

Sunday, August 26, 2012 Bulletin Number 2

# Ino-Teramoto Lead APBF Pairs Going Into Today's Two Final Sessions

Ranked fifth after yesterday's first qualifying session with a 62 percent game, Masayuki Ino and Tadashi Teramoto scored up a 65 percent second session to lead the 28-pair field into today's two-session final with a combined 63.67 percent. In second place are K F Mak and Charmian Koo, who followed their 57.6 percent first session with a whopping 68.33 percent second session to trail Ino-Teramoto by less than 1 percent with just a touch under 63 percent. In third place are Liu Jie and Hu Linlin with 59.46 percent. (The complete rankings can be found on page 18.) Good luck to all of today's APBF Championship Open Pairs finalists.

# **Dignitaries Speak at APBF Opening Ceremony**



Ms. Etsuko Ebii Vice Governor, Fukuoka Prefecture



Mr. Hiroyuki Kawabe Chairman, 2012 APBF Committee



Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Mr. Motoki Yamazaki Deputy Mayor, Fukuoka City

PCs with Internet access will be available for player use in the Navis A Room (where line-ups are submitted, opposite the playing area)

# **APBF Bridge Congress on the Web**

Follow the action at the 7<sup>th</sup> APBF Bridge Congress by surfing to: http://www.jcbl.or.jp/apbf2012/tabid/264/Default.aspx Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

#### **Conditions of Contest**

The General Conditions of Contest for the 2012 APBF Congress are on the JCBL website at:

http://www.jcbl.or.jp/Portals/0/apbf2012/english/information/General Conditions of Contest 2012 APBF Congress.pdf

The Supplementary Regulations for the 2012 APBF Congress are on the JCBL website at:

http://www.jcbl.or.jp/Portals/0/apbf2012/english/information/SupplementaryRegulations.pdf

### **Special Notes**

#### Self-Alerting Calls:

- All natural 1NT openings
- Stayman 2♣
- All Doubles
- All bids over 3NT except higher-level openings
- · Cue-bids of the opponents' suit

#### Line Ups (very important):

Line ups for the next match are due NO LATER than 10 minutes AFTER the end of the previous match

#### Smoking:

There is NO SMOKING in the Hilton Sea Hawk

# **Appeals Committee Members**

Chair: Tadaysohi Teramoto (Japan) Members: Fu Zhong (China)

Danny Sacul (Indonesia)

Alan Sze (China Hong Kong)

Poon Hua (Singapore) Julia Hoffman (Australia)

# **Subsidy for Youth**

Please come up to the Hospitality Desk or the Main Office located in the Kusu Room (Level 1, same as the playing area) to receive the subsidy for Youth players. The person in charge is Ms Yuko Noda.

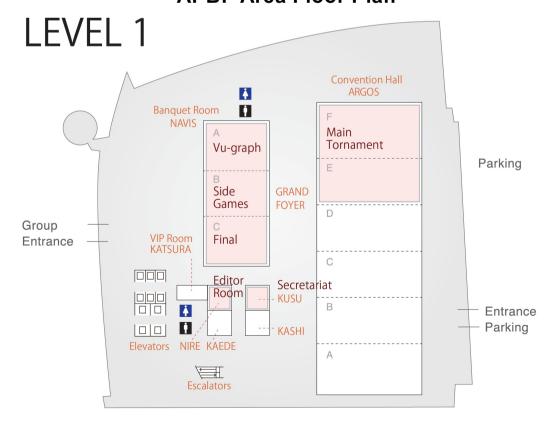
# **IMPORTANT NOTICE for All Captains!**

Please report the number of players from your team who will be attending the Closing Ceremony (on Sunday, September 2, at 7:00 pm) to us either at the Hospitality Desk or in the APBF Main Office (the Kusu Room). We need your response by Monday, August 27, at 5:00 pm. Thank you.

# **APBF Congress: General Schedule of Events**

	APBF Congress Championships		Side-Games	
DATE	TIME	EVENT	TIME	EVENT
8/26	10:00-13:00	APBF Pairs (F1)		
(Sun)	14:30-17:30	APBF Pairs (F2)	10:00-13:00	Beginners Cup (Δ50MP/Δ20MP)
	10:00-17:30	Pairs (Consolation)	14:30-17:30	Beginners Cup (Δ50MP/Δ20MP)
8/27	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)	10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs Sectional
(Mon)		(See next page for details)		(Open /Δ1000MP)
8/28	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)	10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs Sectional
(Tue)		(See next page for details)		
8/29	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)	10:00-17:30	Even Chance Team Sectional
(Wed)		(See next page for details)		
8/30	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Team Regional
(Thu)		(See next page for details)	(Ninte	ndo 3DS & Wii Cup) (Q1/Q2)
				[Open/Δ1000MP]
8/31	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Team Regional
(Fri)		(See next page for details)	(Ninte	ndo 3DS & Wii Cup) (F1/F2)
				[Open/Δ1000MP]
			10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs [Open/Δ1000MP]
9/1	09:00-:00 AF	PBF Teams Semi-Finals (KO)	10:00-17:30 Fu	ıkuoka Mayor's Cup (Q1/Q2)
(Sat)		(See next page for details)		[ Open Teams ]
			10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs Sectional
				(Δ100MP /Δ20MP)
9/2	09:00-17:30	APBF Teams Final (KO)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Mayor's Cup (F1/F2)
(Sun)		(See next page for details)		[ Open Teams ]
			10:00-17:30	TV Nishinippon Cup
				[ Open Pairs ]
			10:00-17:30	Team Sectional (Δ100MP)
	18:30-22:00	Victory Banquet & Awards Cere	emony	

# **APBF Area Floor Plan**



# **APBF Congress: Detailed Schedule (Championship Events)**

Date/Time	e	Open	Women	Senior	Youth
Aug. 26 10:00 13:00		APBF Open Pairs Final 1st			
Sun.	14:30 17:30	APBF Open Pa	airs Final 2nd		
Aug. 27	10:00 12:20	Round 1	Round 1	1st Rd. 1	1st Rd. 1
Mon.	14:00 16:20	Round 2	Round 2	1st Rd. 2	1st Rd. 2
	16:40 19:00	Round 3	Round 3	1st Rd. 3	1st Rd. 3
Aug. 28	10:00 12:20	Round 4		1st Rd. 4	1st Rd. 4
Tue.	14:00 16:20	Round 5	Round 4	1st Rd. 5	1st Rd. 5
	16:40 19:00	Round 6	Round 5	1st Rd. 6	1st Rd. 6
Aug. 29	10:00 12:20	Round 7		1st Rd. 7	1st Rd. 7
Wed.	14:00 16:20	Round 8			
	16:40 19:00	Round 9		2nd Rd. 1	2nd Rd. 1
	19:00 21:00		Нарру	Summer Night!	
Aug. 30	10:00 12:20	Round 10	Round 6	2nd Rd. 2	2nd Rd. 2
Thu.	14:00 16:20	Round 11	Round 7	2nd Rd. 3	2nd Rd. 3
	16:40 19:00	Round 12	Round 8	2nd Rd. 4	2nd Rd. 4
Aug. 31	10:00 12:20	Round 13	Round 9	2nd Rd. 5	2nd Rd. 5
Fri.	14:00 16:20	Round 14	Round 10	2nd Rd. 6	2nd Rd. 6
	16:40 19:00	Round 15	Round 11	2nd Rd. 7	2nd Rd. 7
Sept. 1	9:00 11:15	Semifinal 1			
Sat.	11:30 13:45	Semifinal 2			
	15:15 17:30	Semifinal 3			
	17:45 20:00	Final 1			
Sept. 2	9:00 11:15	Final 2			
Sun.	11:30 13:45	Final 3			
	15:15 17:30	Final 4			
	19:00 22:00	Victory Banque	et		

# Kawabe Cup: Final Results



Mikako Anraku-Ayano Uchi



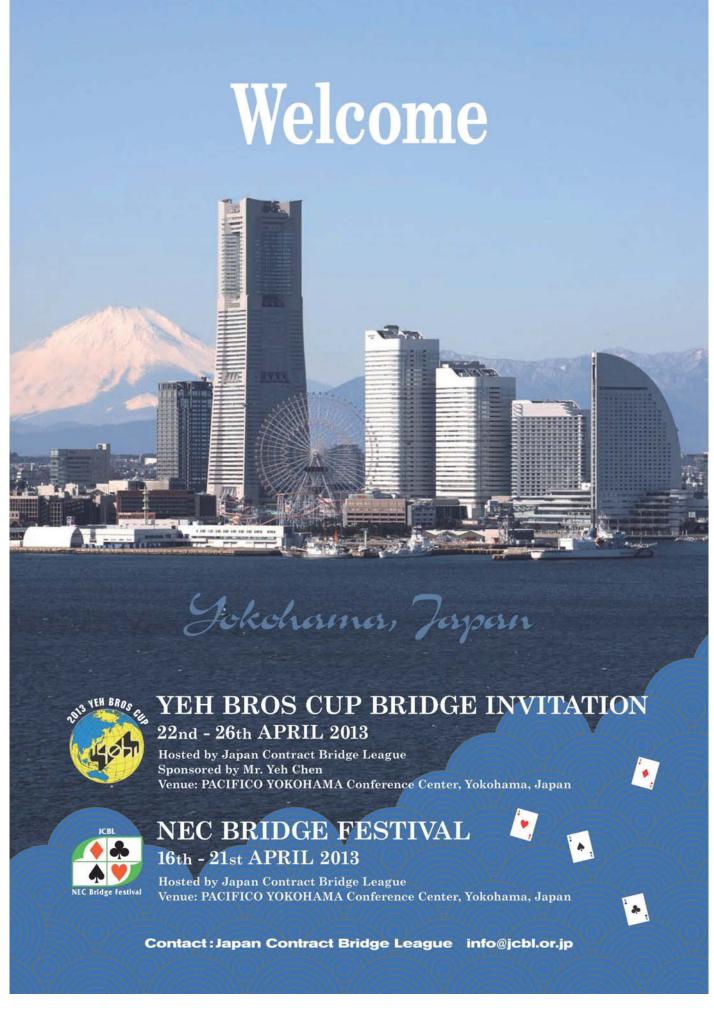
Nobuo Oyadomari–Kimie Nagano



Hiroki Oba-Mizuho Koga

#### 33 Pairs, Average=105

Rank	Names	Total
1	Nobuo Oyadomari — Kimie Nagano	164.54
2	Mikako Anraku — Ayano Uchi	141.7
3	Hiroki Oba — Mizuho Koga	139.22





# PROGRAM

Day 1: Tue. January 29th: Registration

Day 2: Wed. January 30th

09.00 - 12.00 : Registration 13.00 - 18.00 : BBF Pairs

Championships

19.30 - 11.30 : Finals and Consolation

Day 3: Thu. January 31st

13.00 - 19.00 : BBF Open Teams

Championships

20.30 - 24.00 : BBF Swiss Pairs

Day 4: Fri. February 1st

09.30 - 12.30 : Sunshine Pairs 13.30 - 19.30 : BBF Open Teams Championships

20.30 - 24.00 : BBF Continuous Pairs

Day 5 : Sat. February 2rd

13.00 - 19.00 : BBF Open Teams

Championships

20.30 - 00.00 : Happy Hours Pairs

Day 6: Sun. February 3rd

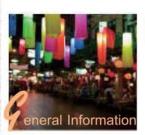
13.00 - 18.30 : BBF Open Team

Semi Finals and Finals

14.00 - 18.00 : Consolation Swiss Teams

19.30 : Victory Dinner

rizes: Cups and gifts will be awarded to the first three placings in each event, as well as 6 prizes for the best accumulated scores in all side events.



Smoking: Smoking is prohibited inside all hotels and restaurants in Bangkok Weather: Usually dry and pleasant summer weather Shopping: Many, shops nearby

Restaurants: Many, many restaurants of all nationalities within walking distance

# Cost of Accomodation

Double Room US\$ 75.00 per room Including breakfast

Airport transfer to Hotel : Baht 1,400 per 2 persons

Baht 1,900 per 4-6 persons

As January is the peak season, rooms must be reserved with Open Teams Registration perference.

#### eposits of US\$ 400 (room 200, open team 200)

to be transferred to:

A/C Name : TWBF SWIFT : BKKBTHBK

A/C No. 101 - 856269 - 2

Bangkok Bank PCL., Head Office, 333 Silom Road,

Bangkok 10500, THAILAND

# DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS; DECEMBER 24, 2012

#### ridge Tournament Entry Fees **BBFC Open Teams** US\$ 400 (per team) **BBFC Open Pairs** US\$ 11 (per player) Consolation and Finals US\$ 9 (per player) Speed Ball Pairs US\$ 10 (per player) **Swiss Pairs** US\$ 10 (per player) Continuous Pairs US\$ 10 (per player) Happy Hour Pairs US\$ 14 (per player)

#### he Montien Hotel,

Surawongse Road, Bangkok is a five star hotel, right in the heart of Bangkok's commercial district, easily accessible to any parts of the city - skytrain, shops and restaurants.

REGISTRATION FORM	BANGKOK BRIDGE FESTIVAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BANGKOK,THAILAND : January 29 - February 3, 2013
Surname	
City Country	
Arrival (Date/Time)	Flight number
Departure (Date/Time)	Flight number
E-mail	Fax
Room Reservations : SGL	DBL No. of Nights No. of Rooms :
I will share my room with : Surname	First Name
I will participate in : Open Teams  IMP Pairs	BBF Pairs Speed Ball Continuous Pairs Happy Hour
PAYMENTS : Deposit : No. of Rooms :	Open Teams :



Organising Committee: Contract Bridge League of Thailand

Esther C.Sophonpanich: Chairperson of the Organising Committee, Email: chodchoy7@gmail.com

Sunisa Vatanasuk: Honorary Secretary, Email: sunisav@truemail.co.th



COME & JOIN US!

# ASEAN BRIDGE CLUB **OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**

Bali, 5-9 December 2012

WARMING UP FOR THE WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2013









**VENUE** Sanur Beach Hotel - Bali - Indonesia





# **Organizing Committee**

Postal Address: Stadion Gelora Bung Karno Senayan - Jakarta 10270 Telp: +6221 5738514 / 5738515, Fax + 6221 5741288

Email: oc@aseanbridge34bali.com, accomodation@aseanbridge34bali.com

Website: http://aseanbridge34bali.com

# SPECIAL OFFER! Arita Day Tour

JCBL invites the participants of the 2012 APBF Congress Fukuoka to join us for a special day trip to Arita. Arita is a town in Saga prefecture which is located about 65 km southwest of Fukuoka. The town is internationally renowned for its production of the world's finest porcelains. It is also well-known as the birthplace of porcelain in Japan. The sightseeing tour takes you to the main store of Fukagawa Seiji Co, a porcelain manufacturer designated by the Japanese Imperial Family Agency (Royal Warrant) and their porcelain park 'China On The Park.' In their galleries, you can enjoy rich artistic crafts of their own craftsmen. You can also experience porcelain painting there.



Please note that the maximum number of participants is limited to 90 persons, and reservations are on a first come-first served basis. So, we highly recommend you that you book as early as possible. Accompanying persons (non-players) are also welcome.

Date: August 29th, 2012, Wednesday

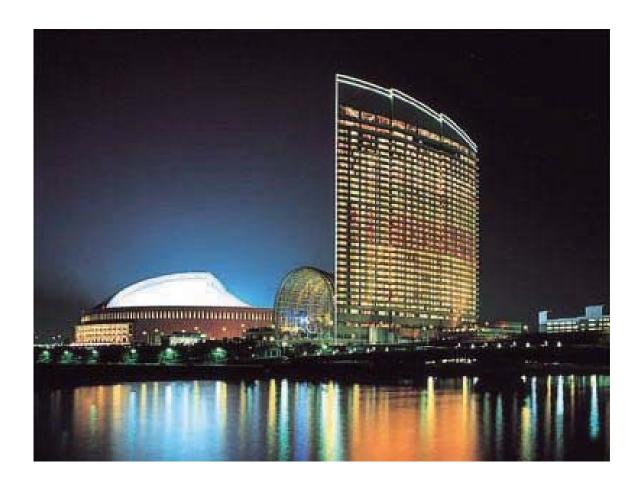
Departure Time: 8:00 am from Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk (subject to change)

Return Time: 6:00 pm at Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk (subject to change)

Rate: JPY 2,000 per person (including lunch at restaurant Kurinto in 'China On The Park')

Payment: Please pay the full amount in JPY by noon, August 27, at the Hilton Sea Hawk Hospitality Desk Reservation: Please complete the reservation form at the Hospitality Desk and make your choice from the lunch menu

Further information is available at: http://www.jcbl.or.jp/apbf2012/events/tabid/651/Default.aspx



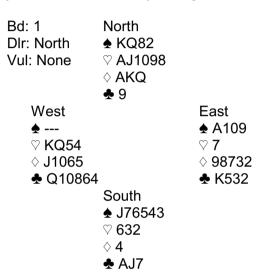
# The APBF Open Pairs

by Barry Rigal

#### **Qualifying Session 1:**

When the first session of the qualifying pairs began it was going to be a tough decision as to whether jetlag would send me to sleep before the boards woke me up.

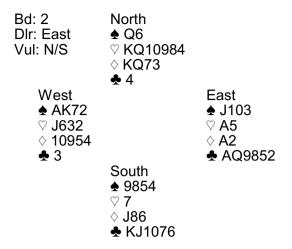
Fortunately, the hands offered lots of promise and although the players did not always extract the most from them, that did not prevent there being plenty of possibilities of good play — and with a creative journalist that is nearly enough.



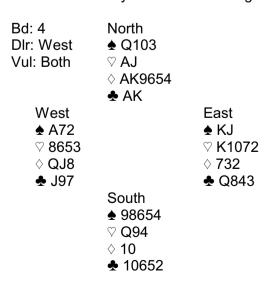
West	<b>North</b> <i>Naser</i>	East	<b>South</b> <i>Al-Dashti</i>
			AI-Dasiili
	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	3◊	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5◊
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

A warm welcome to our Kuwaiti guests. This is my first visit to the APBF but I'm surprised and pleased to see a nice mix of international teams here.

The spade slam is an excellent one; if trumps are not 3-0 you can almost claim it. Your plan is to pitch both heart losers on the good diamonds and ruff two clubs in dummy. What you cannot do, alas (as Al-Dashti discovered), is win the club lead and release the ♠J prematurely. If you do, you can still take your discards but when the defenders win the ♠A and return a diamond you will find the combination of the bad breaks in both majors too much for you. By contrast, a low trump to the king lets you take two ruffs in dummy without promoting the ♠10 into a winner for the defense. For the record, bidding to slam would have earned you 37 out of 40, with even +480 being worth a whopping 27.5/40.



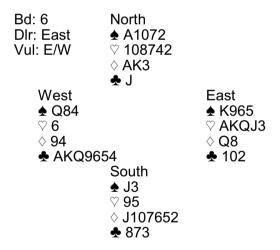
Sometimes the fates deal you an insoluble problem. Tadashi Teramoto, West, heard his partner. Masayuki Ino, open a strong notrump. When he bid Stayman North (Chen Shenghong) overcalled 20. Teramoto started to salivate but before he could get a red card out of the box his partner crossed him up by bidding 34, which set him his first problem. Teramoto solved it by passing, reasoning that Ino rated to have six clubs and thus a minimum, or he would have opened 1♣ and rebid 2NT. Accordingly, there would not be enough values for game and suits would not be breaking, so it was wise to stay low. Having got that far Teramoto received his second challenge: Shen Jiaxang led the ♥7 out of turn. What now? Teramoto barred the lead (allowing a heart lead might have worked better) and Chen meanly led a trump — not a top diamond. Teramoto finessed. won the heart return, took the ♣A, and finessed in spades. The battle was now over the third undertrick. North did his best: he cashed a heart and shifted to diamonds (if he'd played another top heart declarer could have pitched dummy's diamond on the  $\heartsuit J$ ). Declarer won the  $\lozenge A$  and ran spades for seven tricks; -100 was actually a bit above average.



West	<b>North</b> Hoffman	East	South Brightling
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The North hand looks more like a 2♣ opening than a 2NT bid to me. David Hoffman nearly endplayed himself into bidding on over his partner's enterprising sequence to 4♠, but wisely thought better of it. (Incidentally, the French play their transfers over 2NT as game-forcing with 3NT in response showing a doubleton spade and 3♠ showing three or more trumps, which lets responder transfer and bid 3NT with a mild slam try and re-raise himself to deny any slam interest at all.)

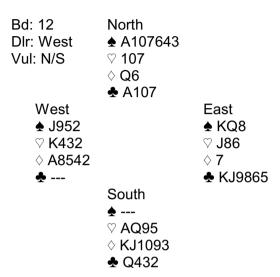
Anyway, forget about slam, Hoffman found himself in a delicate game. Luckily for him Setsuko Ogihara had a blind lead and picked a heart, which made declarer's task easier — not that a club lead would have been good enough. On the heart lead Hoffman won cheaply and elected to play both top diamonds, pitching a heart from the board, and ruff a diamond high. Then he led a trump to the ten, won the heart return, ducked a second trump and claimed. What would you guess +620 would earn you? I'd have expected an above-average score, but the actual 33/40 was rather better than I might have hoped for: most missed game or played 3NT.



It is not enough to win the bidding challenge. You have to have a decent amount of luck as well, as Greer Tucker and Margi Bourke demonstrated. With 3NT off the whole diamond suit, 5♣ having at least three top losers, and 4♠ appearing little better, it looks like you need to play a partscore. Not so, said Margi and Greer. This was their bidding.

West	North	East	South
Tucker	Hellsten	Bourke	S. Grenside
		1♡	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3◊	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♡	All Pass

The 5-1 heart fit is far and away the best game. If trumps split you can survive the defense of three rounds of diamonds by ruffing in hand and drawing trumps, pitching spades from dummy. (At the table on a diamond lead Hellsten cashed her winners, got out with a club, and Bourke could escape for down one (which, since 3NT was down two and 5♣ down one, turned out to be an important undertrick). N/S received 13/40 for +100 while +200 would have been about average.



Different countries feel differently about preempting. Currently I believe the USA and France are almost alone in believing that vulnerable two- and three-level preempts represent a trick less than an opener, as opposed to the view that a preempt constitutes an frivilous hope rather than a firm offer to make eight or nine tricks. The relevance of this is that with the North cards on Board 12 I'd open 2♠ because I'm a little lighter than an opening bid. This was not the case for the North I witnessed holding these cards and just as well, since the defenders can cross-ruff the first six tricks and might do even better. Several Japanese Norths agreed with me and found the final result exceedingly disagreeable. However, after a 14 opener East overcalled 24. What should South do now? Passing and waiting for a double is all well and good but the vulnerability makes that dubious. Double first and then over 2♠...? With 3NT having no tricks and likely only one club stopper was 2NT an egregious underbid? I think not. But that became the final contract, registering +180 on sloppy defense. And that scored what for N/S? A surprising 30/40. I told you the hand was a difficult one — only five pairs bid 3NT.

Bd: 13 North Dlr: North **♦** 75 ♡ 109764 Vul: Both ♦ 98642 ♣ Q West East **★** A86 **★** KQ104 ♥ KQ8 ♥ A5 ♦ AJ ♦ KQ107 ♣ K9632 ♣ A85 South **♦** J932 ♥ J32 ♦ 53 ♣ J1074

Esther Sophonpanich is here representing Thailand as well as performing her other responsibilities as APBF Chairman, and she and her partner Somchai Baisamut play Precision. They had no problem reaching 6NT from the East seat here; the issue was the overtrick, on which 40% of the matchpoints for the deal depended. This may look hard, but it isn't. Cash four diamonds discarding clubs from dummy, then take the three top hearts. Next come the ♠A, ♠K, ♣A and ♣K in that order. In the two card ending you have a club and spade and North has shown out on the second club. If the club isn't good, lead a spade to the queen unless you have a count on the hand that proves there is no room in South's hand for a spade. As the cards lie the simple squeeze brings in +1470 and 26/40 matchpoints.

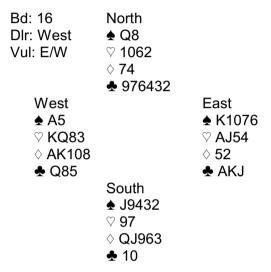
Bd: 14 North Dlr: East **★** 1053 Vul: None ♥ AKQJ103 ♦ 10 ♣ AK2 West East ♠ QJ9 **★** 764 ♥ 75 ♥ 9864 ♦ K732 ♦ Q65 **♣** J853 **♣** Q76 South **♠** AK82 ♡ 2 ♦ AJ984 **1094** 

Another somewhat surprising result occurred here. If you had the North cards and your partner opened the bidding would you let him out below slam? I wouldn't, especially if I found we had all the aces. But today 6NT on an unlikely diamond lead is horrible (it makes if you duck the diamond and play for a diamond-spade squeeze) and on normal defense you are likely to come down to needing 3-3 spades.

David Hoffman did better when he played  $6^{\circ}$  on a trump lead. He drew trumps, then exploited the diamond spots by leading the  $\diamond$ 10 to the ace, running the  $\diamond$ J, then regaining the lead and passing the  $\diamond$ 9 to establish the eight. That is well over a 75% line. (If South can bring himself to duck the  $\diamond$ 10 when he holds both honors, good luck to him.)

Still, with spades 3-3 you'd expect more than a few pairs to get to that slam and make it. Not so. Bringing in +980 was worth 33/40.

We've talked enough about bad luck; let's change tack and discuss some somewhat undeserved good luck. I was watching two different tables declare slam here.



Tadashi Imakura and Shunsuke Imakura bid sensibly to 6%, as would we all I suggest, if we didn't have the machinery to investigate the grand slam. In 7% you can play to ruff spades in dummy — which doesn't work — or diamonds in hand — which does. Imakura as West received a club lead and did try to ruff diamonds in hand. But he tried to use a club entry to dummy and ran into an unnecessary ruff. Plus 1430 was worth a little above average for his opponents, the Crichtons.

By contrast, Denny Sacul, playing with Apisai Makmitree, reached 6NT as East when he elected to rebid in notrump over a  $1^{\circ}$  response. As you can see, in  $6^{\circ}$  on a passive heart lead you have only 11 tricks on top. Oops!

Not to worry. Sacul led a diamond to the ten, ran his winners, and squeezed South in spades and diamonds for his thirteenth trick. Did he deserve a 75% score? You be the judge.

My last exhibit is yet another slam deal (and not by any means the easiest of the set).

Bd: 20 Dlr: West Vul: Both	North	
West		East
<b>★</b> K732		<b>♠</b> AQ1065
♡ <b>A73</b>		♡
♦ 983		♦ KQ10654
♣ AQ7		<b>♣</b> 96
	South	
	<b>♠</b> 9	
	♥ K106542	
	♦ J7	
	♣ KJ105	

West	North	East	South
Shi	Senior	Li Jianwei	Ishii
1NT(1)	Pass	2◊(GF)	Pass

2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4◊	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	All Pass
(1) 13-15			

East's game-forcing Stayman got his side to spades quickly but West's spades were so bad and his high-cards so minimum that he had no slam interest. Now if West's 4% bid promised a club control — and most would say it does since East has denied one — then maybe East has to do more over 4%. When our uninformed editor (that is to say the one who hadn't seen the full hand) was asked to guess, he bid  $4\clubsuit$ . That's good enough for me. Making +680 scored both sides dead average.

[The "uninformed" editor feels obligated to interject a few words here. In my experience many (most?) players make their initial slam try in a suit that needs help, even when it bypasses a cheaper control. In addition, while the West hand is indeed "minimum" in terms of point count it is "maximum" in terms of controls — I'd be slam positive with that holding.]

### The APBF Open Pairs

by Rich Colker & Barry Rigal

#### **Qualifying Session 2:**

The journalists at Fukuoka, like Napoleon's army, march on their stomachs. This means that we need to take the occasional break for meals, and in order to do that we decided we would mix our coverage of the second set by looking at par in the early stages of the set before coming back to the results actually achieved at the table in the last few deals.

Bd: 1 North Dlr: North **♦** 75 Vul: None ♥ AQJ4 ♦ 8632 ♣ A62 West East **AQ109** ★ 8632 ♡ 9 ♥ K532 ♦ KQJ75 ♦ 9 ♣ K83 ♣ J1074 South **♦** KJ4 ♥ 10876 ♦ A104 ♣ Q95

The second session began with an E/W deal, each side rating to take eight tricks in a major: N/S in

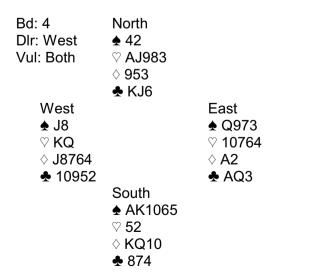
hearts, E/W in spades. Some N/S pairs might get out for -50 (or -100) in  $3\heartsuit(x)$ , while others might score a round zero – not normally good at Pairs – if the deal is passed out. This was actually far and away the most common result in practice as half the field did not find a bid here. A typical auction where North looks at his quick tricks might proceed:  $1\diamondsuit$ -Pass- $1\heartsuit$ -Pass;  $2\heartsuit$ -Dbl-Pass- $2\spadesuit$ ; ? If North now passes and South reopens with a double (given the relative strengths of his majors), will North retreat to  $3\heartsuit$  or "go for the gusto"? If the latter, -470 should not earn many matchpoints.

Bd: 2	North	
Dlr: East	<b>★</b> 42	
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ10872	
	♦ A64	
	<b>♣</b> K4	
West		East
<b>♠</b> Q6		<b>★</b> A985
♡ 6		♡ 93
♦ Q10953		♦ J82
♣ AJ1097		<b>\$</b> 8632
	South	
	<b>★</b> KJ1073	
	♥ KQ54	
	♦ K7	
	<b>♣</b> Q5	

4♥ is the right place for N/S, the best results going to those pairs who guess spades right — and at the table most did. If E/W opt for a save in a minor they will gain a bit on the field by choosing to play in their eight-card fit rather than their nine-card fit, a diamond ruff being available to N/S in 5♣ for +800 — or if N/S fail to find their ruff. One possible auction is: Pass-1♠-2NT\*-3♠\*; 4♣-4♥-All Pass (2NT=minors; 3♣=Unusual Over Unusual, showing invitational-plus hand with hearts). Any South who "wimps out" and passes 4♣ blaming his poor holdings in the minors will pay for his cowardice by scoring +500 or worse.

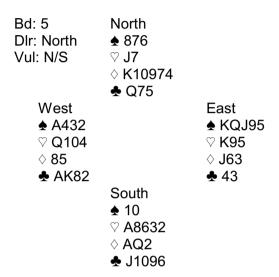
Bd: 3 North DIr: South **★** A742 Vul: E/W ♡ 72 ♦ Q1054 **♣** J73 West East ♠ 1093 φK ♥ Q10953  $\heartsuit$  K ♦ AJ98 ♦ 763 ♣ KQ942 ♣ A1086 South ♠ QJ865 ♥ AJ864 ♦ K2 **♣** 5

With E/W looking at red pockets, N/S rate to buy the hand in a spade partial, a typical auction might be: 1♠-Pass-2♠-Pass-Pass-2NT-3♠-All Pass. E/W pairs who manage to buy the hand in 3♣ will score well with +110, as will those who play 4♣ undoubled for -100. Bottoms go to N/S's who overbid to 4♠ (-50) and E/W's who over-compete to 4♠x (-200). Here we underestimated the degree of aggression in the field. Many (most) overcalled the West hand and either went for a penalty or persuaded the opponents to do so.

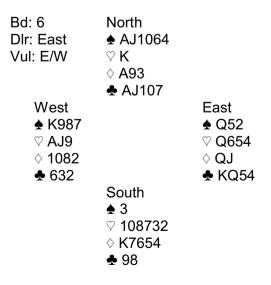


N/S have E/W outgunned, 21-19, and here N/S rate

to go plus. Typical auctions are: Pass-Pass-1♣-1♠; 2♣-2♡-All Pass and Pass-Pass-1♣-1♠; Pass-1NT-All Pass. Both contracts should make, but woe to those N/S pairs who venture even one level higher in either strain. Those N/S pairs who buy the contract at 1♠ will end up with just +80, an inferior plus score. But it is difficult to see that happening here — North simply has too much to pass 1♠ (when if South has as little as ♠AQJ10x ♡10x ◇AQxx ♣10x 3NT would be a fine contract). Again, while a few pairs made hearts, the table result was typically a penalty one way or the other.

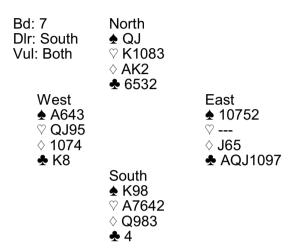


4♠ depends on locating the ♡J when played from the East seat, a task that most of us would not be up to if South opens 1♡ third in hand. The same cannot be said of 4♠ played by West as North is likely to start with the critical card at trick one. The scores here could be all over the place, with most E/Ws buying the contract for some number of spades — perhaps more settling for E/Ws than games. Look for tops to be +420 for E/W; +50 for N/S. (Hey, we got one almost right!)

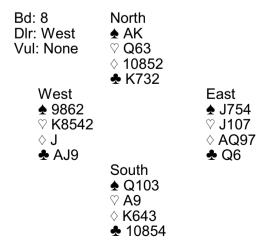


In the ACBL we call this a "Barbara Walters" (20-20) hand. Would (did?) you or someone you love open

the East hand? Ugh! When is a 12-count not a 12-count? This could be it. Many Norths will open 1♠ in fourth seat and play it there; contract is cold against any lead. (North must take his tricks when they are made available by ruffing when given the chance and cashing top winners — not ducking them.) Another possibility, for those South players who have a religious objection to passing 1♠ when there might be a better place to play out there, is 2⋄, which is also cold (N/S bid 1♠-1NT; 2♣-2⋄; P). But this requires North not getting too excited with his 17-count — good luck with that!

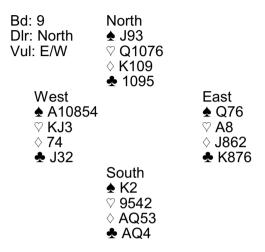


Well, we're three rounds into the session and haven't even sniffed at a slam yet. Don't look for one here either. N/S are cold for 4♥ (yes, despite the 4-0 trump break) while E/W can make either 2♣ or 1♠ — not the makings of a profitable save. The only question is, "Can N/S reach game with a flatish 13 opposite a shapely 9?" The key seems to be North's lack of club wastage opposite South's shortness and his ♠QJ — often a uselss holding — golden here opposite South's king third. Look for plenty of +170s and +140s N/S, so +620 ought to be an excellent N/S score while −100 should be near bottom. (Boy, we are on a roll!)

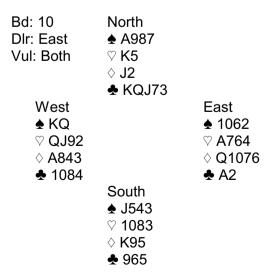


N/S can make 1♦, 1NT and 2♣ here while E/W can make one of either major. North will likely open the

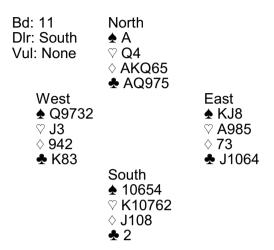
bidding with one of a minor (one of us prefers  $1 \clubsuit$ , the other  $1 \diamondsuit$ ; a prize to the first person to explain who is who and why) and in practice South will usually end the proceedings with 1NT (since many pairs play that a minor-suit raise is inverted). At any table where N/S sell out to one of a major (via P-1 $\clubsuit$ -P-1 $\diamondsuit$ ;  $1\heartsuit$ -AP or P-1 $\clubsuit$ -P-1 $\diamondsuit$ ; Dbl-P-1 $\heartsuit$  or 1 $\spadesuit$ -AP) they are likely to go -80 (but not -110). N/S can save a plus score over  $1\heartsuit$  or 1 $\spadesuit$  by competing to 2 $\spadesuit$  (but not 2 $\diamondsuit$ ). Now you figure out what the top and bottom scores are likely to be; our heads hurt.



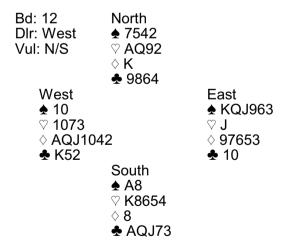
Another E/W deal. N/S look good for eight or nine tricks in hearts, while E/W should go minus at 2♠ or higher. South will likely open 1NT (if playing strong notrumps) and play there. On a low spade lead declarer can take two spades, two clubs and three diamonds but will not have the tempo to establish two heart tricks before the defense can take three spades and two hearts. Those who play weak notrumps are likely to play in hearts as N/S but E/W will be able to overcall and compete in spades, affording N/S the chance at collecting 100 (or 200) a trick on defense. We look for the best N/S scores to be in the +200 to +500 range – but in fact at the table the strong notrump bought the contract for +90 or +120 almost everywhere.



N/S have a shot at going plus in two of either black suit (by playing spades to best effect, though a club lead and later ruff could nullify that effort in 2♠) while E/W have a shot at making ten tricks in hearts by guessing how best to play trumps. Any E/W who reaches game here and makes it will surely garner top honors — though maybe that sort of aggressive bidding style will return its occasional gains to the opponents with interest on many other boards.

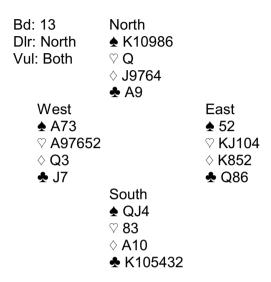


6\$\times\$ by N/S is cold on the lie of the cards here; kudos to any pair who manage to get there (yes, there were two of them). Most N/S pairs will do well to simply reach game as South is too weak to cooperate much and may well pass a 1\$\times\$ opening – and in fact game was missed at about a third of our tables. Those playing a strong club have a decided advantage on this type of hand, and it is precisely those pairs who are most likely to reach game (or higher) here.

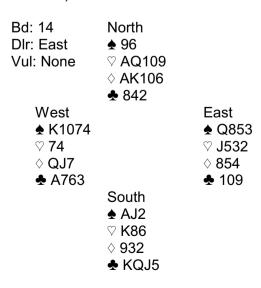


With three inescapable losers N/S can make  $4\heartsuit$  while E/W with their extreme distribution and fit can make  $4\clubsuit$  (whether they bid it to play or as a save) and also have a profitable save in  $5\diamondsuit$ . Those E/Ws who have a weak  $2\diamondsuit$  opening available will likely do better here than those who are forced to pass in first seat with the West hand (though some will open  $1\diamondsuit$ ). If the auction starts  $1\diamondsuit(2\diamondsuit)$ -P- $1\spadesuit(2\spadesuit)$  South will be able to double, which should get N/S off to a good

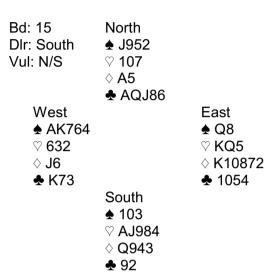
start. The real issue will be East's: whether to strike out unilaterally in spades (it would be nice to know that West has the ten) or to play safe and stick with diamonds — especially if West has a chance to support spades and fails to do so. Top scores to those E/Ws who collect +590s and +420s, and those N/S's who score up +620 — or in fact the +850 that was managed twice. (We'd tell you how that happened but then either we'd have to kill you, or the guilty defenders may kill us.)



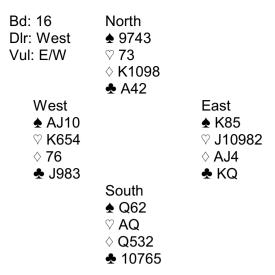
With the high cards split evenly it's unlikely that either side will reach game — although N/S with two eight-card fits can (should) take ten tricks in spades. E/W have a nine-card heart fit but sadly can only make nine tricks there. And while that's a good save against 4♠ (−500 vs −620) it's unlikely to garner many matchpoints if few N/S pairs reach game. The best E/W scores may come in auctions where N/S fail to compete (such as: P-P-1♣-1♥; 1♠-2♠-P-3♥; AP) and E/W manage to go +140. Do we have to tell you that two E/W pairs did make 4♥ — details on a "need to know" basis (but a diamond lead by North with South taking the ace and not shifting to clubs is involved).



In 3NT by N/S on a spade lead declarer's best chance is to play on clubs (succeeding when the suit is 3-3, the ace is onside, or the spot cards lie as they do), planning to take one spade, three hearts (without guessing the  $\heartsuit J$ ), two diamonds (without double finessing) and three clubs while E/W can take just three spades and a club. Alternatively, declarer can play both red suits double-dummy and take nine tricks that way. Plus 400 turned out to be poor for N/S though the field led a diamond and conceded bushels of tricks.



Those Wests who open light might start with 1♠, after which E/W might find themselves overboard in 2NT via 1♠-P-1NT-P; 2♣-P-2NT-AP. On a heart lead from South, East must duck to keep South from scoring four heart tricks --- not the most obvious play but one a top player would surely consider. But when spades fail to behave the only line to bring in a fourth spade trick is to play South for the ♣A. a holding which is not consistent with the play at trick one. Whatever East does, at this point it is a matter of undertricks with three being the most likely. If West passes initially North will open 1♣ in third seat and West could easily become declarer in 1♠ via P-P-1♣-1♦; 1♥-1♠-AP, or South become declarer in 1NT (via P-P-1♣-1♦; 1♥-P-1♠-P; 1NT). Neither contract has much chance of going plus absent some serious misdefense, so the top scores are likely to go those pairs who take a more passive approach to the bidding or who stay lowest and fail by the fewest tricks.



A decent percentage of the E/W pairs will reach  $4^{\circ}$  here (only a third actually) while some will be happy to settle for a partscore — until the play unfolds. Game requires finding the trump queen onside, so missing game is not as bad at matchpoints as it would be at IMPs. Look for a slew of E/W +620s interspersed with a few +170s.

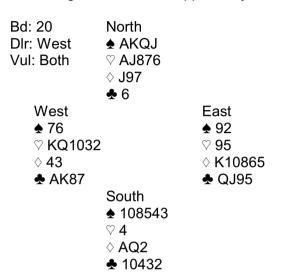
One of the most challenging deals of the set saw our overnight leaders fail to take a safety play and lose out horribly in the process.

Bd: 17	North	
Dlr: North	<b>♠</b> 8	
Vul: None	♥ J9532	
	♦ Q93	
	<b>4</b> 10852	
West		East
<b>★</b> A42		<b>♠</b> Q1095
♡ <b>Q86</b>		♥ AK1074
♦ J10654		♦ AK
<b>♣</b> 74		<b>♣</b> KJ
	South	
	<b>★</b> KJ763	
	♡	
	♦ 872	
	♣ AQ963	

West	North	East	South
	Teramoto		Ino
	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

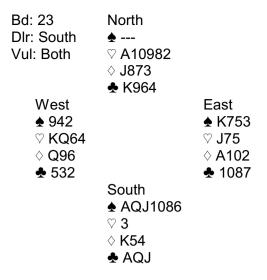
What should South lead against 3NT? I'd guess a spade rather than a club but it is close. Where I watched the board first East received a club lead, which reduces the chances considerably, but Ino got a spade lead and won cheaply in hand. If all he needed was five heart tricks the safety play is to lead low to the queen, not cash the ace (you can always test the suit and go back to dummy to finesse if they turn out to be 4-1). Ino gave the play a lot of thought

but he was looking to set up diamonds and didn't want to waste dummy's entries prematurely. So he cashed the  $\heartsuit$ K and got the bad news: South pitched a diamond. At this point it seems you have to play South for 5-5 in the blacks. You could cash out all the hearts and when South pitches two clubs and a spade take the  $\diamondsuit$ AK and the  $\clubsuit$ A, then throw South in to lead clubs. Ino actually went for the jackpot of 11 tricks by trying to set up diamonds, and that let North on lead to play clubs and allow the defenders to cash out four tricks in that suit for down one. This was still an average but a missed opportunity.



When your luck is in, it is in. Consider this deal, where after West opened 17 it was very hard for N/S to reach the playable (though not laydown unless trumps split) 4♠. Where we passed by the table the expert North passed over 1♥ and doubled 2♣ after a forcing auction. So far, so good, but South, enjoying a quiet post-prandial snooze, let 2&x go. North did not lose his presence of mind. After cashing one spade he gave his partner the heart ruff, then won the next spade and played a third heart, sitting back to wait for his side's two diamond winners. (Yes, it would have been even better had partner held the ♣K and ♦A.) Plus 200 might not have been the best N/S could do on the hand (27/40) but it was a darn sight more than they rated to pick up as dummy came down. Just for the record, the same pair had bid themselves confidently to 3NTx for +550 and 37/40 on a combined 22-count (after one player had passed at their first three turns while the other had passed twice then balanced).

Try this one (see top of next column) for size as a defensive problem. Look just at the East cards and dummy, North, covering up the West and South cards.



West	North	East	South
	Naser		Al-Dashti
			1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Against 4♠ your partner leads the ♡K and dummy wins the ace as you follow small, suggesting an odd number. Declarer crosses to the ♣A and leads the ♠A and the ♠10, which travels around to you (partner following with the two and four). What is your plan on winning this trick?

Did you notice the trick question? There is no need to win the trick: declarer has no useful discard coming but you will find out a little more if you duck. When partner plays a third top spade partner follows with the nine. So declarer, who has six good spades, strongly rates to be 6331 or she might have bid 3NT. She can't have good diamonds and needs to set them up for club discards, so she strongly rates to have the top clubs and one of the two diamond honors. (Yes there are hands with a doubleton  $\Diamond$ KQ but they are the exception not the rule.)

Left to her own devices she will come to four clubs, one heart and five spades. If she doesn't have the  $\diamond$ K she will make ten tricks; if she does, she will lead up to that card for 11 tricks (your 10 tells you she cannot misguess). To put her to the test and give her a losing option, underlead the  $\diamond$ A at once. If she gets that right she deserves her overtrick.

Bd: 25 Dlr: North	North	
Vul: E/W	♡ 1064	
	♦ A10964	
	<b>♣</b> 3	
West		East
♣ J7632		♠ AK5
∇ AQ83		♡ 9
♦ K		♦ Q872
<b>\$</b> 876		♣ AKJ109
	South	
	<b>★</b> 10	
	♥ KJ752	
	♦ J53	
	♣ Q542	

As the session drew to its close, this exceedingly testing 4♠ contract exercised the minds of the West players. An unopposed auction such as 1♣-1♠; 2⋄-

2♠; 4♠ would work if 2♠ is a one-round force. Otherwise, West can use the fourth suit and dig up three-card support. North's heart lead gives declarer a chance and indeed, if South has overcalled, a heart lead is certainly the likely opening salvo. Imagine that you win cheaply and lead a club to the king, cash one spade, then play a diamond to the king and ace. Back comes a diamond and you win the queen (pitching a club), ruff a diamond, and lead a second club up. North cannot gain by ruffing a loser with a trump trick so he pitches a heart or a diamond. You win the ♣K, draw the second trump to find the bad news, then ruff a diamond and cash the ♡A for your tenth trick. North has the last two tricks with his trump but you got your contract first.

Toru Henmi (partnering Kikuo Tatai) played the hand in precisely this fashion to make +620 for 34/40.

# Final Rankings After APBF Pairs 2<sup>nd</sup> Qualifying Session (28 Qualify)

Rank	Pair Names	Score	Rank	Pair Names Score
1	Masayuki Ino Tadashi Teramoto	1291.26	35	Keiji Kawai Ken Sakiyama 1030.79
2	K F Mak Charmian Koo	1276.75	36	Ibraham Al-Qattan Numan Al-Turki 1013.04
3	Liu Jie Hu Linlin	1205.94	37	Huang Hao-Wei Lin Chin-Yang 1009.77
4	Derek W P Zen Alan Sze	1195.39	38	Kyoko Sugita Hiroaki Miura 1008.63
5	Zhou Jiahong Chen Yinglei	1193.05	39	Robert Geller Setsuko Ogihara 1006.41
6	Brian Senior Kumiko Ishii	1188.08	40	Chiwako Kiyoshi Yuko Ishizuki 999.22
7	Du Bing Wang Dade	1183.32	41	Akiko Yanagisawa Toshiko Kaho 998.3
8	Shi Xiao Li Jianwei	1180.95	42	Shunsuke Morimura Tadashi Imakura 993.59
9	Xu Su Hong Zhao Yan	1177.9	43	Nobuko Matsubara Yasuko Kosaka 993.23
10	Takahiko Hirata Hiroshi Kaku	1171.75	44	Zhuo Di Liu Jing 991.63
11	Denny Sacul Apisai Makmitree	1165.68	45	Toshihiro Katsube Masako Katsube 979.97
12	Yoko Nenohi Yoshiko Sakaguchi	1159.89	46	Leone Ann Moffat Julia Hoffman 978.7
13	Bian Jinsheng Zhu Minrong	1158.15	47	Lam Ze Ying Lian Sui Sim 978.43
14	Poon Hua Loo Choon Chou	1147.95	48	Haruko Koshi Yayoi Sakamoto 974.33
15	Li Xiaoyi Liu Haitao	1140.3	49	Chen Shenghong Shen Jiaxiang 968.98
16	Wang Rui Gan Xinli	1136.81	50	Ryo Matsubara Mark LaForge 968.54
17	Greer Tucker Margaret Bourke	1129.52	51	Motoaki Shiga Hiroyuki Taguchi 961.96
18	Susumu Nabeshima Aiko Nabeshima	1127.08	52	W K Wong York Liao 960.69
19	Daisuke Sugimoto Yuusuke Kishi	1115.23	53	Akiko Miwa Masakatsu Sugino 957.9
20	Hiroko Yanagisawa Shugo Tanaka	1101.75	54	Abdul-Aziz Al-Dashti Salman Naser 956.11
21	Sheng Ming Wu Yuwei	1097.44	55	Fang Zhengyang Yin Jiashen 955.39
22	Kunio Kodaira Masako Otsuka	1088.24	56	Ryohei Orihara Naoko Orihara 953.4
23	Vallapa Svangsopkul Virat Chinmanas	1086.97	57	Yu Chih-Hen Yu Zhi-Ye 953.31
24	Kenji Miyakuni Yukiko Tokunaga	1081.29	58	Widi Pancono Budi Gunawan 948.22
25	Hu Ruixuan Sun Shiyu	1076.81	59	Hiroko Yokota Noriko Moriwaki 940.64
26	Hiroki Yokoi Takeshi Niekawa	1074.49	60	Masanori Yamashita Hisako Yamaguchi 934.53
27	Toru Henmi Kikuo Tatai	1072.9	61	Mitsuru Tanaka Masako Kuwahara 931.99
28	Esther Sophonpanich Somchai Baisam	ut 1067.92	62	Kazuko Takahashi Sumiko Sugino 927.92
29	Ross Crichton Pam Crichton	1066.47	63	Jannette Collins Val Brockwell 918.84
30	Seijiro Yajima Hidenori Narita	1062.11	64	Jung Jin Choi Ahn Hee Choi 918.64
31	Richard Brightling David Hoffman	1060.23	65	Kazuko Tango Seiko Hachisu 910.73
32	Li Le Qing Ding Jing Heng	1058.73	66	Ryuji Hatae Atsuhi Mochizuki 907.32
33	Yumiko Oda Kyoko Toyofuku	1048.6	67	Teruo Miyazaki Takako Fujimoto 892.26
34	Zhang Bangxiang Wang Weimin	1038.21	68	Koichiro Hashimoto Shiuan Miao 890.99

69	Hung Chang-Hung Feng Chian	890.15	75	Jun Soon Cho Jin Hee Hong	852.4
70	Yoko Sakakibara Isuzu Watanabe	880.41	76	Satashi Hashimoto Tadahiro Kikuchi	851.42
71	Sue Grenside Helen Hellsten	868.82	77	Kim Sun Young Min Jung Yu	817.57
72	Soon Myung Moon Chul Soon Han	866.53	78	Hiroko Nagaoka Tomoko Yasui	758.64
73	Ryoga Tanaka Sadako Nakajima	864.8	79	Naoto Matsumoto Hisa Matsumoto	733.01
74	Takehiko Tada Miho Furuta	859 07	80	Hisaki Takeda Rinsei Osawa	723 82