the king. There was a diamond to come for the defence but that was all; 10 tricks for +620 but 5 IMPs to France. They had pitched a shut out, winning by 18-0 IMPs, which converts to 15.52-4.48 VPs.

Five Clubs doubled went for –800 twice more, while 4♠ was made eight times and 4♥ once. Two E/W pairs didn't bid enough, scoring +170 in 3♠ and +200 against 4♣.



Sweden v Bulgaria (U26) – Round 3

by Brian Senior

Tenth met thirteenth in Round 3 of the U26 Championship, Sweden v Bulgaria.

The match started with a bang, with a borderline slam.

West	North	East	South
Warlenius	Kraynin	Lichtenstein	Stoilova
–	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Peychev	Bertheau	Momov	Wiberg
–	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

For Sweden, Erik Wiberg's 2NT response showed diamonds, with Markus Bertheau's 3♦ showing a liking for the suit. After an exchange of cuebids, 4NT was Key-card and 5♠ showed two key-cards plus the trump queen. Angel Momov led a passive diamond and, left to play clubs himself, Bertheau had to lose two tricks in the suit so was down one for –50.

For Bulgaria, Kaloyan Kraynin also opened 1NT but Teodora Stoilova simple raised to game. After a heart lead, Kraynin had 10 tricks for +430 and 10 IMPs to Bulgaria, a fast start for them.

Six Diamonds was bid three times and 6NT twice, always down one. There was also one pair who reached 7♦, were they were doubled for down two.



Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
<i>Psychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
–	–	1♥	2♠
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
–	–	1♥	2♠
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Both Easts became declarer in 4♥ after West had shown a constructive four-card raise over the 2♠ intervention.

Wiberg led the four of clubs to the nine and jack and Momov played ace and another

heart to the queen and king. Back came the nine of diamonds to the ten, king and ruff. Momov played the queen of clubs to the king and ace but was left with two losers, so just made for +420.

Stoilova led the two of diamonds in the other room. That was ruffed in dummy and the queen of hearts led and run. When it held, Ivar Lichtenstein switched attention to clubs, running the ten. A second club went to the king and ace, a diamond was ruffed and a trump played. That resulted in 12 tricks – five hearts, five clubs, and two diamond ruffs – so +480 and 2 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 3 was a heart game for the respective N/Ss, with Bertheau getting two more overtricks than Kraynin to pick up 2 IMPs and close the gap to 4-10.

Four Hearts doubled made twice, as did 5♥ doubled the one time E/W took the push over 5♦, while four pairs stopped short of game. Five Diamonds was played twice doubled and down one once and two once. Five Diamonds undoubled made the one time it was played – good judgement on the defenders' part of their defensive capabilities, one might say.

Then it was slam time again.

Ivar LICHTENSTEIN

Teodora STOILOVA

Kaloyan KRAYNIN

Harry HJORTH WARLENIUS

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
1♦	1NT	2♣	2NT
Pass	3♣	3♥	4♥
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
5♦	Dble	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

The big pre-empt bullied the Bulgarians into the two-ace slam but, of course, it's all very well to 'win' the bidding war, but then you have to back that up with a killing opening lead. Warlenius led a spade, and Stoilova had 12 black winners for +1370.

Ventsislav Peychev only opened 1♦ at the other table and the competitive auction stopped in 5♦ doubled. There were three spades, a heart and a diamond to lose, for –800, but the excellent result in the other room meant that was worth 11 IMPs to Bulgaria, who led by 21–4.

Six Clubs made three times and was beaten three times. Five Diamonds doubled cost 800 four times and 500 twice.

Both Norths came home in 1NT on Board 5, but it was a close run thing.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
–	1♥	Pass	1♠
1NT	All Pass		

Both Easts led a diamond. Momov's ten ran round to the queen, and Bertheaus played the ♥Q, Peychev winning the ace and returning a low spade for declarer's king. Bertheau got out with a spade, won by Peychev with the queen, and the jack of diamonds was ducked round to the king. Bertheau again exited with a spade, Momov winning the ten and cashing the two diamond winners. However, when Bertheau came down to two hearts and all three clubs in hand, Momov was endplayed and his heart exit saw declarer home with seven tricks for +90.

Lichtenstein led the nine of diamonds round to declarer's queen. Kraynin played the eight of diamonds straight back, to the ten and king, then led a heart to the king. A club to the ace was followed by a second heart to the queen, dropping the jack. Now she exited with a diamond and Lichtenstein won and cashed the fourth diamond before playing a a spade. The king of spades was Kraynin's seventh trick; +90 and no swing. One No Trump made eight times, twice with an overtrick. It also went down seven times, one, two or three down.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Dble	3♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
–	–	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

Similar auctions, where West made a delayed take-out double because he had the wrong shortage to make an immediate one, saw both Norths declare 3♥.

Momov led the ten of diamonds, which Bertheau ran to his queen. He played a club, won by Momov's Queen, and back came the ten of spades, which Bertheau won with the king. He conceded a second club, Peychev winning and cashing the third club. This enabled Momov to void himself in spades, but Peychev did not play a spade for the ruff, but played a fourth club. Bertheau ruffed with the ace then led the nine of hearts and ran it. A second heart finesse saw him home, with just a spade to lose; +140.

Lichtenstein led the singleton club and Warlenius overtook with the king and continued with ace and a third club for a ruff. The nine of spades came next, Kraynin winning in hand and drawing trumps. However, there was no endplay and, in the

fulness of time, the defence came to both a spade and a diamond trick for one down; –50 and 5 IMPs to Sweden, closing to 9–21. Eight N/Ss managed to make their partscores on this deal, eight did not and, not surprisingly, none of those in 4♥ were successful either.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Allowed a free run, the Bulgarian E/W pair had a Precision auction which stopped at 2♥, where Momov made nine tricks without breaking sweat for +140.

In the other room the N/S spade bidding added momentum to the auction and Lichtenstein pretty much drove to game on his own.

A low spade lead was won with dummy's bare ace, and Warlenius led a club to the ace then a diamond to the king and ace. He ruffed the spade return and played queen

and another diamond, ruffed and over-ruffed with the nine. Warlenius put in the jack on the club return, cashed the ace of hearts, and ruffed a diamond. A spade ruff came next, followed by the thirteenth diamond – ruffed and over-ruffed. The ace of clubs was the tenth trick, with Stoilova getting the king of hearts; just made for +620 and 10 IMPs to Sweden, very close now at 19-21.

Four Hearts was bid and made seven times, but went down eight times.

Bulgaria picked up an overtrick IMP on the next board, then:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
–	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Precision and standard bidding both saw the small slam reached, but from opposite sides of the table.

Bertheau led a diamond against Peychev,

who won dummy's king and cashed the ace and queen of spades, relaxing upon seeing the fall of the jack. He tested clubs next but eventually settled for 12 tricks; +1440.

Stoilova led a spade. Lichtenstein won the ace and cashed the queen the cashed the top clubs and also came to 12 tricks for a push at +1440.

There is a heart/club squeeze but why should declarer play for the actual layout? Seven No Trump failed twice but made once. Everyone else bid and made either 6♦ or 6NT.

The successful declarer in 7NT was Thomas Toesse of Norway, against Ireland. Unfortunately, we don't have the play details beyond the opening lead of the eight of spades.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
1♠	1NT	2♠	3♦
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
–	–	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

The major difference between the two auctions was that Bertheau showed his

values and spade stopper immediately while Kraynin did not. The Swedish E/W succumbed to the temptation to compete to the three level, while the 1NT bid was a warning, which was heeded by the Bulgarian E/W, who did not.

Against 3♥, Peychev led the ace of spades, which no doubt to his surprise was ruffed. Wiberg played the jack of hearts, which Peychev won with the king, and he led a club to the jack and king. Wiberg played the ten of hearts now, but Lichtenstein could win the queen and return the three of clubs to collect a ruff, and that was a down one for -100.

With no warning about the spade position, the Swedes competed to the three level, where Kraynin made a tight double. Kraynin led a trump, Warlenius winning in dummy and ducking a club. Kraynin won the ♠10 and played a second spade. That too was won in dummy and now Warlenius took a club ruff, but Kraynin's defence had restricted him to one ruff and he still held a club loser. A diamond off the dummy was won by Stoilova's king, and a heart came back. Warlenius won and played two more top hearts, getting rid of the second diamond loser, but Kraynin ruffed and cashed the queen of clubs, and still had the ♠K to come; down one for -200 and 7 IMPs to Bulgaria, back in the lead at 29-21.

There was a +730 in 3♠ doubled after a heart lead, and a -800 in 4♠ doubled after the ace of diamonds lead.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
-	-	-	Pass
2♣	Dble	Pass	2♠
3♣	Dble	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
-	-	-	Pass
1♣	1NT	Pass	2♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♥
All Pass			

Warlenius opened at the one level and, 1♣ not necessarily promising the suit, Kraynin saw a 1NT overcall as the best way to launch a 3-4-3-3 16-count. Stoilova used Stayman, doubled by Warlenius and passed by Kraynin to deny a club stopper. Stoilova didn't like the South hand very much and settled for 2♠ at her next turn before competing with 3♥ at her next turn. That was not sufficient to tempt Kraynin because of the previous weakish 2♠ call, and the good game was missed. After a club lead, Stoilova had 12 tricks for +230.

At the other table, Peychev's 2♣ opening added some momentum to the auction. It also ensured that Bertheau would start with a double, with no distraction about NT. Wiberg only responded with a cautious 2♠ to the first double, but jumped to the heart game when Bertheau doubled for a second time. Would Bertheau have bid on had 2♠ been passed to him, or did the 3♣ rebid help the Swedes to get to game?

Five E/Ws were allowed to play a club partscore, one of those being 4♣ doubled for +510. Eleven N/S bid and made 4♥ with at least one overtrick, while two E/Ws saved in 5♣ doubled down one.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Warlenius opened 1♥, and Lichtenstein's pre-emptive raise made it easy for him to go on to game. However, the king of clubs lead meant that he had four unavoidable losers, so down one for -50.

Peychev opened with a strong club then jumped in hearts, and it was equally easy for Momov to raise to game. Bertheau led the ten of diamonds which, in itself, was not a problem for the defence, but when the jack lost to the queen Stoilova tried to cash the ace, and that was a disaster. The diamond was ruffed and declarer could pitch the club loser on the king, just conceding two spade tricks; +420 and 10 IMPs to Bulgaria, who led by 39-25.

Four Hearts made four times, twice after the lead of the ten of diamonds, and twice the king of spades.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Peychev</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Momov</i>	<i>Wiberg</i>
–	1♠	Dble	2♠
3♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Warlenius</i>	<i>Kraynin</i>	<i>Lichtenstein</i>	<i>Stoilova</i>
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Two Spades was defeated by a trick on the ace of diamonds lead followed by four rounds of clubs to promote a trump trick; -100.

the lead against 3♣ was the queen of diamonds, and there was no way to avoid five losers; another -100 and 5 IMPs to Sweden.

An overtrick IMP on the last board meant that Sweden had closed to lose by only 31-39 IMPs, translating to 7.56-12.44 VPs.

Junior Teams Open U26 (and Women U26) Series, Round 2

by Jos Jacobs

For the second round of the opening day, I selected the main event as my choice of matches to have a look at. The Open U26 series has been the only junior championship for most part of the previous century so you, dear players, can be forgiven if you don't happen to know this but it should explain why, for me at least, the Open U26 Junior Series still is the main event. So I will have a look at this Series first, though some actions from the Women U26 event will also be included in this report.

After this semantic introduction, over to the real modern world. Junior events have always been (in)famous for creative actions by so many of the participants, irrespective of the outcome. Success and failure have always looked fraternal twins to me (no, not identical, there are a few distinct differences) so it was not too difficult to collect a few examples of either approach from this set of boards as well.

Take for instance the opening board.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

At a number of tables, South found an opening bid, red v. green. This made it even easier for N/S to get to 4♠. Certainly, when South passed as dealer, East had every reason to intervene over North's 1♠ opening bid in third position. As a result, some E/W pairs competed up to the five-level, going two down in 5♥ for -300 or even -100 when N/S let them off the hook. Whether or not this was a good sacrifice remains to be seen because 4♠ made or one down was about 50-50 over the room.

In the Women Series, the results were much more quiet. At no table, E/W went on to 5♥ and maybe, they were quite right in most cases, because 4♠ was made only twice and went down six times. One table compromised nicely when both 4♥ by E/W and 4♠ by their N/S team-mates went one down apiece.

Going down in 4♥ is easy. You cannot both establish the clubs and NOT lose a trump trick.

But how can you go down in 4♠? It looks so makable at first glance...

This is what I saw at one table. Top heart lead, club to partner's ace and a diamond back up to dummy's strong suit. Though this ♦8 very much smells like a singleton (in the Netherlands, many singletons in the previous century were in fact the eight, so there is another reason for suspicion) this did not deter some declarers from winning the ♦A and taking a spade finesse. This lost to East's ♠K and the ensuing diamond ruff then sealed declarer's fate. ♠A and another first might have helped here. Apparently, this winning line is by no means obvious, however...

On the very next board I noticed a highly unusual number. That's something that cannot go unnoticed but thanks to modern technology, it was easy to spot the culprits.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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



everybody happy. Fruzsina Hegyi from Hungary can be proud of herself, had it been a pairs' contest. Going down two for -100 in N/S would have been a very good matchpoint result so we can forgive her violation of one of Burn's Laws: don't play the same contract in both directions. In their actual match, Hungary scored just 1 IMP on this board.

In the Open U26, the Norwegians did better in going down in club contracts. Saetre ran to 2♣ for down five (-250) but their teammates, Toesse and Austad, caught the opposition in 2♥ doubled for +300 to still gain 2 IMPs in spite of the clear breach of the same Burn's Law.

Poland v Türkiye, U26W

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Morawska</i>	<i>Daldal</i>	<i>Zalewska</i>	<i>Yildirim</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	All Pass

At the other table, E/W had scored +90 in 1NT passed all round. Apparently, the Polish E/W are using a mandatory redouble even in case a strong 1NT (15-17) is doubled. The reasoning behind this is to put extra pressure on the opponents. Poor North now had no clear idea about what to do and neither had South. Because North can never get the lead, declarer emerged with two overtricks for a really atypical number: +1560, good for 16 IMPs to Poland.

There were a few more rather exotic results on this board, I thought. East's 1NT opening bid got doubled at three more tables in the Women's series and at all these tables, someone ran. Two West players ran to 2♣ and played there, making 10 tricks for an OK result. Our third West player passed, so it was North who ran...to 2♣, making

Now over to the normal scores on this board. The normal score would be +620 in 4♠ for E/W but this result proved to be far from normal: it was hardly achieved. Four times in the Open U26, among them the local favourites Kreitals and Jansons, who even managed to get themselves doubled for +790, and just once in the U26W series: full marks for Pedersen and Jacobsen who got a stand-alone +620 there.

A few boards later, the usual uncertainties about the unusual NT caused troubles here and there.

Many South players opened 1♣ (at least semi-natural) and North responded 1♥ or even 1♦ (seen at one table). East then bids 2NT. Tell me please your agreements about which suits this would show.



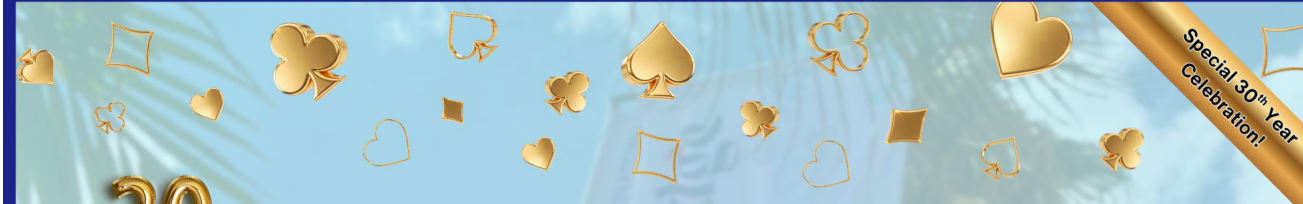
Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

With both minors bid by N/S, 2NT would show majors and, at a table or two. West would then become a little excited and E/W would end up in something like 5♣, or even (at one table) 6♣. That would not go unpunished.

Some more careful Easts made a sensible overcall of only 2♣. They were rewarded by an aggressive ♦K lead from South to make even 3♣ a good place to be. For the diehards who went on to 3NT and stopped there, the defenders had no double in store but no mercy either. Still, boards like this remain a lesson in arithmetic for me. Why does 5♣ go down three and 6♣ only two?

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Under 26



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 3

#	TEAM		VP
1		ISRAEL	55.09
2		NORWAY	45.95
3		NETHERLANDS	44.00
4		ESTONIA	40.93
5		TURKIYE	40.60
6		ITALY	37.02
7		POLAND	35.62
8		FRANCE	34.42
9		LATVIA	33.50
10		DENMARK	33.06
11		GREECE	31.00
12		SWEDEN	30.70
13		BULGARIA	30.23
14		BELGIUM	28.70
15		AUSTRIA	27.03
16		ENGLAND	25.62
17		GERMANY	24.94
18		FINLAND	21.03
19		CZECH REPUBLIC	20.17
20		HUNGARY	19.38
21		ROMANIA	18.08
22		CROATIA	12.80
23		IRELAND	3.53



View all results →

Full standings & round-by-round results

Under 26 Women



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 3

#	TEAM		VP
1		POLAND	56.33
2		DENMARK	51.00
3		ENGLAND	46.89
4		SWEDEN	44.66
5		NORWAY	27.54
6		LATVIA	26.69
7		ITALY	25.13
8		FRANCE	22.89
9		ESTONIA	20.00
10		ISRAEL	18.48
11		HUNGARY	13.77
12		TURKIYE	6.62



View all results →

Full standings & round-by-round results

Under 21



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 4

#	TEAM	VP
1	 FRANCE	61.18
2	 POLAND	58.25
3	 ISRAEL	57.48
4	 DENMARK	48.82
5	 NETHERLANDS	47.82
6	 SWEDEN	47.65
7	 ENGLAND	44.02
8	 GREECE	39.63
9	 NORWAY	36.32
10	 CZECH REPUBLIC	28.68
11	 SCOTLAND	22.83
12	 LATVIA	20.38
13	 ESTONIA	13.94



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EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Under 16



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 2

#	TEAM		VP
1		ISRAEL	38.06
2		ENGLAND	31.87
3		POLAND	28.54
4		FRANCE	24.19
5		NORWAY	23.23
6		NETHERLANDS	21.34
7		GREECE	19.20
8		SWEDEN	18.79
9		SLOVAKIA	16.88
10		TURKIYE	16.47
11		ESTONIA	12.35
12		GERMANY	7.04
13		LATVIA	6.04



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EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Under 31



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 5

#	TEAM	VP
1	 BULGARIA	66.85
2	 FRANCE	64.30
3	 ENGLAND	62.34
4	 ESTONIA	61.54
5	 TURKIYE	60.51
6	 CROATIA	54.71
7	 ITALY	53.43
8	 NETHERLANDS	51.98
9	 AUSTRIA	44.98
10	 LATVIA	44.84
11	 POLAND	44.45
12	 DENMARK	43.81
13	 GERMANY	42.10
14	 SCOTLAND	36.78
15	 SPAIN	22.38



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