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♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ **DAILY BULLETIN**

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PHOTO FINISH IN THE MAKING



Poland are setting the pace, leading three of the five categories.

In the Under 31, after 15 rounds, France lead with 198.52 VPs, ahead of Denmark on 189.55 and Türkiye on 179.25.

Nowhere is the fight closer than in the Under 26, where after 11 rounds just 0.34 of a victory point separates the top two: Estonia lead with 150.80 VPs, with Israel right on their heels on 150.46 and the Netherlands third on 140.65.

In the Under 26 Women, after 9 rounds, Poland continue to dominate with 156.86 VPs, ahead of Denmark on 143.29 and England on 97.65.

In the Under 21, after 12 rounds, Poland lead the way with 160.20 VPs, closely pursued by Israel on 157.60, with France third on 145.32.

In the Under 16, after 7 rounds, Poland are in front with 107.96 VPs, with Israel right behind on 106.07 and England on 99.78.



Bulgaria v Turkiye (U31) – Round 10

by Brian Senior

The final round of day two saw first, Turkiye, face second, Bulgaria, in the U31 championship. The match began with a flat board in 3NT just making by E/W. All the other tables in this series also bid and made 3NT, a couple of times with one overtrick and once with two. We didn't have long to wait for the first swing, and it was a major one.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

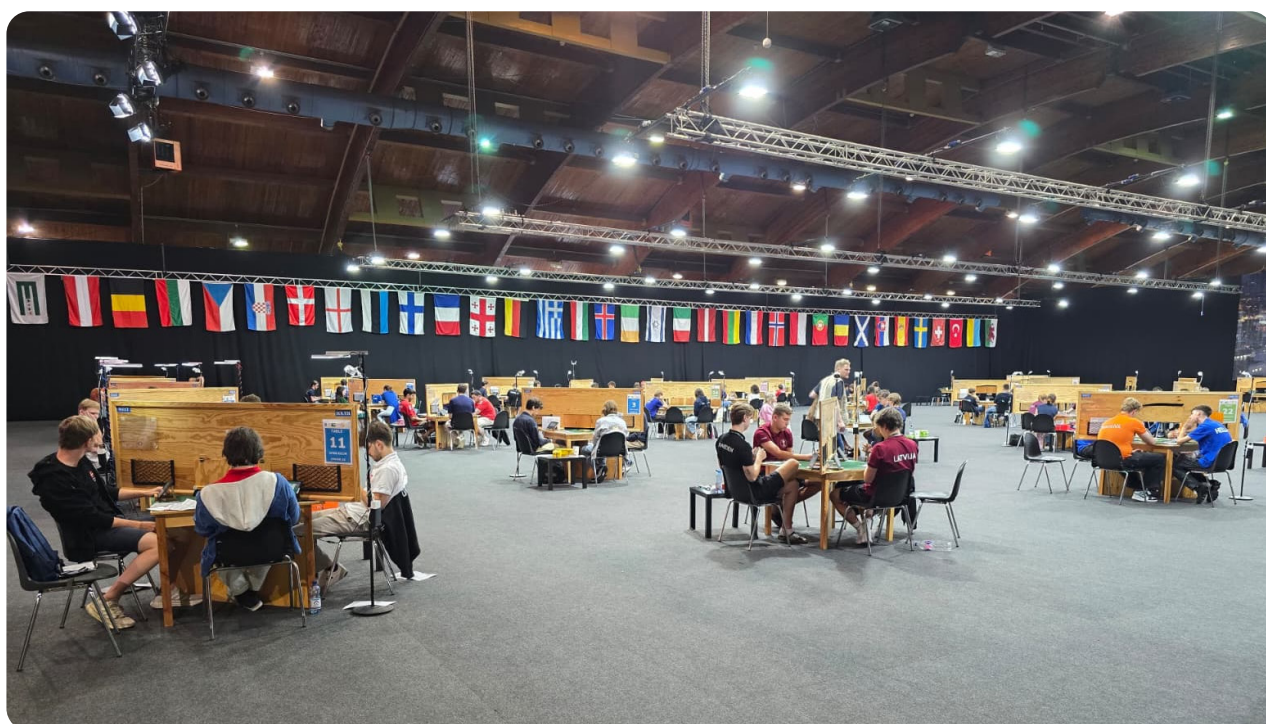
♠ K 4		♠ 9 2
♥ K Q 10 4		♥ 6
♦ Q 9		♦ A K 7 6 5 3
♣ A Q 9 8 5		♣ K 10 3 2
♠ A Q 10 8 6 5 3		♠ J 7
♥ J 8 5		♥ A 9 7 3 2
♦ 4 2		♦ J 10 8
♣ 6		♣ J 7 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Teneva</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Kuscu</i>	<i>Ferov</i>	<i>Sari</i>	<i>Pavlov</i>
–	–	1♦	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♦	2♥
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

For Turkiye, Tugrul Utku Sari opened a natural 1♦ and Hakan Kuscu responded with a peaceful 1♠. When Zahari Ferov overcalled to show a strong NT type, that discouraged his opponents from competing to a high level and they sold out to a comfortable 3♥. Kuscu cashed the ace of spades, but it didn't matter, so long as declarer didn't take a club finesse before drawing trumps – he didn't – and 3♥ was just made for +140.

For Bulgaria, Dobromir Lazarov's 1♦ was



Precision, so both limited to 15 HCP and also not promising the suit. Gergana Teneva leaped to 4♦ in response, a transfer to spades. Kadir Berkay Sezer passed over that, but doubled when the 4♠ completion came back to him.

Oguzhan Kadioglu led the jack of diamonds. Lazarov won the ace, cashed the king, and ruffed a third diamond with the eight. After some thought, Sezer over-ruffed with the king, cashed the ace of clubs, then played king and another heart. Lazarov ruffed, pitched the last heart on the king of clubs, and led the nine of spades to the ten; 10 tricks for +590 and 12 IMPs to Bulgaria. There was one other +590 in 4♠ doubled and one +420. Six pairs were defeated in either 4♠ or 4♣ doubled.

Board 3 was flat in 1NT down two by South, but we didn't have to wait long for the next big swing.



Oguzhan KADIOGLU

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Teneva</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Kuscu</i>	<i>Ferov</i>	<i>Sari</i>	<i>Pavlov</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Teneva's 1♦ was Precision and her 2♣ rebid promised at least five-four in the minors, one way around or the other. Two Hearts was FSF and 3♦ natural and forcing. Three Hearts was a cuebid, and now 4♦ was optional Key-card. With a minimum, responder bids the next step, here 4♥, but with a better hand responds to show the number of key-cards. That made 4NT a second-step response, showing zero or three key-cards, and that was enough for Lazarov to bid the small slam. Seven was not an option as he didn't know about the singleton spade.

The lead was the king of hearts. Teneva won played to set up the fifth spade. That was successful so she had all 13 tricks for +1390.

Kuscu also opened 1♦ but rebid 1NT. Two Diamonds was GF checkback and Sari just jumped to the diamond game without further exploration. A little lazy, perhaps, but he no doubt assumed from the 1NT rebid that partner would have a doubleton spade, meaning a loser in that suit.

The queen of clubs lead saw Kuscu too establish the long spade so make all 13 tricks, but here that scored only +640 so 13 IMPs to Bulgaria,

Only three pairs missed slam, while three got to the borderline grand slam, which essentially requires a four-three spade split.

The successful auctions were, for Denmark:

West	North	East	South
<i>Olsen</i>		<i>Sigsgaard</i>	
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♦	All Pass

For Latvia:

West	North	East	South
<i>Balodis</i>		<i>Olla</i>	
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	7♦	All Pass

And for France:

West	North	East	South
<i>Guth</i>		<i>Bellicaud</i>	
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♦	All Pass

I confess that, while I am not fully familiar with the methods of the other two pairs, I like the French auction for its natural simplicity. Guth's natural 3♥ bid pinpointed the spade shortage, after which trumps were set, a heart cuebid showed a suitable hand, and Key-card was used, with 7♦ being the logical conclusion.

Bulgaria picked up an overtrick IMP in 4♠ on the next board, then came another big board for Bulgaria.



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Voivodeship


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City


 Metropolis
GZM


 Ministry
of Sport and Tourism
of the Republic of Poland

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Teneva</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Kuscu</i>	<i>Ferov</i>	<i>Sari</i>	<i>Pavlov</i>
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	All Pass

Todor Pavlov opened the South hand with 1♠ and Ferov responded 1NT. When Sari doubled, take-out of spades, Kuscu had to bid something, and chose 2♥, which excited Sari sufficiently that he raised to game.

Facing a fourth trump, 4♥ might have been a very reasonable contract, but on the defence of two rounds of spades there was just too much to do and Kuscu was down one for –100.

Lazarov opened a strong club, 16+, and Teneva's double showed any 5-7. One No Trump was an artificial one-round force, and the momentum of their auction saw the Bulgarians reach an extremely thin NT game.

Kadioglu cashed a top spades and saw that dummy was covering the fifth round of spades. Still, he had four winners to

cash and did so, causing Sezer no end of problems as he had to find three discards. Sezer opted for one club and one heart, while Lazarov chose two diamonds and a club.

With the spade winners cashed, Kadioglu had to find a safe exit card. He tried a diamond – after all, declarer had pitched two of those – and that went to the queen and king. A diamond to dummy's ace was followed by the jack of hearts to queen and king, a heart back to the ten, and now the ten of spades could be cashed before taking the club finesse for the contract. Nine tricks, no problem? Plus 600 gave Bulgaria their third big swing of the match and they led by 38-1.

Funnily enough, nobody else bid and made game on the E/W cards, though one tried it and went down two. There were also two +500s on defence to North in 1NT doubled.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Teneva</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
–	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Kuscu</i>	<i>Ferov</i>	<i>Sari</i>	<i>Pavlov</i>
–	4♥	All Pass	

Both Norths opened 4♥. Pavlov was left in peace to play there on the king of diamonds

lead and managed to negotiate 10 tricks for +420.

Teneva made a rather off-centre double with the West cards. That looks as though it could have gone wrong in so many ways had partner taken it out, but in practice Lazarov left it in and he too led the king of diamonds.

Sezer won the diamond with the ace and led a low heart to the queen and ace, then cashed three more rounds of trumps without giving the defence any clue as to his side-suit distribution. Of course, he must have been concerned about having three spade losers, particularly after the double, but Lazarov signalled with the ten of spades on the third heart, and Sezer could lead to the jack then queen and, though bot missing honours were offside, there were only two losers in the suit and the contract was just made for +590 and 5 IMPs to Turkiye.

One pair played 3♥+1 after an opening pass by North, while all the rest opened 4♥ and played there, three times doubled. Nine pairs made 4♥, four were down one.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Teneva</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Lazarov</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Kuscu</i>	<i>Ferov</i>	<i>Sari</i>	<i>Pavlov</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Teneva opened 1♠ in third seat and Lazarov competed with 2♠ over Sezer's 1NT overcall. However, this did not dissuade the Turkish pair from bidding the NT game, against which Lazarov led the five of spades to the queen and ace.

Sezer led a diamond to the king then ran the jack of clubs, Lazarov winning the king. To beat the contract, Lazarov needed to clear the spades now, but he couldn't work out who had the ace of diamonds. If it was declarer, Teneva would have the ace of hearts, and that is what he played for, returning the nine of hearts round to declarer's queen. Sezer cleared the diamonds now and, with the king of spades where he needed it to be, had 10 tricks for +630.

Kuscu did not open light in third seat, so Ferov got to open a strong club, Pavlov making a negative response but then cuebidding to ask for a spade stopper at his next turn, and seeing Ferov conclude the auction with 3NT. Here Sari led a spade and continued with spades when he regained the lead, and the contract was down two for –200 and 13 badly needed IMPs for Turkiye. Three No Trump was triied eight times, making four times, and going down four times. The last two boards to some extent salvaged the match for Turkiye, but they still lost it by 19–38 IMPs, translating to 4.25–15.75 VPs. They slipped to third in the rankings, while Bulgaria took over at the top, with France sandwiched in between the two.

Croatia v Turkiye (U31) Rd 11

by Brian Senior

Having dropped out of the lead after their Round 10 defeat at the hands of Bulgaria, the Turkish U31s were looking for an immediate bounce-back when they met Croatia in Round 11, and the match went beautifully for them.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ozgez	Vladimir	Kalayci	Kovacic
-	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Grebenar	Sezer	Andricic	Kadioglu
-	4♥	All Pass	

The 4♥ opening proved to be highly effective at both tables. Six Clubs is an excellent contract and quite cold if played by West – ace and another spade of course beats it if East is the declarer – but neither E/W got close to bidding the slam.

For Turkey, Cengiz Ozgez doubled with the West cards, Metecan Kalayci responded 4NT, pick a minor, and Ozgez duly did so, with 5♣ ending the auction. On the queen of hearts lead there were all 13 tricks for +640.

Were the Turks worried at missing the slam? They need not have been, because in the other room Lea Grebenar, for Croatia, did not bid with the West cards, so Kadir Berkay Sezer was left to play peacefully in 4♥ where, after a top diamond lead, he had to go down one for -100 but 11 IMPs to Turkiye.

Three pairs bid to 6♣, one of them, unfortunately, playing it from the East seat and getting ace and another spade lead; down one. The successful pairs were, for Scotland:

West	North	East	South
Foale		Behr	
-	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass



and for Austria:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sadaba</i>		<i>Jindra</i>	
–	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgez</i>	<i>Vladimir</i>	<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Kovacic</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Grebenar</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Andricic</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
–	–	–	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The auctions were identical up to South's third bid, when Petra Kovacic, for Croatia, showed her fifth club, while Oguzhan Kadioglu preferred to show the spade stopper. From this point, the Croatians got locked into diamonds, while the Turks quickly bid to 3NT.

Three No Trump on a low spade lead and continuation took no time at all; there were nine running tricks and Kadioglu duly ran them; +600.

Five Diamonds would have been OK too, had trumps split three-two, but they didn't, and Kalayci doubled the final contract, expecting to make two trump tricks and the ace of spades plus anything partner could contribute.

Partner's contribution proved to be zero, beyond finding the spade lead. Kalayci won the ace and played a spade back, and Kovacic won and led a diamond to the king and a second diamond, and was down one for –200 and 13 IMPs to Turkiye.



Two pairs played in 5♦, as we have seen, one being doubled, and one reached 6♦ and were doubled for -500. The rest all bid and made 3NT, one with an overtrick.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgez</i>	<i>Vladimir</i>	<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Kovacic</i>
-	2♥	2NT	3♥
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Grebenar</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Andricic</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
-	2♦	2NT	3♥
5♦	All Pass		

The E/W hands fit perfectly together, with no wasted high cards. Four pairs bid to the cold diamond slam, one of them being Ozgez and Kalayci.

Antonia Vladimir opened a natural weak two bid and Kalayci overcalled 2NT. When Kovacic competed with 3♥, Ozgez committed to his ten-high diamond suit and, after an exchange of cuebids, jumped to the small slam. Well bid for +920 to Turkiye.

In the other room, Sezer opened a multi 2♦, Matija Andricic competed with 3♥, pass or correct, and Grebenar jumped to 5♦, ending the auction; +420 but 11 IMPs to Turkiye.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgez</i>	<i>Vladimir</i>	<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Kovacic</i>
-	-	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Grebenar</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Andricic</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
-	-	3♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Andricic opened 3♣ on a fragile suit and Grebenar continued the pre-empt with a raise to 4♣, which ended the auction. Kadioglu led the five of diamonds to the jack and ace, and Andricic led the jack of clubs and ran it. That lost to the ace and Sezer now did the wrong thing when, rather than continue the diamond attack, he returned the queen of hearts. Kadioglu won the ace cashed the ace of spades before switching to a low diamond. Andricic won the ♦K, cashed the ♠K then the ♥K for a diamond pitch, and had the rest; 10 tricks for +130. A diamond return at trick three sets up a fourth defensive trick and the contract is down one.

Kalayci did not open the East hand. Kovacic opened 1♥ as South then showed a minimum over the Jacoby response, and finally signed off in 4♥, against which Ozgez led the two of diamonds to the jack and ace. Kalayci found the good switch to the jack

of clubs and that was covered all round. Kovavcic played the queen of diamonds, but Ozgez won the king and returned a club to Kalayci's ten. A heart through was ducked to the king and there was still a spade to be lost, so down two for -200 and 2 IMPs to Turkiye.

Four Easts made the 3♣ pre-empt, and seven N/Ss bid to 4♥, going down one or two.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozgez</i>	<i>Vladimir</i>	<i>Kalayci</i>	<i>Kovacic</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Grebenar</i>	<i>Sezer</i>	<i>Andricic</i>	<i>Kadioglu</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Sezer opened 1♣ then jumped to game over the transfer response – all very simple. Andricic led the four of clubs to the jack and ace and Sezer played his singleton diamond. Andricic went in with the ace to lead a second club, which did declarer no harm at all. Sezer won the queen in hand and cashed the ace and king of hearts followed by the ♣K. When he next led the eight of spades from the dummy, Grebenar

hopped up with the ace and returned a spade to declarer's queen, again not doing him any harm at all. Sezer drew trumps ending in hand and cashed out. As Andricic had discarded a spade, there as an overtrick so 11 tricks for +650.

The Croatian N/S got a level higher so the play and defence would be under more pressure than at our first table.

Ozgez led the five of diamonds to the nine and ace, a good start for declarer as it set up a ruffing finesse position in diamonds for declarer. Kalayci switched to the three of spades to the ace, which again was good news for declarer. Now Ozgez switched to the eight of clubs to the seven, ten and king. Kovacic played the queen of diamonds but, when it was not covered, ruffed it with the eight.

At this point, the play record stops making any sense. We are expected to believe that declarer led the two of hearts to her seven, West winning the ten and playing the king of diamonds for dummy to ruff with the jack, after which the contract was down one for -100 and 13 IMPs to Turkiye.

Well, the contract did go down one, but...

Declarer really should have made 5♥ after the play to the first two tricks had done much of the work for her. But maybe the play record is correct and she simply pulled a wrong card – we've all done it.

Altogether, four pairs went down in heart contracts, two in 6♥, and two in 5♥. The rest all played safely in 4♥, eight making an overtrick.

Turkiye won the match by 52-0 IMPs, which converts to 20-0 in VPs, and were back on top of the rankings.



Open U26 Teams Women U26 Teams Round 9 and Round 8

by Jos Jacobs

The big clash of Saturday's early afternoon round was of course the Women U26 match between the current leaders, Poland and Denmark. Next door, in the U26 Open, leaders Israel were facing Norway, a team that had been moving in the wrong direction a bit recently. A win against the leaders would certainly stop their downfall. These two thus are my focus matches in this report.

After a classic partscore battle and a routine 3NT this was the third hurdle for the players to overcome. It was not a bidding problem but a lead choice. At almos all tables, the bidding had gone (the equivalent of) North 2NT and South 3NT. East on lead. Would you opt for either black four-card suit or rather try the more solid looking ♥10?

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

In the Open U26, the vote ended 50-50. Those who led a spade or a club conceded -400 a little later. Leading the ♥10 led to declarer's downfall, though one declarer survived the lead of the ♥9. I would guess that West played the ♥Q to the first trick but this is only speculative; I simply have

no idea.

In the Women's series, it was a different story. All Easts led a black suit with just one notable exception: Ida Marie Øberg from Norway, who with her ♥10 lead added to her already existing reputation, not only in bridge journalists' circles, and gained 11 IMPs for her team in the process.

On the next board, it looked as if they were bidding an entirely different board in our Open U26 match.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Saetre</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
		Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

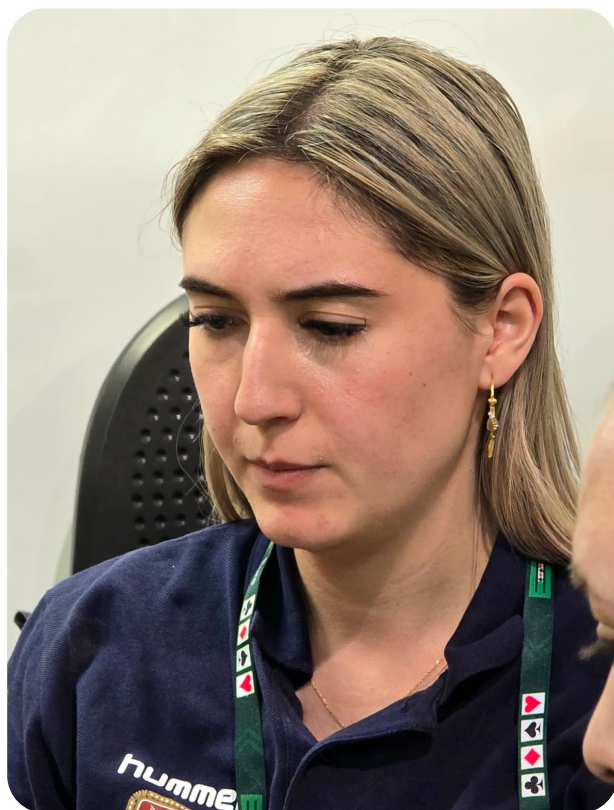
Apparently, all bids after the 2NT opening bid were alerted so it looks to me that West tried a psyche in third position here. The 2NT opening bid usually shows 20-21 balanced hcp and the rest of the auction looks in accordance with that. Passing the

3♣ enquiry would probably give the show away too early. Because West clearly had chosen the wrong moment for his actions, he had to go four down himself in 3NT, losing -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Plana</i>	<i>Petelko</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Retter</i>
–	–	Pass	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

No jokes at the other table; Norway +130 and 8 IMPs to them. The overtrick is there if the defence does not manage to attack hearts from South before they get their spade trick. This also applied in one of the Women's matches, where the 4♣ contract was doubled. The board was a curious push in the Austria v. Germany match. Both N/S pairs reached 4♥ after West opened 3♣ and North doubled. At both tables, the contract was made, which looks illegitimate to me... Alas, we don't know the actual play.



Erleta PLANA

On the next board, South's ♥J looked like a vital asset but turned out an unnecessary value in the end.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Saetre</i>	<i>Zeitak</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

In the Norwegian auction, North's 2♣ was either Gazzilli or a natural club rebid with less than 16 HCP. Two Diamonds was the 'normal' 8+ response. So much for the auction to an entirely reasonable spot, certainly non-vulnerable; Norway +170. Game was bid (and made) at only seven out of the 22 tables in the Open but at half the tables in the Women U26.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Plana</i>	<i>Petelko</i>	<i>Sjodal</i>	<i>Retter</i>
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

At the other table no Gazzilli (not enough HCP) and simply hoping for the best. Well done for an easy +430 and 6 IMPs to Israel.

A few boards later, we again saw a wide variety of results.

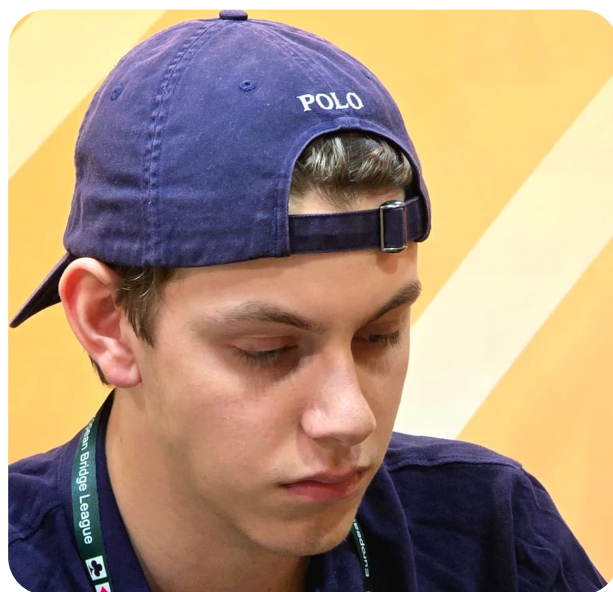
Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

The popular contracts were 3NT, most of the time played by North, and 2♦ doubled by E/W.

The latter proved an easy prey; +500 or even +800 to E/W was the usual outcome, more than enough compensation for their dubious 3NT. When East leads a diamond against North's 3NT, the contract is pretty doomed right from the start, though it can always be made double dummy. This time,

the actual layout was a real challenge for the statisticians; in both majors, the suit broke 4-2 but the missing honour was in the doubleton. Dropping the ♥Q in East was asking far too much and there even was a declarer who took a second round spade finesse. At only one table in the Women's U26 3NT was made. In the Open U26, it was almost the opposite: 3NT was made 10 times and failed only twice.



Anders BROGELAND



World Bridge Series

KATOWICE, POLAND

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Sweden v Norway (U21) Denmark v England (U26W)

by David Burn

Saturday afternoon saw the resumption of bygone conflicts for the online spectators, although it has been a long time since Denmark and England met in actual battle. The first board saw a couple of sizeable swings.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

SWEDEN v NORWAY (U21)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osen</i>	<i>Nordqvist</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Sivelind</i>
–	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	All pass

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Brekke</i>	<i>Wedman</i>	<i>Saegrov</i>
–	2♥	2♠	4♥

All pass

Three spades went down three, 150 to Sweden. Four hearts was at the mercy of a club lead but East was not very likely to find one of those. On his actual choice of a trump declarer was able to set up a spade for a club discard and, when East did not give him a losing option by playing

a club when in with ♠A, Norway had 420 and 7 IMPs. In the U26W match the contract was 4♥ at both tables; the Danish East eventually gave the English North the club guess and she got it wrong, while the Danish North made her game on a defence that is not recorded beyond the opening lead; 10 IMPs to Denmark.

Board 2 might have been a slam on a better day; it was a poor contract attempted only once on this bad day. No swing in our matches. Board 3 was equally uneventful, though the Swedish North/South gave Norway's Einar Osen a rough ride in a routine 3NT and he came through the ordeal pretty well. The other defenders just blew a trick by leading fourth best, and Denmark found another one somewhere to pick up an IMP.



Board 4 was notable for the number of contracts that didn't make; of 24 declarers in the U21 and U26W events only two were successful in their chosen contracts.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

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

SWEDEN v NORWAY (U21)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osen</i>	<i>Nordqvist</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Sivelind</i>
1NT	All pass		

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Brekke</i>	<i>Wedman</i>	<i>Saegrov</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

Despite receiving a heart lead against 1NT the Norwegian declarer could find no more than six tricks. A Gazzilli auction at the other table saw East-West arrive in a game without much play on the actual layout; when it failed by two tricks Norway had 3 IMPs. There was a more serious swing in the other match:

DENMARK v ENGLAND (U26W)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gahan</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>	<i>Zeman</i>	<i>Jacobsen</i>
1♥	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♥	All pass		

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Cork</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>Birdsall</i>
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dble
3♣	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3♥ went down two and the hyperactive 3♠ at the other table down three, for 11 IMPs to Denmark. Board 5 saw a swing from next to nowhere.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

SWEDEN v NORWAY (U21)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osen</i>	<i>Nordqvist</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Sivelind</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Dble	2♠	All pass	

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Brekke</i>	<i>Wedman</i>	<i>Saegrov</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	1♠	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠	Dble	All pass

Lacking spades, Osen for Norway was reluctant to double the 1♦ opening; he came in on the next round, which was not entirely risk-free, but his opponents settled in 2♠ which failed by a trick on a club lead. Johansson for Sweden had no such inhibitions – he doubled 1♦ and the auction

unwound in 2♠ doubled against which Wedman unerringly led a heart (in theory a low trump would beat the contract one while a minor suit would let it make). 500 and 9 IMPs went to Sweden. Undaunted by the fate of her last 3♠ contract or by being vulnerable against not in first seat, the English North opened with that bid, and, although at first sight it seemed that she might regret this, she actually emerged with plus 140 (I don't know how). Denmark scored 110 at the other table and England won an IMP.

They won seven more on Board 6 where a Danish mix-up in the auction resulted in their pair playing in a cuebid – the suit of cuebid was a 5-2 fit that made an overtrick, but it wasn't at the game level. You could actually make a pretty awful slam, but everyone else settled for 450 in a normal game. Board 7 was a messy partscore affair that brought 7 IMPs to Sweden and Denmark – the contracts were all at the one or two level and tricks went backwards and forwards until the dust settled, but none of it was particularly edifying. At the halfway stage Sweden led Norway 16-10 and Denmark led England 27-8.



Jonas BREKKE

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

SWEDEN v NORWAY (U21)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osen</i>	<i>Nordqvist</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Sivelind</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble	2♥
Dble	3♥	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Brekke</i>	<i>Wedman</i>	<i>Saegrov</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble	2♥
2♠	3♠	4♠	All pass

Neither East/West pair could diagnose that their opponents would not be able to run the heart suit against 3NT, and both attempted the 4-3 spade fit. If trumps had been 5-1 a bit more often in the olden days we might never have heard of Sonny Moyse, but when both declarers met that fate today there was no way to make. No swing for down one at both tables.

DENMARK v ENGLAND (U26W)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gahan</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>	<i>Zeman</i>	<i>Jacobsen</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣	3♥	Dble	All pass

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Cork</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>Birdsall</i>
1♣	1♥	Dble	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All pass

Again 3NT was never an issue – Denmark found an eight-card fit but at a somewhat elevated level and 5♣ went down two. At the other table the English East bombarded the English West with so many doubles that she eventually passed one of them out lest more be forthcoming. That would have been all right if East led a diamond, but how could she know to do that? On her actual choice of ♠A West contributed the jack and East continued with ♠K, ruffed by declarer. Three rounds of clubs saw a diamond go from the dummy, and declarer led ♦3 from her hand. West won the king, cashed the ace, and played a trump, which East won with the king. She played a third diamond, and declarer ruffed with dummy's ♥7. West over-ruffed for down one, and the ghost of

King Alfred the Great went back to sleep. 5 IMPs to England.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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



SWEDEN v NORWAY (U21)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osen</i>	<i>Nordqvist</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Sivelind</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Brekke</i>	<i>Wedman</i>	<i>Saegrov</i>
–	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	Dble	4♥	Dble
All pass			

Deals where the double-dummy par is 4NT doubled usually do not produce that result. This deal was no exception – when Johansson's overcall was raised to game the Norwegians doubled it rather than saving against it, but were unable to back up this decision in the defence. At the other table West led a heart against 3NT, which South won to lead a low club; when West grabbed his ♣A on that trick the Swedes had made game in both rooms for 15 IMPs. If you're going to have a disaster at both tables, have it on the same board.



Maren Idland SAEGROV

In the Women's match Denmark played the North-South cards in the normal 3NT, but West did not go in with the ace when declarer set up what she hoped would be her ninth trick in clubs, and the contract finished down three. The English South achieved one of the very few plus scores in the field when she opened 1♦, rebid 2♦, and played there for a plus 90 that was worth 6 IMPs to her side.

Board 10 was a cold slam where the Danish women won admiration but no IMPs for remembering to play 6NT rather than the almost universal 6♠. Board 11 was a routine game where Denmark and Norway picked up an overtrick apiece. Board 12 was a not-quite-routine game at every table – there was a mildly uncomfortable trump break that led to some difficulty for declarers who did not take sufficient precautions – but in the end Norway scored a couple of overtricks and there was no swing in the other match.

Board 13 was not routine.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

SWEDEN v NORWAY (U21)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Osen</i>	<i>Nordqvist</i>	<i>Austad</i>	<i>Sivelind</i>
–	1♥	2♥	3♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
6♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All pass			

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Brekke</i>	<i>Wedman</i>	<i>Saegrov</i>
–	Pass	1♠	2♠
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All pass

I present these auctions without comment – no one really knows the best thing to do in high-level positions like this. 16 IMPs to Norway made their match a close affair, Sweden winning by 3 IMPs (10.97–9.03 VPs) when the last board was a flat game. DENMARK v ENGLAND (U26W)

Open room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gahan</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>	<i>Zeman</i>	<i>Jacobsen</i>
–	1♥	1♠	4♠
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
All pass			

Closed room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Cork</i>	<i>Bune</i>	<i>Birdsall</i>
–	1♥	2♥	3♠
4♠	5♥	Dble	All pass

Plus 1430 and minus 1050 meant 9 IMPs to Denmark, winners by 37–19 IMPs (14.86–5.14 VPs). The highest swing on the penultimate deal was 20 IMPs for 5♠ making one way and 6♥ doubled the other, the lowest swing was 7 IMPs which occurred twice – once for 7♥ doubled down one and 6♠ down one, and once for the rather more remarkable results of 5♠ doubled down one and 6♠ doubled down two. What can we learn from all this? If we knew, I suppose we'd have learned it.



Under 26



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 11

#	TEAM	VP
1	 ESTONIA	150.80
2	 ISRAEL	150.46
3	 NETHERLANDS	140.65
4	 GERMANY	135.74
5	 TURKIYE	134.68
6	 NORWAY	130.50
7	 ITALY	126.09
8	 GREECE	123.59
9	 FRANCE	122.93
10	 HUNGARY	122.38
11	 LATVIA	119.89
12	 CZECH REPUBLIC	118.52
13	 POLAND	115.70
14	 DENMARK	112.32
15	 ENGLAND	109.29
16	 BULGARIA	107.95
17	 SWEDEN	99.88
18	 CROATIA	85.39
19	 AUSTRIA	83.88
20	 BELGIUM	80.55
21	 IRELAND	70.79
22	 FINLAND	59.65
23	 ROMANIA	44.27



View all results →

Full standings & round-by-round results

Under 26 Women



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 9

#	TEAM	VP
1	 POLAND	156.86
2	 DENMARK	143.29
3	 ENGLAND	97.65
4	 ITALY	96.74
5	 NORWAY	95.57
6	 FRANCE	90.14
7	 SWEDEN	79.12
8	 ESTONIA	75.05
9	 TURKIYE	72.79
10	 LATVIA	61.58
11	 ISRAEL	59.96
12	 HUNGARY	51.25

[View all results →](#)

Full standings & round-by-round results

Under 21



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 12

#	TEAM	VP
1	 POLAND	160.20
2	 ISRAEL	157.60
3	 FRANCE	145.32
4	 NORWAY	143.34
5	 ENGLAND	141.96
6	 CZECH REPUBLIC	135.60
7	 NETHERLANDS	134.65
8	 SWEDEN	121.55
9	 DENMARK	118.62
10	 LATVIA	109.09
11	 GREECE	94.95
12	 ESTONIA	66.24
13	 SCOTLAND	51.88

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Full standings & round-by-round results

Under 16



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 7

#	TEAM	VP
1	 POLAND	107.96
2	 ISRAEL	106.07
3	 ENGLAND	99.78
4	 NORWAY	99.10
5	 GERMANY	83.86
6	 FRANCE	78.28
7	 SLOVAKIA	73.61
8	 NETHERLANDS	71.96
9	 GREECE	62.48
10	 SWEDEN	60.00
11	 ESTONIA	39.57
12	 TURKIYE	21.48
13	 LATVIA	19.35



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Under 31



◆ RANKING AFTER ROUND 15

#	TEAM	VP
1	 FRANCE	198.52
2	 DENMARK	189.55
3	 TURKIYE	179.25
4	 ENGLAND	178.13
5	 POLAND	176.46
6	 ITALY	166.89
7	 BULGARIA	164.70
8	 NETHERLANDS	164.09
9	 AUSTRIA	153.52
10	 LATVIA	143.08
11	 ESTONIA	138.35
12	 GERMANY	135.45
13	 CROATIA	106.10
14	 SCOTLAND	104.56
15	 SPAIN	73.95



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