









14th EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Opatija, Croatia • July 11 - 18, 2018

Editor : Jos Jacobs / Journalists : Daniel Gulyás & Branko Spiljak Lay-out Editors and Photographers : Iva Mrkić, Arianna Testa & Francesca Canali

THE DAY OF ALL FINALS: GO HRVATSKA!

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2018 ISSUE No 5

CONTENTS

Impressions of the U21 players in 7 acts Daniel Gulyás þ. 3

Elementary, Mr. Watson!

Branko **Š**pilijak, p. 6

One step closer

Branko Špilijak, p. 8

On the bubble Daniel Gulyás, p. 11

SCHEDULE TODAY

FINALS Session 1 09:00 - 12:50 LUNCH 12:50 - 13:20 Session 2 13:20 -PRESIDENT'S CUP Session 1 10:00 - 12:30 LUNCH 12:30 - 13:20 Session 2 13:20 - 16:00 FIFA Final

FIFA Final 17:00 (screened at the venue) Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony after the match

Here we are, on the last day of the European Championships, where all titles and medals are decided – including some minor issue about a football and 22 people chasing it for the World Cup!

83 pairs will be fighting it out in different age groups, let's see who the leaders are.

The current leaders in the U26 are **Alter-Streck** from *Germany*. They are ahead of **Marcinowski-Sobczak** from *Poland* who have kept their second place, while in 3rd we have our old friends from the *Czech Republic* still, **Kohutova-Klems**.

The U26 Women leaders have not changed much either, **Sjodal-Kjensli** from *Norway* taking over the lead once more; second are **Baldysz-Zareba** of *Poland* and the Italian over night leaders, **Dal Pozzo-Dal Pozzo** are currently 3rd.

The most changes were in the U21 age group. Current leaders are **Kopka-Cichy** from *Poland* yet again, **Yaninski-Kostova** from *Bulgaria* are second, while **Loonstein-Zeitak** from *Israel* are currently third.

The top 3 UI6 pairs are **Bloch-Zobel** from *France*, second are Danish brothers, **Tylvad-Tylvad**, while our newcomers here are **Morawska-Niklaus** of *Poland*.

Everyone beware of the starting times, 9:00 all finals start! (Except for the World Cup, it is on the Disco/-1 Floor at 17:00.)













REVISED SCHEDULE for **SUNDAY** 15th of **JULY**

FINALS

All finals will start at 09:00 in Level 0

- Session I: 09:00 12:50
- Lunch break: 12:50 13:20
- Session 2: 13:20 -
- FIFA Final: 17:00 (screened at the venue)

Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony – After the match

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Start at 10:00 in Level - I

Pairs not in the final are automatically registered.

Please inform the registration desk at the end of play today if you do not wish to play in the President's Cup or if you want to change partners:

- Session I: 10:00 12:30
- Lunch break: 12:30 13:20
- Session 2: 13:20 16:00
- FIFA Final: 17:00 (screened at the venue)

Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony – After the match

IMPORTANT - LUNCH

LUNCH BREAK will be **30 minutes**.

Lunch boxes will be provided for those staying at the Camellia, Continental, Gardenija and Agava Hotels. The boxes will be available from 08:00 at the hotel reception desks. For others:Arrange with your hotel, or bring your own lunch/sandwiches.

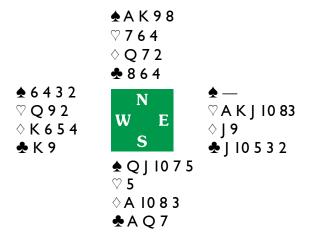
IMPRESSIONS OF THE U21 PLAYERS IN 7 ACTS Daniel Gulyás

I have decided to show an impression of how the U2I players play, what do they do well, what kind of mistakes they make. This may help them become better players, as they are certainly not ready – they have a lot to experience and learn to become good bridge players.

No names will be named, but every hand will have a topic worth thinking about. 7 hands, 7 topics, 7 acts.

Topic I:Aggressive bidding

Dealer East NS Vul



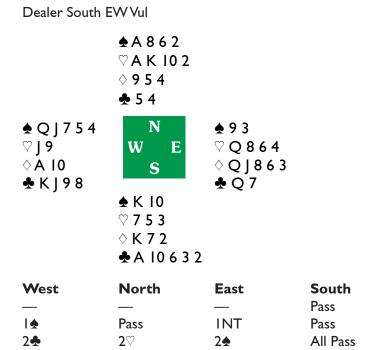
This is not necessarily a bad thing, but juniors have the tendency to bid too much, and that backfires more often than not. Well, it is part of the learning process...

West	North	East	South
		2♡	2♠
3♡	4♠	5♡	Dble
All Pass			

I personally would have opened the East cards 3 or even 4 hearts, which would have made the hand maybe even more interesting. Following South's overcall, I am not sure raising is a good idea. Your 4 little spades show that they will not have all the trumps in the world if they want to play spades, and you may have just enough to beat 4♠, but I can live with 3♡. Now came North, who probably bid 4♠ with a confident face to make them save. With his balanced hand, he can see there will be problems in at least one minor. Even with his AKxx of trumps, this could easily be not enough. If partner has extras, he will bid game over 3♠ anyway.

And now, back to East: he felt like his 2-opening did not give enough justice to his hand (that was true), so he felt he has an obvious save now. Remember, it is not advisable as a preemptor to bid again -as my old friend and partner, György Szalay used to say: never tell the same story twice. Even the play was somewhat interesting, declarer drawing one trump, then deciding on playing on dummy reversal lines. In itself, that is not a bad idea – the bad idea was not to play the hand on clubs, where he actually could have made his contract! Clubs can be set up with one ruff, and later a diamond to the king is still a trick, losing only 2 minor aces. If you bid bravely, you should play the hand well. 5 declarers got home in $5\Im x$.

Topic 2: Overbidding/unnecessary bidding



This is somewhat related to the previous topic, but this is not about competing/raising when fit was found, more about bidding for no apparent reason. I understand, everybody likes to bid, but you have to learn that sometimes pass can be a totally perfect bid. First, North thought he cannot pass again, he already did on the first round, how could he with such a nice hand? Had East held a 5th heart, or a stronger hand, he surely would have simply doubled this - this is an obvious penalty double situation. And why East bid 24? Well, he 'had to correct' to partner's first suit. Well, this is only true if the opponents have not bid... With no fit, no top honours, well, not even any sign of having more than the club queen really in partner's suits, it is totally unnecessary. 2 went down one, for a below average score; 2° would have been down, too, for about 80% of the matchpoints.

	14th European Youth Pairs Championships		
Topic 3: Good defense starts with good leads, but			
does n	ot end there		

Dealer North NS Vul

West	North	East	Sout
 ▲ J 5 4 ♡ K 8 2 ◇ J 6 3 ♣ K J 8 5 	 ♦ 9762 ♡A74 ◇AQ109 ◆A4 WES ★KQ3 ♡Q10953 ◊8 ♥9763 	 ▲ A 10 8 ♡ J 6 ◇ K 7 5 4 2 ▲ Q 10 2 	

West	North	East	South
	$ \diamond$	Pass	\square
Pass		Pass	2♡
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

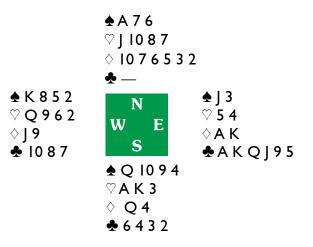
This kind of bidding always calls for a trump lead, almost irrespective of your holding in the suit. Short trumps want to ruff, so you have to try to prevent that.

As it is, the lead actually gave away a trick, but changing tracks after declarer played clubs could have gotten it back (declarer took the unnecessary diamond finesse earlier). Now when East got in with a club, he should have played another to get the trump trick back. As it was, declarer did not play the heart 10 or 9 on the trump return, so after all, he ended up only with 9 tricks, but it was already a good score – 170 would only have been a little better.

So this one example should not deter you, keep leading those trumps when the time is right!

Topic 4: Takeout doubles are underrated.

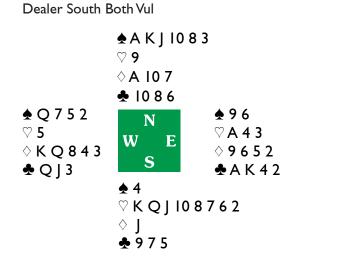
Dealer East EW Vul



	Opatija, Croatia • 11 - 18 July 2018		
West	North	East	South
_		🐣	Dble
Pass	$ \heartsuit$	3 📥	Pass
Pass All Pass	3◊	Pass	3♡

This convention in Hungary has a name: the Gulyásdouble. I will not tell you who invented it, but it is so successful that is being used widely now. Well, this hand reminds me of one of the original versions. Low point count, somewhat offshape distribution, just to get partner to bid if he has a long suit. The definition of this double is: support in all suits - including the one you just doubled! Actually, this kind of bid can be very useful when used wisely, this version being too aggressive, but with a 4333 13-count, for example, this could work out very well. If you pass now, you may not get a chance to bid later, and partner may not have enough to overcall with lesser values. It also paid dividends here: if South passes, West bids 10, and E-W will reach 3NT that they will make. Now, West did not feel like bidding any more, and his partner's 34 bid did not deter him from that, either. Eventually 3° drifted 2 off, but the hand was already over after the double. Well done!

Topic 5: Preempts are not promising the number of tricks bid, but usually 2-3 less.



West	North	East	South
			4 ♡

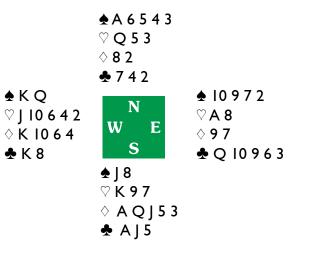
All Pass

North gave this 4° opening a very long look, l thought he was going to bid on. As you become more experienced, you will pass with this hand in an instant. What do you expect? Partner to hold short clubs, solid trumps, and the spade queen? There is no chance you can make slam on this hand, but you can easily go down in 5. As it was, even 4° was not making on a club lead, but only 2 players found it, the \diamond K looks more natural. And yes, this is a perfectly normal 4° opening. Topic 6: Look out for your discards even if it looks like you have nothing more to do during the hand

Topic 7:The order of cards you play may very
well matter, even in defense

$\begin{array}{c} \bigstar 954 \\ \bigtriangledown 932 \\ \diamond KJ 106 \\ \bigstar Q97 \\ \bigstar AQJ63 \\ \heartsuit 1087 \\ \diamond K54 \\ \clubsuit K 105 \\ \bigstar K2 \\ \heartsuit K54 \\ \clubsuit K 2 \\ \heartsuit 654 \end{array}$	Dealer East Both Vul				
♦ 6 3 4 ♦ A 9 8 7 3 ♣ J 8 6	♡ 10 8 7 ◇ K 5 4	<pre></pre>	♡ A K Q J ◊ Q 2		
West North East South	West	North		_	
$ INT Pass 2^{\heartsuit} Pass 2 + Pass$	<u></u>	Pass		_	
3NT Pass 4 All Pass					

Dealer South None Vul



West	North	East	South
			INT
Pass All Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠

This looks fairly boring. Declarer has 11 tricks after the trump finesse, nothing to see here. Even if the opponents fail to cash the 2 diamonds, you don't have the entries to set up clubs and enjoy the fourth, so it looks to be 650 all the time (unless they lead a club from Jxx and partner puts in wrongfully the queen – this produced some 710s).

But look what happened at our table. The diamond ace was led, but either the marking was wrong, or the player did not trust partner, and the suit was not continued, a safe heart was played. Now declarer still has the same I I tricks, as he can either discard a club or a diamond, but not both. Unless he rattles off all his major suit winners, and the defenders discard whatever is next to their thumb... The player with \Diamond KJ I can understand, she wanted to protect that suit but why did her partner keep the diamond 9 instead of a club? Well, she thought the hand was over and Jxx is not actually controlling the suit, is it? Well, as you see here, it very well might.

Be careful what you discard, even if it may seem it doesn't matter!

This looked quiet enough as well, 24 going down, but can you beat it 2 tricks? This pair showed how.

The jack of hearts looks normal, it ran to the king, and declarer went to dummy with the trump ace to take the diamond finesse. A second heart came, to the ace and small (a bad play, you have to play the card you are known to hold, in this case, the 9 - now West knew who had the card of the suit). The club 10 was won by the ace, and declarer tried discarding some clubs on diamonds. This did not work well: West ruffed, played a club to the king, overruffed the next diamond play, played another club to be ruffed by the trump king, and could still ruff next heart with his trump 10.At one point, East considered cashing his high trump, but that would have been wrong here, killing one of partner's ruffs. Sometimes it is good to 'get out of the way' with your high trump in defense to help partner win tricks with his trumps, too.

Very well done! +50 would have been about 45%, while+100 was worth 74%.

ELEMENTARY, Mr. WATSON! Branko Špiljak

There were many fine bids, great declaring and inspired defenses made in these European Youth Championships but this is not a story about them. It is a story about mistakes. Small, common, every day mistakes we make; mistakes that often go unnoticed. This is a story about how to become a better bridge player.

Bridge is a hard game. It requires a lot of stamina, concentration and endurance under pressure. What stuff are top players made of? Table presence? Hand evaluation? Inspired, magical leads? Flawless execution of squeezes and cups?

Well, yes, all of that. But, most importantly, they make fewer mistakes then others!

The best players bid and play large majority of hands routinely. They "go with the field" and conserve strength for hard hands that come now and then. Every hand in bridge is full of little decisions. If you spend too much mental energy on every one you burn out quickly. There will be none left when you really need it.

Let's look at some examples from U26 $4^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$ qualification round.

Dealer North None Vul

♠A4 **♡A98** ◇ K | 8 6 4 🛧 Q 9 7 ▲ 10 6 5 3 2 🛦 K Q | 9 8 N ♡KJ 1062 ♡74 W E ◊ 10 3 2 \diamond — S 뢒 K J 3 뢒 10 8 6 ♠ 7 ♡ O 5 3 **AO975** ♣ A 5 4 2 North South West East INT Pass 3NT All Pass

South had points, no interest in a major suit game but 3NT is still not a bid he should make. Everyone should have some means to show a minor suit game try (force) in the system. These hands are simply too costly. Even in the most basic (old school) system with only Stayman and transfers, there is a simple solution – play 2 as transfer showing either a sign off in any minor or game forcing with both minors. Using that convention the bidding should go:

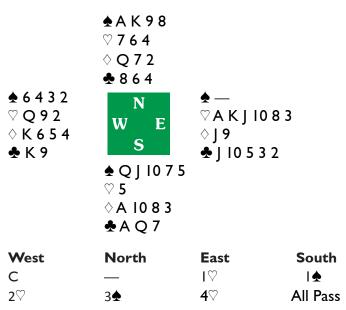
ријак			
West	North	East	South
_	INT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3 🛧	Pass	3♡

 3^{\bigcirc} now shows a game force with both minors and 3 cards in hearts. Partner can look at his cards and decide. Partner will often pick 3NT. Sometimes you may even find a good major suit game with a 4-3 fit. Sometimes you will find a minor suit slam.

3NT will often make. Sometimes it will even bring you a matchpoints top score. Not this time – opponents lead spades for down one while 5° was cold. 3NT down one was worth 36% (!) and 5° made scored 80%.

My next hand brings another example:

Dealer East NS Vul



Lead: 🛧 Q

Look at the South hand! How could he explain his pass? A hunch? Thinking about great looking girl at the next table? Scared?

Whatever excuse he might have this is simply not a way to become a good bridge player. You bid! It's that simple.

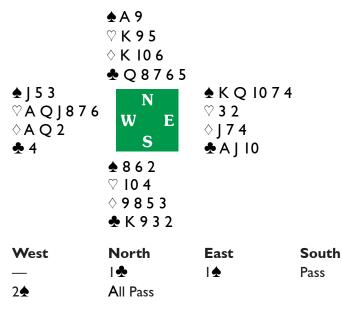
The hero of our story maybe never heard of The Law of Total Tricks (THE LAW in short). Google it, it's great and it works! As the cards lie EW have a cold 11 tricks in the heart game while NS have a cold 10 tricks in the spade game. Maybe a 4^{12} bid would push them a level higher and someone would double, yielding an even worse score, but this is not the point.

The point is that you don't think here – you just bid! Besides, if your bid results in their bidding at the 5 level, nobody should double.

Lead: K

Let's look at a "cautious" bid made a couple of boards later:

Dealer North EW Vul



Maybe your partner often makes ultralight overcalls. Maybe you had an epiphany sensing bad breaks. Maybe ... Regardless of your 6th sense you simply NEV-ER bid like that!

Another extraordinary example happened on the very next board:

Dealer East Both Vul

5 2 10 6
9 7 E ↓ 10 8 7 ♡ A K Q J ◊ Q 2 ♣ A 4 3 2 2 5 4 9 8 7 3 6

West	North	East	South
		INT	Pass
2 🛧 (!)	Pass	2 ♡	Pass
3NT (!!)	All pass		

What was he thinking? Why Stayman? Hoping that partner will also have spades? Well, he didn't and the leap to 3NT was more or less forced. The sun was not shining and 3NT went quickly down while the spade game scores an easy 11 tricks.

If you think that these are examples of rookie mista

kes, think again. Mistakes like that often go unnoticed. Opponents make a bad lead. Inferior contracts some times make.

Nevertheless you should remember these examples if you ever plan to become a good bridge player. You should never spend any mental energy on hands like these. They are all "so obvious". Just remember to choose average "by the book" bids and never look back. You might be surprised how your score improves. For the end here's one "sweet" lead problem:

Dealer East None Vul

 ▲ J 6 4 3 2 ♡ A J 9 ◊ Q 8 5 ♣ A 7 	W E	♠ K 7 5 ♡ 10 6 5 ◇ A K J 10 6 4 ♣ 3	4
West	North	East	South
—	—		Pass
♠	Pass	INT(*)	
2♣	Dble	2◇	3 뢒
3NT	All Pass		

Lead: $\heartsuit 3$

First a word about the bidding. EW play an artificial system and INT shows either minimum with 6 or more diamonds or any strong hand (16+ HCP). 2 was a relay asking for clarification and it was a gift from the heavens because it gave your partner a chance to take part in the action.

Amazingly, the lead was a little heart and declarer quickly scrambled 9 tricks. Partner switched to the king of clubs immediately but it was already too late.

This fits into the theme of this article perfectly. It is another example of a situation where you don't think (too much). You simply lead what the other guy would! By the way, the difference on this particular board was 40% (the same as in my first example). And, by the way, this means they would have a 3% higher session score with the "pedestrian" club lead.

If I haven't convinced you yet please think about this: every time a session ends and you look at scores, add 3% and see where it gets you!

ONE STEP CLOSER Branko Špiljak

For round 5 of the qualifications I'm back to ladies. This time I was following the fine Finish pair Maria MYLLAERI and Gabriella AHLVIK. They started the round a with cumulative score of 55.19% standing 8th.

Dealer North None Vul

♠ 10 4 3	
♡A98	
◊ 8 4 2	
♣ K 1062	

(N W E S ≥ 8 2 ⊽ K 10 6 4 > J 9 6 5 ♣ Q 5 3	♠ 9 6 ♡ Q J 3 ◇ K Q 10 3 ♣ A 8 7 4	
West	North	East	South
	Pass		Pass
♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass	5	

Lead: \$3

If you happen to be reading my articles you'd expect me to comment on the bidding. Indeed, 2⁺/₂ is another example of "it's my turn and I have a convention" bid that doesn't make any sense. West already decided to be in four spades so why waste time and energy.

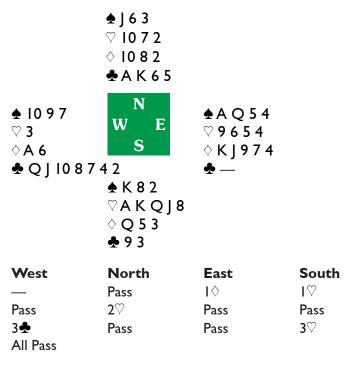
West also selected an inferior line of play. After clearing trumps declarer decided to finesse in diamonds. It is a 50% chance while playing towards QJ of hearts in dummy twice is 75% (a bit more). It was fair start for Maria and Gabriela – 86.67% on the first board.



Maria Myllaeri - Finland

Board 5 was a setback due to a fine competitive decision by their opponents:

Dealer North NS Vul



 $\textbf{Lead:} \Diamond \textbf{A}$

West pushed our stars too high (3^{\diamond}) is cold by the way). The defense had no mercy. Starting with two top diamonds, diamond ruff, club ruff and there were still two spade tricks to come. Down 200 was worth 23%.

Their first big gift came on board 9:

Dealer North EW Vul

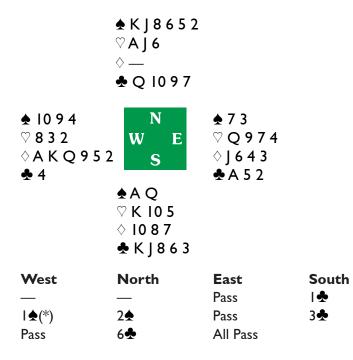
	♣ 7 5 3 ♡ Q J 7 5 2 ◊ A 8 ♣ 9 6 4	
▲ A K 6 ♡ A 9 ◇ Q J 6 3 ▲ A K 8 5	N W E S ▲ 10 9 ♡ 4 ◇ 9 7 4 2 ♣ Q J 10 7 3	 ♣ Q J 8 4 2 ♡ K 10 8 6 3 ◊ K 10 5 ♣ —

		•	
West	North	East	South
	Pass	♠	Pass
2 🛧	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4 🙅	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5 🙅	Pass	6♠	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

I really don't know what happened. What I know is that EW play a natural system, $2\clubsuit$ was GF, $4\clubsuit$ and $4\heartsuit$ were cue bids and 4NT was ace asking. East has definitely overbid her hand a couple of times, took control of a slam-going sequence and West probably felt that she had a bit extra all things considered.

Their next top was well deserved:

Dealer East Both Vul



I ♠ by West was an overcall with 4 diamonds. Maria first made a natural forcing bid of 2♠ and then concluded that:

If (semi) balanced, partner doesn't have a good diamond stopper.

partner has at least 5 clubs and at most 2 spades.

Considering that she thought that slam in clubs should have chances to make and that that's the contract she wants to end in. No hesitation, no second thoughts, no futile bids! Maria simply bid 6th and was rewarded with a 93% score!

The next board was not easy to declare:

Dealer South None Vul

≜ Q 2
♡AKQ 1084
♦ 5
뢒 K J 5 2

 ▲ K J 10 9 8 ♡ — ◇ Q J 2 ▲ A Q 8 6 3 	N W E S ◆ 7 4 ♡ 7 6 3 ◇ A K 6 4 ◆ 10 9 7 4	♠ A 6 5 3 ♡ J 9 5 2 ◊ 10 9 8 7 3 ♣ —	
West	North	East	South
		—	Pass
♠	2♡	3🛧	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Lead: $\heartsuit A$

Declarer is faced with a hard matchpoints decision. If spades are 2-2 she could clear spades and establish diamonds for 11 tricks. On the other hand, if spades are not breaking, she may go down with that line of play. She decided to "be more safe", crossed to dummy with the ace of trumps and finessed on a way back. 420 was 67% for NS.

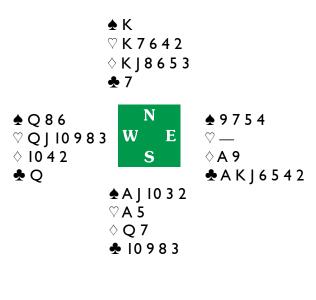




Gabriella Ahlvik - Finland

The board that followed was fun to watch:

Dealer West NS Vul



West	North	East	South
2 ♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	5 📥	All Pass

When East saw her cards she was pretty happy with her promising hand. Then came a shock. Partner opened a weak two in hearts! She was shocked, closed her eyes, opened them again. She huffed, she puffed but the house (that damn weak two) was still standing there.

Since $2\heartsuit$ was not going away she hoped for a lucky break and tried an artificial 2NT asking hoping that partner just might have a hand for a $3\clubsuit$ rebid. No luck. The Gods of bridge decided to torture her. Partner showed a minimal hand without any particular feature. "What the hell" she thought and pulled out the 3NT bid. It might still go down less than $2\heartsuit$. It may even make on a sunny day.

Partner, oblivious to emotions decided her hand would play best in hearts and now East finally had to retreat to her suit.

The defense was not perfect and she went only I down for a good score (63%). The Gods of bridge rewarded her fighting spirit in the end.

Maria and Gabriella had a good solid session. They played pretty good and solid bridge and scored 60.44%. With this result they moved up to 5th place.

I wish them a nice last session of qualifications and good luck in the finals!

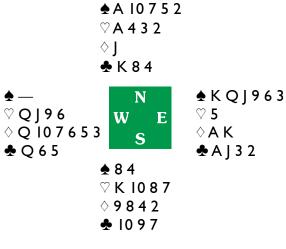
ON THE BUBBLE - WHO QUALIFIED, AND WHO DIDN'T? Daniel Gulyás

On the bubble – maybe not all of you are familiar with this phrase. These are the pairs or teams who either make it or not to the final, or next stage of an event – their fate is not decided yet, but very fragile, like a bubble. If you make it, you feel like you are sitting on a bubble, if not, you bubble burst, and you are sitting on the ground, crying.

I tried to find matchups where at least one pair was near or above the line, barely, trying to make it into the top 26 to be able to play today in the U26 finals.

Our action begins with Alishaw-Kennedy from England, who were facing Majcher-Sucharda of Poland. The latter pair have already qualified, barring disaster, while the English were right below the line in 27th, trying to make that one small step.

Dealer North NS Vul



West	North	East	South
Majcher	Alishaw	Sucharda	Kennedy
	♠	Pass	Pass
2 ◇	Dble	Rdbl	2♡
Dble	All Pass		

Sucharda showed great restraint by passing with his massive hand – well, he would not have minded if the opponents would have ended up playing one spade! As it was, his partner reopened, but not with a double (damn!) – but the opponent decided to bid a takeout double over that... That is when the doubling started, as the saying goes. Well, it took only one, and they were already in trouble. Considering that the Polish would not even have made game, even the -500 looked really bad. Well, some people sat for 1 \pm x, and that was 3 or 4 down, the Englishmen got 17% for their efforts.

The next board was more of a bidding challenge. The Poles were up to it, found the best scoring game, $4\heartsuit$ efficiently. Dealer East EW Vul

	▲ K J 9 8 4 2 ♡ 8 6 ◊ 9 8 7 ♣ 5 4		
♠ Q 6 ♡ A J 10 5 3 ◇ A K 2 ♣ Q 9 8	N W E S ▲ A 10 3 ♡ Q 9 7 4 ◊ Q 6 5 ♣ J 7 6	 ♣ 7 5 ♡ K 2 ◊ J 10 4 3 ♣ A K 10 3 2 	
West	North	Fast	S

West	North	East	South
Majcher	Alishaw	Sucharda	Kennedy
		$ \diamond$	Pass
$ \heartsuit$	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3 📥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4 🙅	Pass
4 ♡	All Pass		

This should have been a near top, but 5 pairs allowed 3NT+4 (how??), so it was worth only 62%. These results solidified the Poles near the top, while the English still had a bit of work to do.



Arkadiusz Majcher - Poland

14th European Youth Pairs Championships

Next up were Doyle and Conolly from Ireland. They had a sub 40% set before, and that dropped them to 35th, so they needed a little love from their opponents.

Dealer South Both Vul

	 ▲ K 10 8 7 5 ♡ Q 10 9 ◊ 7 5 ♣ A Q 2 		
 ▲ J 3 2 ♡ 6 5 4 ◇ K Q 6 3 ◆ K 7 4 	N W E S		
	▲ A 6 ♡ K 8 7 2 ◇ A 8 4 ♣ 9 8 6 3		
West	North	East	South
Crisafulli	Doyle	Gul	Conolly
_			Pass
Pass	♠	Pass	2 🙅
Pass All Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT

The Irish play some sort of a non-fit Drury, so soon they were playing 2NT. As the cards lie, this is a very friendly contract, and the heart lead helped some more. All the defense needed now is to open up diamonds (success), and to keep a diamond when declarer concedes a spade (no success). The +150 was a very welcome 87%.

On the next board, the Austrians bid a normal looking game with a terrible lie of cards.

Dealer West None Vul

	▲ J 9 6 ♡ 9 6 4 ◇ K J 9 ♣ A Q 7 2		
 ▲ K Q 10 3 2 ♡ K ◇ A Q 8 7 ◆ K J 3 	N W E S ◆ 5 4 ♡ A J 10 5 ◇ 6 5 ◆ 10 8 6 5 4	 ▲ A 8 7 ♡ Q 8 7 3 2 ◊ 10 4 3 2 ♣ 9 	
West Crisafulli I ♠ 4♠	North <i>Doyle</i> Pass All Pass	East Gul 2 ♠	South Conolly Pass

Doyle found the excellent trump lead, and Crisafulli

Opatija, Croatia • 11 - 18 July 2018

never stood a chance, went down 2, for another great board to the Irish, this time 93%! Too bad they could not keep up, and barely slipped out of the top26 in the end.

I took a little break from the bubblers to watch an exciting encounter: Kohutova-Klems were facing Yekitueli-Ezion. We already know the Czechs well (they had some downs, but finished 3rd), while the Israeli pair ended up 5th.

This seemed be an interesting encounter, but this was not Lucie's day – she miscounted a hand and went down in a 3NT where everyone made at least 9 tricks. The second hand was a bit more interesting, but the Israeli partscore was still too good, 78% for making 10 tricks in $2\clubsuit$. I expected some pairs to bid and make this game, but not many did, more went down, misguessing the trump queen.

After another failed attempt to see interesting hands (Chiarandini-Gaiotti could not see straight and their two huge mistakes cost them a spot in the final) I finally stumbled on something nice.

Alishaw-Kennedy were playing against Krawczyk-Szymanski of Poland, both pairs near or in the final 26.

Dealer South NS Vul

	▲ A Q 10 8 7 ♡ K J 6 ◇ — ♣ J 6 3	54	
 ▲ J 9 6 ♡ 9 8 3 2 ◇ J 10 6 ♣ A 5 2 	N W E S ▲ 3 ♡ A Q 10 7 ◊ 9 8 7 4 3 2 ♣ K 7	 ▲ K 2 ♡ 5 4 ◇ A K Q 5 ◆ Q 10 9 8 4 	
West Krawczyk — Pass	North Alishaw ── I ♠	East Szymanski — 2♣	South Kennedy Pass Dble
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Alishaw went real quietly after his partial fit in partner's suit, and a nice 7-card suit, and he was probably upset he did not try more after the hand.

He ruffed the diamond lead, and did not try playing a club up towards the king, but crossed to dummy in hearts and played a spade to the ten. This was very effective and simple, as East had to take it with his king, and Alishaw could play the club up at the very end for his I 1th trick, without success of course. Somewhat surprisingly, not many players bid AND made the game, so this +170 was worth 64%.

14 th European Youth Pairs Championships			Opati	ja, Croatia • 11 -	18 July 2018	
Kennedy did	even one better	on the next board:	West	North	East	South
Dealer West EW Vul		Krawczyk I ♣	Alishaw Pass	Szymanski I ◊	Kennedy I♡	
♠ A 8 3 ♡ 7 2 ◇ K 3		Pass Pass All Pass	INT 3♡	Pass Pass	3☆ 4♡	
♣ K 10 8 4 3 2 ♠ K Q 7 N ♠ 10 6 4 2		The English found their I		he Polish club op	ening, and	
♡ J 8 6 ◊ Q 8 5 ♣ A 9 7 6	W E S	♡ 10 9 4 ◇ 7 4 2 ♣ Q J	the trick. He but Kennedy	e could do noth v was reading hi	g, which was allov ing else but exit in s hand: drew trun	n trumps, nps, finessed

▲ J 9 5
♡ A K Q 5 3
◊ A J 10 9 6

♣ __

but Kennedy was reading his hand: drew trumps, finessed against Krawczyk's diamond queen, and squeezed him in clubs and spades, for a beautiful 12 tricks, and a 76% score. Well done! The Poles ended up 15th, while this nice score allowed the English (pardon the pun) to squeeze into the final in 23rd!





1	ALTER Florian	STRECK Lauritz	GER - GER	57.57
2	MARCINOWSKI Piotr	SOBCZAK Mateusz	POL - POL	56.58
3	KOHUTOVA Lucie	KLEMS Erik	CZE - CZE	55.48
4	MAJCHER Arkadiusz	SUCHARDA Edward	POL - POL	55.43
5	YEKUTIELI Asaf	EZION Amir	ISR - ISR	55.24
6	BRASS Tommy	ROBSON lan	ENG - ENG	55.09
7	ILZINS Janis	MAASIK Martin	LAT - LAT	55.06
8	CASPERSEN Soeren Veel	LAHRMANN Christian	DEN - DEN	54.84
9	SPRINKHUIZEN Thibo	MENDES DE LEON Guy	NED - NED	54.80
10	WEISS Florian	SCHEBERAN Philip	AUT - AUT	54.66
11	RIMSTEDT Mikael	STOKKA Adam	SWE - SWE	54.32
12	IHER Mirjam	MAIDE Rasmus	EST - EST	54.26
13	TOLEDANO Oren	ZAMIR Ami	ISR - ISR	54.21
14	THUILLEZ Mathilde	COMBESCURE Sarah	FRA - FRA	54.20
15	KRAWCZYK Blazej	SZYMANSKI Marcin	POL - POL	53.71
16	STOECKLI Jeremie	CALMANOVICI Alessandro	SUI - SUI	53.13
17	KVOCEK Juraj	VODICKA Martin	SVK - SVK	52.70
18	TIJSSEN Luc	KILJAN Veri	NED - NED	52.66
19	GOTINK Kevin	HUVERS Wisse	NED - NED	52.62
20	KITA Maciej	GRABIEC Maciej	POL - POL	51.85
21	SCHOLS Michel	WESTERBEEK Ricardo	NED - NED	51.81
22	BAKKE Christian	SCHEIE Marcus	NOR - NOR	51.42
23	ALISHAW Michael	KENNEDY Stephen	ENG - ENG	51.38
24	LAFONT Gregoire	LALOUBEYRE Clement	FRA - FRA	51.32
25	MAJEWSKI Konrad	GODLEWSKI Piotr	POL - POL	51.10
26	LAZAROV Dobromir	TENEVA Gergana	BUL - BUL	51.04
27	KOLEK Lukas	TOMIS Zdenek	CZE - CZE	50.95
28	NEVEU Loic	MOUGEART Clement	FRA - FRA	50.76
29	SAU Roberto	PERCARIO Giacomo	ITA - ITA	50.40
30	VALENTINE Ronan Richard Jam	nes OBRIEN Liam	SCO - SCO	50.35
31	VANDEWIELE Emiel	DE WIT Dennis	BEL - BEL	50.23
32	NORTON Ben	NATT Shahzaad	ENG - ENG	50.21
33	EVACIC Emanuel	BILUSIC Ivan	CRO - CRO	50.13
34	MACZKA Stanislaw	TRENDAK Lukasz	POL - POL	50.12
35	HERMANN Sophie	EDER Felix	AUT - AUT	49.82
36	DOYLE Nathan	CONNOLLY John	IRL - IRL	49.74
37	KOFOED Johanne Bilde	BUNE Sophie	DEN - DEN	49.60
38	ANDONOV Mark	FEROV Zahari	BUL - BUL	49.29
39	BUUS THOMSEN Emil	PLEJDRUP Andreas	DEN - DEN	49.25
40	NAKAMARU-PINDER Jun	PINKERTON Stewart	SCO - SCO	49.10
41	ERICSSON Joakim	JOENSSON Daniel	SWE - SWE	48.70
42	CHIARANDINI Francesco	GAIOTTI Alvaro	ITA - ITA	48.65
43	BARR Stephen	DONNELLY MICHAEL	IRL - IRL	47.82
44	VAN BRANDT Leopold	VAN BRANDT Carl Louis	BEL - BEL	47.79
45	BIJSTERVELDT Niels van	LEUFKENS Felix	NED - NED	47.74
46	THORPE Stephan	PIIBOR Johanna	AUT - AUT	47.69
47	BUNE Soren	TODD-MOIR Victor	DEN - DEN	47.63
48	ROPER William	SELWAY Louise	ENG - ENG	46.56
	JAKABSIC Jakub	RUMANCIK Jakub	SVK - SVK	46.42
	WINTER Daniel	CLARK Jonathan	ENG - ENG	46.34
	PUERTO MORENO Daniel	RAFECAS Jordi	ESP - ESP	45.29
	LESKOVAR Viktor	GRSKOVIC Zvonimir	CRO - CRO	45.26
	VASAR Martin	LEMBER Manglus	EST - EST	44.86
	FALCONER Glen	HAJDARA Botond	SCO - SCO	44.74

14 th European Youth Pairs	s Championships	Opatija,	Croatia • 11 - 18 July 2018
55 STEFANEC Kristijan	FERENCA Matko	CRO - CRO	44.62
56 VIDOVIC Toni	BADROV Nikola	CRO - CRO	44.26
57 CARIS Youp	DUPONT Pim	NED - NED	44.25
58 CLARKE Joshua	BISSELL Henry	ENG - ENG	43.86
59 GUL Josef	CRISAFULLI SADABA Patricio	AUT - AUT	42.48
60 KAMPARA Diana	BARONS Rudolfs	LAT - LAT	37.86
61 IRVINE Gavin	LIGHTOWLER Ryan	IRL - IRL	36.97
WOMEN			
1 SJODAL Sofie Grasholt	KJENSLI Agnethe Hansen	NOR - NOR	58.98
2 BALDYSZ Zofia	ZAREBA Anna	POL - POL	57.97
3 DALPOZZO Valentina	DALPOZZO Federica	ITA - ITA	57.92
4 DI MAURO Agnese	MONTALTI Irene	ITA - ITA	57.06
5 WACKWITZ Janneke	CHRISTENSEN Malene Holm	NED - NED	56.70
6 WISEMAN Yvonne	GAHAN Elizabeth	ENG - ENG	56.64
7 MYLLAERI Maria	AHLVIK Gabriella	FIN - FIN	55.71
8 KOLEN Sandra	VISSER Esther	NED - NED	55.56
9 DZIUBINSKA EWA	MROZEK Maja	POL - POL	54.73
10 BIRCHALL Alex	COVILL Laura	ENG - ENG	53.54
11 JASKULECKA Alicja	MYSLIWIEC Alicja	POL - POL	50.67
12 KOKOT Joanna	OCYLOK Dominika	POL - POL	50.29
13 HERNANDEZ RIZO Mariana	SZYMASZCZYK Joanna	POL - POL	50.09
14 LELEU Anais	JOUNIN Emeline	FRA - FRA	49.33
15 SUCHODOLSKA Monika	KRUPNIK Patrycja	POL - POL	49.17
16 CIUNCZYK Hanna	ZALEWSKA Joanna	POL - POL	49.15
17 LAPCIKOVA Renata	DOLANSKA Veronika	CZE - CZE	48.74
18 TUUS Hanna	LEEMING India	ENG - ENG	48.59
19 STRBOVA Barbora	KUPKOVA Barbora	CZE - CZE	48.57
20 DASKO Dominika	MANKIEWICZ Agnieszka	POL - POL	48.49
21 TORV Helina	LAAN Susanna	EST - EST	48.21
22 DUFRENE Beryl	COUPEL Marie-Valentine	FRA - FRA	47.80
23 DI LORENZO Anastasia	COLOMBO Alice	ITA - ITA	47.79
24 OEBERG Ida Marie	KJENSLI Maren Hansen	NOR - NOR	47.31
25 BEKO Zsofia	JALSOVSZKY Janka	HUN - HUN	46.33
26 KAMPERMANN Mareille	DAMMANN Alexandra	GER - GER	45.76
27 BEEKMAN Fleur	BERWALD Juliet	NED - NED	45.23
28 MELKONYAN Karolina	ZARZYCKA Maria	POL - POL	45.17
29 OELKER Fiona	SANNE Kim	GER - GER	44.81
30 SCHLUMBERGER Wilhelmine	BELLOY Constance	FRA - FRA	42.49
31 JONES Megan	LA CHAPELLE Imogen	ENG - ENG	41.09
32 RIEGER Mona	BEDNARSKI Lara	GER - GER	39.91



1	KOPKA Kacper	CICHY Krzysztof	POL - POL	61.14
2	YANINSKI Nikolay	KOSTOVA Liya	BUL - BUL	59.87
3	LOONSTEIN Tomer	ZEITAK Aviv	ISR - ISR	59.53
4	BOULIN Arthur	GUILLEMIN Theo	FRA - FRA	58.61
5	NIJSSEN Oscar	VAN DE PAVERD Tim	NED - NED	58.11
6	JASINSKI Piotr	KIELBASA Tomasz	POL - POL	56.97
7	PATREUHA Jakub	PATREUHA Patryk	POL - POL	56.91
8	BACZEK Krystian	BAZYLUK Jakub	POL - POL	56.79
9	KHUTORSKY Nir	BANIRI Ilai Ilan	ISR - ISR	56.77
10		KOIVU Aarne	FIN - FIN	56.27
11	CAPOBIANCO Sophia	LOMBARDI Matteo	ITA - ITA	56.05
12	GIUBILO Gianmarco	GIUBILO Gabriele	ITA - ITA	55.93
	HULANICKI Pawel	RACEWICZ MACIEJ	POL - POL	55.19
14	MATATYAHOU Gal	SLIWOWICZ Yonatan	ISR - ISR	55.10
15	KALETA Michal	OKUNIEWSKI Wojciech	POL - POL	54.57
16	GOOR Ronald	GOOR Sander	NED - NED	54.33
17	TROJANSKI Filip	SHINDLER Aron	POL - POL	54.10
18	FRAGOLA Maxence	TEIL Clement	FRA - FRA	54.05
19	GOSCIANSKI Kajetan	JOZKOWIAK Lukasz	POL - POL	53.42
20	GOUDZWAARD Dieter	WESTERVELD Tobias	NED - NED	52.26
21	DOERMER Felix	FARWIG Sven Niklas	GER - GER	52.15
22	VAN OOSTEN Sibrand	PABST Philipp	GER - GER	51.99
23	CANKUDIS Mikolaj	MORAWSKI Patryk	POL - POL	51.72
24	MADDEN Harry	PANCHAGNULA Kripa	ENG - ENG	51.43
25	OTTO Viktor	LITTERST Maximilian	GER - GER	50.95
26	BELLICAUD Luc	BASLER Raphael	FRA - FRA	50.84
27	GROCHOWSKI Maksymilian	GORSKI Michal	POL - POL	50.84
28	CIESLINSKI Jan	JANKOWSKI Mikolaj	POL - POL	50.05
29	ANOYRKATIS Theo	ANOYRKATIS Samuel	ENG - ENG	49.46
30	GAVRILOVA Elizaveta	STRAUME Toms	LAT - LAT	49.09
	RONAYNE Jack	GILLIS Theo	ENG - ENG	49.00
	BLOM Jasper	FRIESEN Xavier	NED - NED	48.35
	FINNEGAN Leah	WALSH Denise	IRL - IRL	47.55
	GABRIEL Richard	GABRIEL Lukas	SVK - SVK	47.08
	PEMBERTON Alexander	COPE Andrew	ENG - ENG	46.88
	VAVRA Premys I	VAVRA David	CZE - CZE	46.67
	KINDL Jan	KVACEK Robert	CZE - CZE	45.29
	JAUNSKALZE Roberts	OZOLINS Pauls Eriks	LAT - LAT	45.15
	PRIEDITIS Arnis	SUSS Emils	LAT - LAT	43.93
	PYSZKO Adam	KASTOVSKY Ondrej	CZE - CZE	43.61
	FARWIG Niels Ole	WROBBEL Tim	GER - GER	43.21
	BUGAJEWSKI Jozef	JOZEFOWSKI Fryderyk	POL - POL	42.57
	WALSH Sheila	KANE Ariane	IRL - IRL	41.98
	SHANMUGARASA Senthur	VICKNESWARAN Kavinthan	ENG - ENG	41.98
	QUIRKE Roisin	MAHON Katie	IRL - IRL	38.52
	THORNE Monica	MCAULIFFE-HICKEY Aisling Kate	IRL - IRL	38.18
	KRUPNYK Bohdan	KRYNYTSKYI Petro	UKR - UKR	38.13
	WALSH Ceara	NOONAN Emma	IRL - IRL	36.73
	O'KANE Lucy	O'DONNELL Mollie	IRL - IRL	30.82
49	O NAME LUCY			30.02

UI6/UI3

65.68

61.19

60.94

60.67

60.48

59.90

59.67

59.34

58.93

58.41

58.06

57.91

57.28

56.85

56.81

56.79 56.48

55.83

55.80

53.86

53.73

53.51

51.83

51.00

50.52

50.27

50.22

1 **BLOCH** Romain **ZOBEL** Thibaut FRA - FRA 2 **TYLVAD** Daniel **TYLVAD** Aron DEN - DEN 3 MORAWSKA EWA **NIKLAUS Maria** POL - POL KURLIT Franciszek **KUFLOWSKI Kacper** POL - POL Δ 5 **ROMBAUT Leo GALLARD** Aurele FRA - FRA 6 SELBY Oscar **ROSE Henry** ENG - ENG **BUKAT Aleks** 7 CIBOROWSKA Lucja POL - POL **AUSTAD Marius Dalemark** 8 BROGELAND Anders NOR - NOR 9 BETLINSKI Maciej **ZIMORSKI** Sebastian POL - POL **10 GUENDEL Marius** DRANSFELD Karl GER - GER 11 KOWAL Kinga **CIBOROWSKI Konrad** POL - POL 12 NAWROCKI Jakub **GRAS Szymon** POL - POL 13 SABBAH Ofek **MSIKA** Daniel ISR - ISR 14 ALTUN Toygar Tuncay **EREN Umut Gorkem** TUR - TUR 15 LANGER Emil **PAOLELLA Finnley** GER - GER **16 LOMBARDI** Antonio GARDENGHI Oslo ITA - ITA 17 BUNE Amalie Rosa PEDERSEN Clara Brun DEN - DEN 18 WURTZ Georg **HENRIKSEN Sarah** DEN - DEN 19 ER Izzet Cagan BORA Serdal TUR - TUR 20 STASIK Michal KASPERCZYK Lukasz POL - POL 21 GRODZKA Julia **PYTKA Anna** POL - POL **22 SAETRE Magnus TOESSE Thomas** NOR - NOR 23 DZIUBA JAKUB **GROCHOWSKI** Albert POL - POL 24 FRIESEN Gabor ESSINK Jorn NED - NED 25 HEIBERG-EVENSTAD Nicolai NORDBY Jorgen Lindaas NOR - NOR **26 HENRIKSEN Line** RASMUSSEN Alma Ertbjerg DEN - DEN 27 THRANE JACOBSEN Leah **ALTENBURG Frederikke** DEN - DEN **28 HULANICKA** 29 SWIATKOW

			00.22
28 HULANICKA Sara	HULANICKA Estera	POL - POL	49.43
29 SWIATKOWSKI Pawel	ZABOROWSKI Tymoteusz	POL - POL	49.35
30 GOOR Martijn	KLARENBEEK Wout	NED - NED	47.63
31 BROCKEN Rex	BROCKEN Miel	NED - NED	47.40
32 VACHTARCIKOVA Nikol	ZALSKA Veronika	CZE - CZE	44.38
33 VAN ZANDBEEK Richard	HARTSUIKER Luuk	NED - NED	44.11
34 BOREVKOVIC Vlatko	STEFANEC Lovro	CRO - CRO	43.72
35 STRAUME Pauls Olafs	LIGERS Olivers	LAT - LAT	43.30
36 TOZCU Ahmet Furkan	ALTUN Tuana	TUR - TUR	43.10
37 DRAGICEVIC Eliza	PROBST Kaya Fay	CRO - CRO	39.36
38 CVJETOVIC Nina	JANCIC Natalija	CRO - CRO	36.52
39 HOLETIC Stjepan	FABEKOVEC Zlatko	CRO - CRO	35.57
40 GRUBISIC Mia	CIZEL Vanja	CRO - CRO	35.00
41 BACIC Franko	PROBST Tristan Nicholas	CRO - CRO	33.81
42 CVJETOVIC Marin	LADOVIC Lara	CRO - CRO	33.08
43 ZITKOVIC Karlo	LUBINA Lara	CRO - CRO	32.01
44 DRZANIC Marija	BINA Mihael	CRO - CRO	30.68
45 ROZYCKI Dominik	JANKOWIAK Kryspin	POL - POL	29.27