

Round 10

On board 18 of round 10 Michael Alishaw took full advantage of a small defensive slip in a sky high 4♥.

Spel 18
O/NZ

♠ A
♥ Q10762
♦ AJ94
♣ A82

♠ 1075
♥ 8
♦ Q10732
♣ KJ94

♠ KQ642
♥ KJ43
♦ K85
♣ 5

♠ J983
♥ A95
♦ 6
♣ Q10763

W N
Z O

West	North	East	South
<i>Shah</i>	<i>Baskin</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♠	DBL	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	ap.

At the first table the Israeli Baskin decided his hand was worth a take-out double and not more, so he passed 3♣. When Roberts competed to 3♠, he let it go. Declarer went 2 off, for a peaceful +100 to N-S.

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Kennedy</i>
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♠	DBL	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	DBL	ap.

At the second table Alishaw had more ambition and bid again over 3♣, and was duly raised to game. Baniri expressed his doubts, but on the King of spades lead the defense had to be accurate. Alishaw went to work and won his Ace and also cashed the Ace of clubs before going after a cross-ruff. Diamond Ace, diamond ruff, spade ruff, another diamond ruff and another spade ruff followed. Then came the critical moment of the hand. Declarer had 7 tricks in and this was the position:

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

Alishaw played the fourth diamond and Baniri made the non-trivial error of pitching a spade instead of ruffing low. Declarer ruffed with the Ace and scored his ninth trick with another spade ruff. As East was down to just hearts Alishaw could exit with a club and Baniri had to ruff. The Queen of hearts was the 10th trick now. Had East ruffed low on the 4th diamond West could win the club trick to play a heart and collect the rest of the tricks for 1 down. N-S +790 and 12 IMPs to England, who won the match 29-17 IMPs and remained in the top-6. Israel U20 also held on to the 6th place, but with Czech Republic just a few VP behind the final match would be decisive.