



THE 7th ASIA PACIFIC BRIDGE CONGRESS FUKUOKA 2012



Saturday, September 1, 2012
Bulletin Number 8

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

APBF Teams: Final Rankings

| Rank | Group A | VPs |
|------|------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | China Geely Automobile | 269 |
| 2 | Pan-China Construction Group | 268 |
| 3 | Beijing BEIH | 266 |
| 4 | Beijing Jinghua | 263 |
| 5 | Singapore RYLAI | 232 |
| 6-7 | Japan SAYN | 215 |
| 6-7 | Japan City Bridge | 215 |
| 8 | Japan NON PROBLEM | 207 |
| 9 | CBLT1 | 188 |
| 10 | Australia Yarralumla Yabbies | 180 |
| 11 | China Hong Kong Spark | 176 |
| 12 | Japan KM AT | 158 |
| 13 | Japan welcome Kyushu | 157 |
| 14 | Japan C'est si bon | 142 |

| Rank | Youth | VPs |
|------|----------------------------|-----|
| 1 | CHN RDFZ 1 | 258 |
| 2 | Beijing Yindi Junior | 256 |
| 3 | CHN RDFZ 2 | 251 |
| 4 | Shanghai Weiyu Bridge Club | 235 |
| 5 | Chinese Taipei Youth | 194 |
| 6 | Japan Youth A | 190 |
| 7 | Japan Youth K | 184 |
| 8 | Japan Youth B | 83 |

| Rank | Group B | VPs |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|
| 1 | HYX CHINA | 277 |
| 2 | Beijing Evertrust Group | 275 |
| 3 | AUSTRALIA KLINGER | 267 |
| 4 | Japan well fitted | 266 |
| 5 | SHENZHEN NANGANG | 260 |
| 6 | Japan MIURA | 234 |
| 7 | China Hong Kong VICO | 202 |
| 8 | Singapore SMJ | 197 |
| 9 | Japan Papas&Puppies | 179 |
| 10-11 | Beijing Dazhong Inv. | 171 |
| 10-11 | Korea GLPD | 171 |
| 12 | Japan TANAKA | 163 |
| 13 | Japan Gahhahha Honpo | 160 |
| 14 | CBLT2 | 154 |
| 15 | Japan sacrum | 134 |

| Rank | Seniors | VPs |
|------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1 | Japan YAMADA | 273 |
| 2 | Japan Lycaon | 265 |
| 3 | MAGIC EYES THAI | 259 |
| 4 | Japan NOSE | 220 |
| 5 | AUSSIES | 217 |
| 6 | Japan PSbridge | 167 |
| 7 | Chinese Taipei Senior | 137 |
| 8 | China Shanxi elderly | 123 |

| Rank | Women | VPs |
|------|------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Japan SHIMAMURA | 190 |
| 2 | Japan SUGINO | 174 |
| 3 | Australia BOURKE | 173 |
| 4 | Shenyang Olystar Bridge Club | 162 |
| 5 | Japan Merci | 159 |
| 6 | Japan Naito | 157 |
| 7 | Japan TAKEUCHI | 155 |
| 8 | Korea Alpha | 132 |
| 9 | Japan Misotoma | 131 |
| 10 | Japan Evolution | 110 |
| 11 | Australia WOMEN | 98 |



7TH APBF Congress Teams Semifinal Brackets

| Open |
|---|
| China Geely Automobile vs Beijing Evertrust Group |
| HYX CHINA vs Pan-China Construction Group |

| Women |
|--|
| Japan SHIMAMURA vs Japan SUGINO |
| Australia BOURKE vs Shenyang Olystar Bridge Club |

| Senior |
|---------------------------------|
| Japan YAMADA vs Japan NOSE |
| Japan Lycaon vs MAGIC EYES THAI |

| Youth |
|--|
| CHN RDFZ 1 vs Shanghai Weiyu Bridge Club |
| Beijing Yindi Junior vs CHN RDFZ 2 |

APBF Bridge Congress on the Web

Follow the action at the 7th 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](http://www.jcbl.or.jp/Portals/0/apbf2012/english/information/General%20Conditions%20of%20Contest%202012%20APBF%20Congress.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

Note for knockout matches:

- All matches will be played behind screens
- **All systemic agreements must be Alerted**
- There are NO self-Alerts

Line Ups (very important):

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

Smoking:

There is NO SMOKING in the Hilton Sea Hawk

Appeals Committee Members

| | | |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Chair: | Tadashi Teramoto | (Japan) |
| Members: | Fu Zhong | (China) |
| | Denny Sacul | (Indonesia) |
| | Alan Sze | (China Hong Kong) |
| | Poon Hua | (Singapore) |
| | Julia Hoffman | (Australia) |

Water, Water, Anywhere?

Our supply of bottled water that has been provided free each day here at the 2012 APBF Fukuoka Congress, courtesy of the sponsor, has run out. We apologize for the inconvenience, but when you're out, you're out!

Important Notice for all Semi-final and Final Championship Matches

A change has been announced for the number of boards per segment in semi-final and final matches, with the starting and ending times of segments adjusted accordingly. The new number of boards per segment is:

Semi-finals: three 12-board segments played today (Saturday)

Final: four 14-board segments, the first played today, the other three played tomorrow (Sunday)

The schedules on pages 3 and 4 have been adjusted to reflect the new segment starting and ending times.

APBF Closing Ceremony/Victory Banquet

The APBF Closing Ceremony and Banquet will be held on Sunday, September 2, at 19:00 in the Argos Hall. All players and staff are invited.

APBF Congress: General Schedule of Events

| APBF Congress Championships | | | Side-Games | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| DATE | TIME | EVENT | TIME | EVENT |
| 9/1 (Q1/Q2) (Sat) | 09:30-19:00 | APBF Teams Semi-Finals (KO) (See next page for details) | 10:00-17:30 | Fukuoka Mayor's Cup [Open Teams] Stratified Pairs Sectional (Δ100MP /Δ20MP) |
| 9/2 (Sun) | 09:30-17:00 | APBF Teams Final (KO) (See next page for details) | 10:00-17:30 | Fukuoka Mayor's Cup (F1/F2) [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 Ceremony | | |

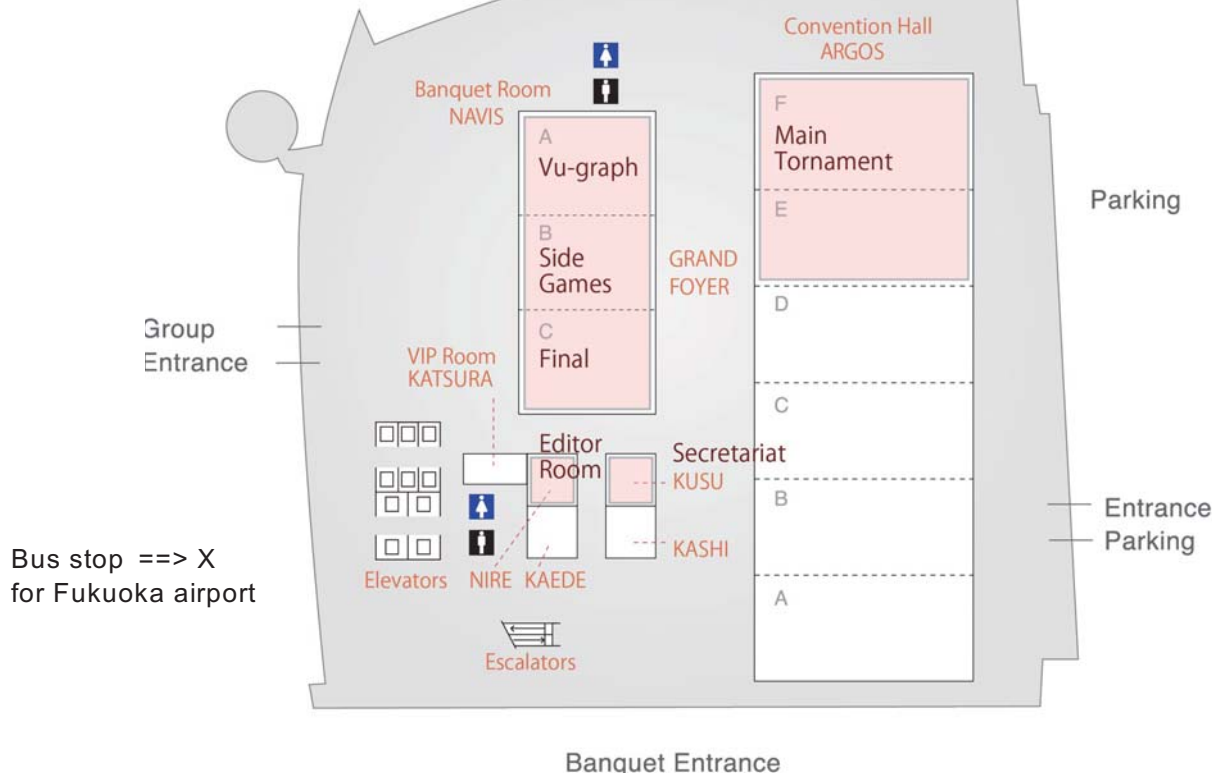
PCs with Internet access will be available for player use in the Navis A Room (where line-ups are submitted, opposite the playing area)

Complimentary Airport Shuttle

Complimentary Shuttle Bus service from the Hilton Sea hawk to Fukuoka Airport will be provided on Monday, September 3, every 1 hour on the hour from 7:00 to 13:00. Bus capacity is approximately 35 seats, and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The location of the Hilton Bus Stop is shown below.

APBF Area Floor Plan

LEVEL 1



APBF Congress: Detailed Schedule (Championship Events)

| Date/Time | | Open | Women | Senior | Youth |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Sept. 1 Sat. | 9:30 11:15 | Semifinal 1 | | | |
| | 11:30 13:15 | Semifinal 2 | | | |
| | 14:30 16:15 | Semifinal 3 | | | |
| | 17:00 19:00 | Final 1 | | | |
| Sept. 2 Sun. | 9:30 11:30 | Final 2 | | | |
| | 11:45 13:45 | Final 3 | | | |
| | 15:00 17:00 | Final 4 | | | |
| | 15:00 17:00 | Victory Banquet | | | |



1st: Open Strat Pairs



1st: Open Teams



1st: <1000 Teams



1st: <1000 Pairs

Fukuoka Teams Final

Open (4 Teams; 7 Qualified)

| Rank | Names | Total |
|------|--|-------|
| 1 | Nobuyuki Matsuzawa, Ryuji Hatae, Hiroshi Shinj, Koji Nakayama | 102 |
| 2-3 | Yukiko Hoshi, Megumi Takasaka, Etsuko Naito, Yukiko Umezu | 95 |
| 2-3 | Haruki Tanaka, Yoshiko Higashide, Toyoko Goto, Keiko Noda | 95 |
| 4 | Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Misako Fukazawa, Hiromu Nishida, Yoshie Nishida | 68 |

Under 1000 (4 Teams; 8 Qualified)

| Rank | Names | Total |
|------|---|-------|
| 1 | Nobuko Takahashi, Yoko Watanabe, Kanae Fujiwara, Masako Hirano | 92 |
| 2-3 | Maki Uenoyama, Atsuko Ishikawa, Michiko Nakanishi, Yukiko Matsukawa | 91 |
| 2-3 | Yoko Nishi, Yasuko Gondo, Seiko Ichinose, Keiko Sugawa | 91 |
| 4 | Kaoru Sento, Yasue Tajika, Atsuko Sato, Natsuko Yamada | 85 |

Friday Stratified Pairs

Open (22 Pairs); Under 1000 (11 Pairs)

| Rank | Names | Score |
|-------|------------------------------------|-------|
| A1 | Kazuko Tango – Seiko Hachisu | 311 |
| A2 | Midori Sakaguchi – Midori Sakamoto | 308 |
| A3 | Yasuyo Iida – Atsuko Katsumata | 300 |
| A4 | Chie Fujita – Kayoko Miyabe | 298.5 |
| A5 B1 | Wakako Yachi – Shoko Nakanishi | 295 |
| A6 | Misae Kato – Kimiko Kamakari | 291.5 |
| A7 B2 | Kanji Sakura – Tazu Tsuruta | 289.5 |
| A8 B3 | Timothy Curtis – Midori Hashimoto | 282.5 |
| B4 | Masanori Uehara – Ken Obana | 272.5 |

Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

(An explanation for foreign players)

Unlike the NEC Cup, which is an international event, and the Yokohama Swiss Teams, in which all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the side games at the 2012 APBF Congress in Fukuoka are rated as Japanese regional or national events, for which JCBL regulations for domestic events apply strictly. We ask for your compliance with the regulations explained below. If you have any questions about what is allowed, please ask the JCBL staff. Please note that use of unauthorized conventions may be penalized. We thank you for your cooperation.

All side games at this APBF Congress are restricted to "List C" conventions as described below. The use of the Multi-2♦ is strictly prohibited and will be subject to penalty.

LIST C (Television Nishinippon Cup — Sunday)

Opening Bids

- 1♣ or 1♦ may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g.: Precision 1♣ and 1♦; Polish 1♣, etc.)
- 2♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
 - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
 - at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
 - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- Opening suit bid at the two level or higher indicating the bid suit, another known suit, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
- Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
- Opening 3NT bid indicating:
 - any solid suit or
 - a broken minor suit.
- Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
- Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

Responses and Rebids

- 1♦ as a forcing, artificial response to 1♣.
- 1NT response to a major-suit opening bid, forcing for one round; may not guarantee game invitational or better values.
- Conventional responses which guarantee game forcing or better values. May not be part of a relay system.
- 2♣ or 2♦ response to 3rd- or 4th-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
- Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
- All responses to;
 - artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
 - opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

- All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
- Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
- All calls after a natural notrump (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges, neither of which exceeds 3 HCP). No conventional responses are allowed over natural notrump bids with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP.

Competitive Bids

- Any conventional balancing calls.
- Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
- Notrump overcall for either:
 - two-suited takeout showing at least 5-4 distribution and at least one known suit. (At the 4 level or higher there is no requirement to have a known suit.)
 - three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
- Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
- Cuebid of an opponent's suit and responses thereto, except that a cuebid that could be weak, directly over an opening bid, must show at least one known suit.
- Comic 1NT overcall.
- Defense to:
 - conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
 - natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
 - opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
- Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
- Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

Carding

- All leads and signaling methods are approved except for: a) odd-even signals, b) encrypted signals, c) dual-message carding strategies, except on each defender's first discard, d) any method when the pair using it are deemed to be playing it in a manner which is not compatible with the maintenance of proper tempo.

LIST D (Fukuoka Mayor's Cup — Saturday and Sunday)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

Welcome



Yokohama, Japan



YEH BROS CUP BRIDGE INVITATION

22nd - 26th APRIL 2013

Hosted by Japan Contract Bridge League

Sponsored by Mr. Yeh Chen

Venue: PACIFICO YOKOHAMA Conference Center, Yokohama, Japan



NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL

16th - 21st APRIL 2013

Hosted by Japan Contract Bridge League

Venue: PACIFICO YOKOHAMA Conference Center, Yokohama, Japan

Contact: Japan Contract Bridge League info@jcbli.or.jp

Bangkok Bridge Festival Championships

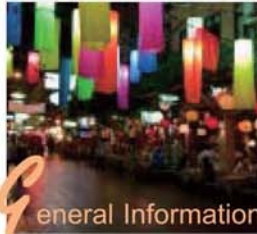
January 29 - February 3, 2013

January is the best time to visit Bangkok, "The City of Angels". Come and enjoy world class bridge; beautiful sights, shopping and good food. All within walking distance from the Montien Hotel where all accomodation and bridge events will be held.

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 2nd
 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

Prizers : 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.



General Information

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 performance.

Deposits 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

Bridge 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) |



The 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 _____ First Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Country _____ Post Code _____
 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 BBF Pairs Speed Ball
 IMP Pairs 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

34th

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>



GOLD COAST CONVENTION CENTRE | GOLD COAST HIGHWAY | BROADBEACH | AUSTRALIA

THE QUEENSLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN
BRIDGE FEDERATION PRESENTS THE...

GOLD COAST

CONGRESS

2013

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22ND
TO SATURDAY MARCH 2ND



For further enquiries or to register, contact: KIM ELLAWAY

Call: +61 7 3351 8602 or +61 4 1206 4903

Fax: +61 7 3103 4799

Email: manager@qldbridge.com

Want to know more?

www.qldbridge.com/gcc

APBF Teams RR: Beijing BEIH vs Japan Non Problem

by Barry Rigal

Match 13:

With three rounds to go, and only two qualifying places available in each group, it appeared that Group A had four teams fighting for two places, one of which was Beijing BEIH, on whom we will be focusing. (The others were Pan-China, in our other featured match, Beijing Jinhua and China Geely.)

In Group B, HYX China and Japan well fitted had a slight edge over Beijing Evertrust, Shenzhen Nangang and Klinger.

Our featured match started in sedate fashion with an exchange of overtrick imps.

| | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|--|
| Bd: 3 | North | | |
| Dlr: South | ♠ 1065 | | |
| Vul: E/W | ♥ J93 | | |
| | ♦ K104 | | |
| | ♣ AJ93 | | |
| | | East | |
| West | | ♠ K43 | |
| ♠ QJ92 | | ♥ AK8 | |
| ♥ Q1062 | | ♦ AQ8653 | |
| ♦ J2 | | ♣ 5 | |
| ♣ 1087 | | | |
| | South | | |
| | ♠ A87 | | |
| | ♥ 754 | | |
| | ♦ 97 | | |
| | ♣ KQ642 | | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|---------|----------|
| Sun | Yokoi | Kang | Tanaka |
| Pass | Pass | 1♣(STR) | Pass |
| 1♦ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| Hiraki | Fu | Niekawa | Nie |
| Pass | Pass | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3♠ | All Pass | | |

Niekawa's choice of 1♠ might be third choice behind a diamond rebid and a heart raise but it is perfectly fine by me given the fact that everything is extremely uncomfortable. It worked just fine by getting his side to a 4-3 fit with the ruffs in the short hand. The defenders led and continued clubs. Declarer ruffed, led a diamond to the jack and king, ruffed the club return, then advanced the ♠K, ducked. A heart to the

queen let him lead out the ♠Q and the defenders now could score no more tricks after the ♠A; easy game.

In the Closed Room East's 3NT bid makes no sense to me; how could 3NT be right if partner cannot show a positive or do more than bid 2NT here? A 3♦ rebid seems so obvious I must be missing something. Having said that, finding the club weakness for notrump was not going to be easy here. I guess the secret is that E/W should have inverted the 2♥ and 2NT responses over 2♦ (see *Precision in the Nineties* — I forget who wrote it). Against 3NT the defenders took their six black-suit winners and Non Problem led 10-1.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Bd: 4 | North | | |
| Dlr: West | ♠ QJ864 | | |
| Vul: Both | ♥ 103 | | |
| | ♦ AKQJ76 | | |
| | ♣ --- | | |
| | | West | East |
| | | ♠ K109 | ♠ A2 |
| | | ♥ 86 | ♥ AKQ9 |
| | | ♦ 842 | ♦ 1095 |
| | | ♣ Q10764 | ♣ AK83 |
| | South | | |
| | ♠ 753 | | |
| | ♥ J7542 | | |
| | ♦ 3 | | |
| | ♣ J952 | | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|--------|
| Sun | Yokoi | Kang | Tanaka |
| Pass | 1♦ | Dbl | Pass |
| 2♣ | 2♠ | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 5♣ | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| Hiraki | Fu | Niekawa | Nie |
| Pass | 1♦ | Dbl | Pass |
| 2♣ | 2♠ | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Both Easts bid 3♦ as a general force (I wonder whether 3♠ would also have been available and shown this hand). Sun wisely bid 3♠ and got to 5♣ — not a triumph but not a tragedy either, down on the obvious diamond lead. It was at least a better contract than 3NT; no doubt West assumed that his partner had a diamond stopper and was asking for a spade guard. Do *you* know what your partnership would do here? Just 3 undertrick imps here for BEIH, down 10-4.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ AKJ962
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ53
 ♦ A
 ♣ 73

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ J108
 ♦ QJ5432
 ♣ K1062

East
 ♠ Q104
 ♥ 942
 ♦ K1086
 ♣ QJ5

South
 ♠ 8753
 ♥ A76
 ♦ 97
 ♣ A984

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| | 1♠ | Pass | 3♣ (6-9) |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♥ |
| Pass | 6♠ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| | 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ |
| 2♣(♦) | 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Results like this one sometimes indicate we have a team of destiny, as BEIH missed their 90 percent small slam and found the 3-0 trump break offside that was all that stood between success and failure. Nie's decision not to treat his hand as a positive looks very strange to me, regardless of the positional element of the bid. Apparently he was unable or unwilling to try to catch up on the next round; them's the breaks, folks. You might argue that the Open Room auction was less than elegant. I wouldn't disagree but it got the job done — up to a point. 13imps to BEIH, who would stuff them away and not object to the editorial sniping. They led 17-10 now.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ A1053
 Vul: E/W ♥ K4
 ♦ Q72
 ♣ A875

West
 ♠ K962
 ♥ 762
 ♦ 106
 ♣ K643

East
 ♠ QJ87
 ♥ Q83
 ♦ KJ94
 ♣ J10

South
 ♠ 4
 ♥ AJ1095
 ♦ A853
 ♣ Q92

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| | | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Identical auctions to 3NT; which black suit do you lead? Hiraki opted for a club. Declarer won cheaply, ducked a club — carelessly leaving the suit blocked and playing low from hand. Back came a spade, and declarer took an early spade and was forced to play hearts correctly to take only nine tricks when West kept his clubs in the ending. By contrast, Sun led a spade and declarer made a very strange play when he ducked three times, squeezing his own hand. He won the fourth spade, let go two diamonds and one club, ran the hearts via the finesse, but had no option in the ending but to play for the ♦A onside. Had he taken the third spade he might have had a choice of which minor to play on. His fractional extra chance in clubs over diamonds (that of the ♣J10 doubleton) would have come in. It was 27-10, BEIH.

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ KJ4
 Vul: Both ♥ 5432
 ♦ 52
 ♣ J764

West
 ♠ A975
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q9863
 ♣ A853

East
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ AQJ986
 ♦ AK10
 ♣ K9

South
 ♠ 10862
 ♥ K107
 ♦ J74
 ♣ Q102

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| | | | Pass |
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4♦ | Pass |
| 5♦ | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| | | | Pass |
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♦(GF) | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5♥ | Pass | 6NT | All Pass |

We know we are getting grumpier as we are getting older but it would truly pain us to see either side gain imps as a result of such loathsome sequences. (No, no, don't hold back, Barry.) Both Wests felt obliged to open (trust me, that's not the problem; it's A problem but not THE problem) meaning that if you open such crud, you cause partner concern that you have this every time you open vulnerable in second seat.

You can choose which auction you like least; the one where West refused to cue-bid after showing a minimum despite holding both key aces, or the one where East unilaterally drove to notrump rather than diamonds despite the knowledge of an eight-card fit in his partner's suit and the likelihood of needing to ruff out his own long suit.

All was well in 6NT when the hand without the ♠K elected to lead clubs and the ♥10 fell in three rounds. Humph! 13 imps to Non Problem, and some of the bad luck from Board 5 had maybe been made up for (though one could argue that Nie had had it in his powers to make the swing in his side's favor by a better opening lead). Non Problem trailed 27-23.

Bd: 8 North
 Dir: West ♠ J862
 Vul: None ♥ AKQ7
 ♦ 1053
 ♣ Q6

West
 ♠ 54
 ♥ 1065
 ♦ A7
 ♣ J97543

East
 ♠ AK973
 ♥ 942
 ♦ K92
 ♣ A8

South
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ J83
 ♦ QJ864
 ♣ K102

Open Room

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| Pass | 1♦ | 1♠ | 2♦ |

All Pass

Closed Room

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| Pass | Pass(!) | 1♠ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♠ | All Pass | | |

2♠ has only seven tricks when spades do not behave but the defenders may have to be on their toes if declarer is awake. After the ♦Q lead declarer ruffed out the diamonds, cashed ♠AK, then tamely played a third spade and conceded down one. If instead he

exits with a heart Fu would have to win and cash two more hearts before playing a club to avoid allowing declarer to set up a trump endplay, but he would surely have done that.

In 2♦ South would surely have expected not to lose three trump tricks as he put his dummy down. But the defenders led three rounds of spades and Yokoi ruffed high, allowing West to pitch a heart. Now declarer cashed one heart and led a diamond up. East took his ♦K and played another spade. Declarer ruffed high again and West over-ruffed and exited in hearts, leaving declarer with a club and diamond to lose, for down one. 4 imps to BEIH, up 31-23.

Who is right? Gordon Gekko, who said "Greed is good" or Martin Gonzalez, who said "Greed it is such a terrible thing?" You be the judge.

Bd: 10 North
 Dir: East ♠ 65
 Vul: Both ♥ 943
 ♦ AQ1094
 ♣ A108

West
 ♠ AJ43
 ♥ J6
 ♦ KJ65
 ♣ K53

East
 ♠ 872
 ♥ AKQ105
 ♦ 87
 ♣ J64

South
 ♠ KQ109
 ♥ 872
 ♦ 32
 ♣ Q972

Open Room

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | All Pass |

Both defenders in the South seat led the ♠Q and saw the spade holding I normally see when I make this lead. (Actually, jack-fourth is normally in dummy and it is declarer who wins the ace.) Both declarers correctly ducked and Tanaka continued with the ♠10 to dummy's jack. Declarer cashed his spade and heart winners and emerged with +120 via an endplay on North. Nie shifted to the ♦3, which was hard to read from declarer's perspective. When Fu took the ♦J with the queen and shifted to hearts, declarer innocently won in hand and led a diamond to the king — and the roof fell in. Five diamonds and one trick in each black suit meant down one and 6 imps to BEIH, now leading 37-23.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ 9632
 Vul: None ♥ Q4
 ♦ Q8763
 ♣ 103

West
 ♠ K85
 ♥ A5
 ♦ K9
 ♣ Q98652

East
 ♠ A1074
 ♥ 9873
 ♦ A105
 ♣ J4

South
 ♠ QJ
 ♥ KJ1062
 ♦ J42
 ♣ AK7

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| | | | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 3♣ | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| | | | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | Pass | 3♣ | All Pass |

Both tables reached the same contract, again, on a top heart lead from North. Hiraki ducked, won the second, and elected to cross to dummy with a top diamond to lead the ♣J, which looks odd to me. South won, promoted the trump ten via a third heart, and now when Fu shifted to a low spade. Nie false-carded with the ♠Q and declarer simply opted for the finesse against the ♠J for his ninth winner. Nicely defended.

In the other room Sun won the first heart and led a club to the jack and king. Again the defenders promoted the ♣10 but now Yokoi appears to have ignored his partner's suit-preference signals in hearts and shifted to a low diamond. South ducked the trick, giving declarer no losing options, but the way the cards lay I don't think declarer could have gone wrong. 4 more imps to BEIH, up 41-23.

BEIH added 2 more overtrick imps over the next couple of deals before Non Problem got back on the scoreboard.

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ A1074
 Vul: None ♥ Q64
 ♦ KQ105
 ♣ J5

West
 ♠ KQJ5
 ♥ 52
 ♦ 9873
 ♣ A83

East
 ♠ 8632
 ♥ AK98
 ♦ J4
 ♣ 964

South
 ♠ 9
 ♥ J1073
 ♦ A62
 ♣ KQ1072

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | Dbl. | 3♠ | Dbl. |

All Pass

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♥ | All Pass | |

Yokoi led a heart against 3♠x and it looks logical to play to ruff diamonds in dummy, but it is not clear if you want to play trumps before diamonds. I'd guess it was right in practice to play diamonds first, if only because it limits the doubled undertricks (you can always pitch clubs from dummy on the diamonds if necessary). Sun led two rounds of spades at once, then led a third round later on, thereby turning -300 into -500. Since 2♥ had yielded +110 it was a gain of 9 imps for Non Problem, down 43-32.

Non Problem closed the gap a little more on the next deal where the South players had to decide whether to keep an auction open at their second turn over partner's 1♠ rebid. They each held: ♠763 ♥Q8643 ♦108 ♣K43. Nie had responded a negative to a strong club and raised to 2♠; Tanaka was facing a natural 1♦ and had already shown hearts, so was happy to pass out 1♠. He went plus while his counterpart went minus. It was 43-37 now, which became 44-37 after an overtrick imp in 3NT.

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AK83
 ♥ A10532
 ♦ K97
 ♣ 4

West
 ♠ QJ75
 ♥ J6
 ♦ 105
 ♣ KJ972

East
 ♠ 1062
 ♥ K874
 ♦ AQ642
 ♣ A

South
 ♠ 94
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ J83
 ♣ Q108653

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Both Souths must have felt they had done well to keep their opponents out of spades as they put the dummy down. Kang led his ♣A and shifted to a spade. Declarer ruffed a spade in dummy and tried to ruff a club to hand, got over-ruffed, and a trump was led back. Declarer won the ♥Q, led a diamond to his king and ace, and the defenders cross-ruffed merrily for down two. In the other room Niekawa led a spade to the jack and ace, won the ♣A at trick two, and erred by continuing with a low spade rather than the ten. Fu won and ruffed a spade, setting up his eight, ruffed a club and was over-ruffed, and East played back a low heart to the queen in dummy. Fu ruffed another club and was over-ruffed, but now East was endplayed. He led ace and another diamond, and Fu won in hand and drew the remaining trumps to cash a spade for +110. That made it 49-37.

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J872
 ♥ 6
 ♦ KQJ87
 ♣ 983

West
 ♠ 63
 ♥ AQ43
 ♦ A6
 ♣ AKQ104

East
 ♠ AKQ5
 ♥ KJ72
 ♦ 10532
 ♣ 6

South
 ♠ 1094
 ♥ 10985
 ♦ 94
 ♣ J752

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♥ | Pass |
| 7♥ | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| <i>Hiraki</i> | <i>Fu</i> | <i>Niekawa</i> | <i>Nie</i> |
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♣ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♥ | Pass |
| 5NT | Pass | 6♥ | All Pass |

The Closed Room pair was obviously not in complete agreement as to how East should show his ♠K, if at all. Personally I think if partner asks you with 5NT you have to show the ♠K here; your source of tricks is unusual, in context, though your diamonds are admittedly a touch on the feeble side. In 7♥ on a diamond lead Sun ruffed a club in dummy, ran the trumps, and the fall of the ♣J meant he had 13 tricks but he did have a black-suit squeeze or even a double squeeze in reserve. 11 well-earned imps to BEIH, up 60-37.

On the next deal both Norths knew how to operate — but just how greedy were they then going to be?

Bd: 19
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ A9
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ KQJ10954
 ♣ K8

West
 ♠ J4
 ♥ A10975
 ♦ 73
 ♣ J764

East
 ♠ KQ10763
 ♥ J3
 ♦ A
 ♣ AQ53

South
 ♠ 852
 ♥ K862
 ♦ 862
 ♣ 1092

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Yokoi</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Tanaka</i> |
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 1NT | 2♦(1) | Pass |
| 2♥ | 3♦ | 3♠ | All Pass |
| (1) One major | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| Hiraki | Fu | Niekawa | Nie |
| Pass | 1NT | Dbl | Pass |
| Pass | 2♦ | 2♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♦ | All Pass | |

If Niekawa had bid 3♠ would Hiraki have raised if for no other reason than to teach Fu a sharp lesson? And surely Hiraki must bid either 3♥ or 3♠ at his final turn. It is bad enough to miss game, but to sell out to 3♦ and lose 4 imps in the process was especially painful. There was nothing in the play, with BEIH expanding their lead to 64-37.

As you can see, the match had hinged on the unlucky slam earlier in the set; the final deal would not have made Non Problem feel any better about their luck in this match.

Bd: 20 North
 Dlr: West ♠ J
 Vul: Both ♥ J1096532
 ♦ 42
 ♣ Q107

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| West | East |
| ♠ AK10542 | ♠ Q63 |
| ♥ AK7 | ♥ 84 |
| ♦ K3 | ♦ Q109765 |
| ♣ J6 | ♣ 85 |

South
 ♠ 987
 ♥ Q
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ AK9432

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|--------|
| Sun | Yokoi | Kang | Tanaka |
| 1♣ | 2♦(1) | Pass | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | Pass | Pass | 3♣ |
| 3♠ | Pass | Pass | Dbl |
| Pass | 4♣ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| Hiraki | Fu | Niekawa | Nie |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | 2♣ |
| 3♣ | Dbl | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

Against 4♠ Fu accurately led a top heart and after cashing the ♠A declarer could hardly do anything but try to ruff his heart loser in dummy and lose out to the ruff. On a club lead the immediate shift to the ♥Q allows South to underlead in clubs for the ruff if declarer plays to set up diamonds.

In the other room 4♣ is relatively easy to beat, but Sun found a way that won him points for artistic achievement and star quality. He led his ♣J and when declarer played a heart he ducked. This gave South a heart trick but no entries to dummy to set up the suit (a less glamorous way to set the hand would be to win the heart and play spades repeatedly to tap dummy). After this start declarer could make only nine tricks. When Tanaka played a spade Sun won and continued the attack on trumps, holding declarer to seven clubs and one trick in each red suit. The 69-37 win for BEIH gave them a 22-8 win in VPs and they were still in with a chance for a qualifying spot.

Notice from APBF2012 Fukuoka Committee



We hope you enjoyed the Happy Summer Night on Wednesday evening. If by any chance you kept a "Happi coat" that is different (like those in the pictures) from the ones we gave to the APBF players here as a gift, please return it to the Hospitality Desk or the Main Office. Those Happi coats were borrowed from our sponsors for the local attendants of the "Happy Summer Night" party and they have to be returned.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. We hope you enjoy the rest of the tournament.



APBF Teams RR: Singapore SMJ vs Japan well fitted

by Rich Colker

Match 14:

Bd: 1 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 53
 Vul: None ♥ A95
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AQ97642

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| West | East |
| ♠ KQ7 | ♠ J10642 |
| ♥ K106432 | ♥ Q7 |
| ♦ 4 | ♦ AKJ93 |
| ♣ K105 | ♣ 8 |

South
 ♠ A98
 ♥ J8
 ♦ Q87652
 ♣ J3

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| | 1♣ | 1♠ | 1NT |
| 2♣ | 3♣ | 3♠ | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| | 1♣ | 1♠ | 1NT |
| 2♥ | 2NT | Pass | 3♣ |
| 3♠ | 4♣ | All Pass | |

Hideki Takano chose to show spade support over Fabian Tan's 1NT while Liu Pei Hua chose to bid his six-card heart suit over Tadashi Teramoto's 1NT, perhaps hoping to get a chance to show the spade support later. If those were the only two options then, given the relative strengths of the two suits, Takano's choice may be the more efficacious. But those are not the only two options. The top choice of both your editors is 3♥, the aptly named fit-showing jump in competition, which shows five-plus hearts, three-card spade support, and invitational values, a perfect choice, really. In the Open Room Marvin Lai competed to 3♣, cold on the lie of the cards, and Kazuo Furuta tried 3♠, fine if it makes or yields no more than -100. Tan led the ♣J, covered all around, and Lai continued with the ♣9, Furuta pitching a heart as dummy's ten won. Next came a diamond to the ace followed by the ♦K, pitching dummy's last club. Lai ruffed, cashed the ♥A, and continued with a club. Furuta ruffed in hand as Tan and dummy both pitched hearts. Next a spade was ducked to the king, followed by a low spade to the jack and ace. The ♦Q forced dummy to ruff with the ♠Q and with only hearts left in dummy Tan was able to score a trump promotion for down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Masayuki Ino's 2NT appears to be of the Bad/Good variety (opener bids his suit directly with a good hand and bids 2NT, puppeting to 3♣, over which he either passes or bids his suit if it is not clubs, with a strictly competitive hand). Actually, your editor prefers the Good/Bad 2NT, reversing the meanings of the two sequences, which allows opener to bid more preemptively at once with weaker hands but bid to 2NT with the stronger hands, which has the added advantage of right-siding a notrump contract if that is in the pair's future. Liu did show his spade support over 3♣ and now Ino pressed his luck by bidding one more. Lim Teong Wah led the ♦A against Ino's 4♣ and switched immediately to a trump. Ino could either play trumps for no losers but lose two hearts in exchange, or he could try to ruff a heart in dummy but would then have to lose a trump trick. He opted for the latter, the defense allowing him the ruff, but he still lost a trick in each suit for down one, -50, and 3imps to SMJ.

Bd: 2 North
 Dlr: East ♠ AJ65
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK872
 ♦ Q96
 ♣ J

| | |
|---------|----------|
| West | East |
| ♠ 97432 | ♠ K10 |
| ♥ 953 | ♥ 6 |
| ♦ A82 | ♦ KJ543 |
| ♣ Q7 | ♣ A10532 |

South
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ QJ104
 ♦ 107
 ♣ K9864

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | 2NT | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | 3♣ | 3♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Here again Japan rolled out the Bad/Good 2NT (it works with two-suiters as well as one suiters, the principle being that you bid a suit immediately with a good hand and puppet with 2NT with the bad hands. Again, the problem with playing the convention this

way is that when you bid 2NT partner won't know if you're one-suited or two-suited — he may have a fit for your second suit but being weak you may not be able to afford to show it over the competition. But playing Good/Bad you bid immediately with the weaker hands so partner knows what you have; plus with the stronger hands you can either afford to bid more over competition or opt to double with a more defensively-oriented hand to get back into the auction, giving partner a chance to pass for penalties. Here the pair lucked out since Takano did not have a fit for Furuta's second suit so it didn't matter that he never found out about it in the auction. Looking at all four hands it is easy to see that N/S have four losers in 4♥ (a club, a spade and two diamonds). But Takano bid spades and Furuta really has no other attractive lead (other than perhaps a passive trump), so he tabled the ♠K. Now Lai won, drew trumps while unblocking the spades, and led the ♣J. Furuta played the ace since he knew, looking at the ten, that Lai was not going to finesse for the queen. Now there was a trump for one of Lai's losers and a club pitch for the other; +620.

In the Closed Room Ino-Teramoto stopped safely in 3♥ and made an overtrick when Lim led the same ♠K playing along a transposed variation of the line taken in the other room; +170. That was 100 more imps to SMJ, ahead now 13-0.

Japan picked up 1 imp on Board 3 when they played 2♥ for +170 in one room while SMJ played 3♣ for +150 in the other to make the score 13-1. Then...

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ 65432
 Vul: Both ♥ 964
 ♦ K2
 ♣ 752

| | |
|---------|---------|
| West | East |
| ♠ KQJ7 | ♠ 98 |
| ♥ AKJ75 | ♥ 103 |
| ♦ J103 | ♦ AQ874 |
| ♣ 10 | ♣ AKQ9 |

South
 ♠ A10
 ♥ Q82
 ♦ 965
 ♣ J8643

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| 1♥ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3♣ | Pass |
| 3♦ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| 1♥ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | 5♦ | All Pass |

Both tables missed the reasonable slam here which needs only the diamond finesse. But Japan picked up 2 imps when they played in notrump for +690 while SMJ played in diamonds for +620. 2 more imps to Japan, closer at 13-3.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ 9
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q108
 ♦ AKJ9762
 ♣ 96

| | |
|----------|---------|
| West | East |
| ♠ J8 | ♠ A754 |
| ♥ 4 | ♥ K763 |
| ♦ Q853 | ♦ 4 |
| ♣ AKQ742 | ♣ J1083 |

South
 ♠ KQ10632
 ♥ AJ952
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 5

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| | 3♦ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| | 1♦ | Pass | 1♠ |
| 3♣ | 3♦ | 5♣ | 5♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Here is another instance of two players evaluating their hand differently with, of course, style being a large factor along with vulnerability. Lai saw a preemptive 3♦ while Ino opened 1♦ and freely bid 3♦ over Liu's interference. Both tables ended up in a high-level heart contract, Teramoto showing death-defying acrobatics when he first bid the suit at the five level and Ino showing nerves of steel when he passed. Against 4♥ Takano led the ♣A and continued with the king. Tan ruffed, tabled the ♠K and Furuta won to continue clubs. Tan pitched a spade as he ruffed in dummy, then played the ♦A and the ♦2. ruffing as Furuta pitched a spade. Now Tan cashed the ♠Q, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♦K, ruffed and over-ruffed, then ruffed another spade as Furuta over-ruffed. That was the defense's third trick

and Tan still had a losing spade in his hand for down one, -100.

Being a level higher the pressure was on. Liu led the ♣AK to the first two tricks and Teramoto ruffed, crossed to the ♦A, and called for a spade. Lim rose with the ace and continued with a second spade, 10, J, ♥8. Now, with the spades established, only trumps remained to be negotiated. When the ♥Q held the next trick Teramoto must have been heartened, only to be crushed back to earth when he played the ♥10 to the jack and Liu showed out. Still, they say “down one is good bridge” and that was never truer than it was here. Had Tan planned his play a bit more carefully he might have gained 12 imps. As it was Japan staved off a loss and achieved a push to keep the score at 13-3.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ 86
 Vul: E/W ♥ J1062
 ♦ KJ82
 ♣ J82

West East
 ♠ A4 ♠ J975
 ♥ Q95 ♥ K84
 ♦ Q10976 ♦ 4
 ♣ Q64 ♣ K10975

South
 ♠ KQ1032
 ♥ A73
 ♦ A53
 ♣ A3

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| | | Pass | 1NT |

All Pass

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| | | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 1NT(F1) | Pass | 2NT |

All Pass

The South hand may not be easy for some to evaluate. The high cards are prime, the point count (17) is right on the border between a strong notrump and a 2NT rebid, plus the hand contains a five-card suit and that suit is a major. On the down side the shape is sterile, as are virtually all the spot cards. One of the rules that has characterized this Congress is that when a choice has had to be made, two players chosen at random will do it differently. And so it was here. (By the way, the editors rate this hand as “way” too good for a 15-17 1NT; in addition, the hand screams “suit” rather than “notrump.”) Tan chose the

low road and received the ♦10 lead (0 or 2 higher). When the ♦J held Tan played a spade to the king and ace (Takano might have ducked smoothly to put declarer to the test on the second round of the suit). Next Takano found the best play of a low club, 2, 7, 3, and Furuta returned the ♣10 to the ace. Now declarer played a diamond to the nine and king and a spade to the ten, then cleared the spades. In with the ♠J Furuta had three clubs to cash and Tan took the last two to score up +90.

On lead against 2NT Lim led the ♣7, ducked to the queen, and Liu returned a club to the ace. Next came the ♠K to the ace and the defense cashed three clubs before exiting with a heart. Teramoto won the ace, played ♦A, diamond to the jack, cashed the ♦K and exited with the ♦8, hoping to endplay Liu if he had ♠Jx left. But Liu cashed the ♥Q before conceding the last trick to declarer’s spade for down two, -100, and 5 imps to SMJ, who now led 18-3.

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ J752
 Vul: Both ♥ A975
 ♦ KQJ105
 ♣ ---

West East
 ♠ Q4 ♠ AK93
 ♥ K62 ♥ QJ84
 ♦ A73 ♦ 4
 ♣ KQ962 ♣ J1083

South
 ♠ 1086
 ♥ 103
 ♦ 9862
 ♣ A754

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 1♣ | 1♦ | Dbl | 3♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | All Pass | |

Looking at the South hand a player should be happy not to be doubled in 2♦; jumping to 3♦ is “hero” stuff, of the sort that consistently loses matches. (There have to be better ways of proving your manhood. Why not just open your shirt and show the opponents your chest hair?) We’re sure Lai mumbled an appropriate “Thank you, pard” when the dummy

came down. He won the ♣J with the ace, pitching a spade from hand, played the ♥10 to the ace, and followed with the ♦10, ducked all around. (Now the defense could play two more rounds of trumps to stop one potential heart ruff in dummy. Better to duck a heart immediately to set up two ruffs before the defense could play too many trumps.) Now Lai exited with a spade. Furuta rose with the king (why?) and continued with a club. Lai ruffed, played a second spade to Takano's queen, and now came the *coup de gras* of the ♦A followed by the ♦7. Lai could take only two more tricks and finished down two, -500.

Ino made a good (if somewhat unsporting) double here and started the ♦K. Liu won the ace, knocked out the ♣A, and the defense cashed their four diamonds and ♥A to set 3NT two, -500. That was 14imps to Japan, who pulled to within a single imp at 18-17.

On Board 8 both rooms played 3♣ with Ino-Teramoto scoring up an overtrick imp. On Board 9 Japan played 2NT in the Open Room scoring +150 and SMJ played 2♥ in the other room for +110. Another 1 imp to Japan. On the next board SMJ picked up 1 overtrick imp and the following board was a push in 4♥. On Board 12 both E/W pairs played in a heart partial, Japan in 2♥ for -50 and SMJ in 3♥ for -100 (trumps broke 5-0) for another 2-imp gain for Japan. On Board 13 both tables reached 4♥x down one for a push. The score now stood at 21-19 Japan.

Bd: 14 North
 Dlr: East ♠ KQJ92
 Vul: None ♥ AQ8
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K863

| | |
|---------|--------|
| West | East |
| ♠ A85 | ♠ 106 |
| ♥ J6 | ♥ K42 |
| ♦ A8762 | ♦ KQ93 |
| ♣ 1094 | ♣ AJ72 |

South
 ♠ 743
 ♥ 109753
 ♦ J105
 ♣ Q5

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| Takano | Lai | Furuta | Tan |
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 2♠(♦) | Dbl | 3♦ | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|----------|
| Liu | Ino | Lim | Teramoto |
| | | 1NT | Pass |
| 2NT | 3♠ | All Pass | |

Takano's 2♠ bid was a good diamond raise and Furuta bought it in 3♦ after Lai had a chance to double the bid to show his spades and Tan acquiesced. Tan led a spade, ducked to Lai's ten, who returned a club to Tan's queen. Tan led back another club, dummy's nine holding the trick, and Furuta quickly drew trump, repeated the club finesse pitching a heart from dummy, and conceded one more trick for +130.

In the other room Ino had to bid his spades the old fashioned way to show them and was left hanging there to scramble what he could opposite a very modest but not useless dummy. The defense led two rounds of diamonds, Ino ruffing to lead a club to the queen and a club back, ducked. Liu led a low spade to the king (instead of ace and another) allowing Ino to ruff a club, cross to the ♥A, and ruff another club, which Liu over-ruffed. Ino finished down one, -50, for another 2-imp pick up. Japan now ahead 23-19.

Board 15 was another push, both tables playing 3♥ just making. Then...

Bd: 16 North
 Dlr: West ♠ AQJ6
 Vul: E/W ♥ 2
 ♦ J976
 ♣ J954

| | |
|---------|----------|
| West | East |
| ♠ 109 | ♠ 8743 |
| ♥ K976 | ♥ AJ4 |
| ♦ A10 | ♦ Q82 |
| ♣ Q8632 | ♣ AK7 |
| | South |
| | ♠ K52 |
| | ♥ Q10853 |
| | ♦ K543 |
| | ♣ 10 |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| Takano | Lai | Furuta | Tan |
| Pass | Pass | 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | Dbl | Pass | 2♦ |
| 3♣ | 3♦ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| Liu | Ino | Lim | Teramoto |
| Pass | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Lai's double was takeout (for spades and diamonds) and he competed to with 3♦ when 3♣ was about to fail with five losers. Takano got off to the ♠10 lead, Tan winning the ace and calling for a heart. Furuta rose with the ace to play a second spade to the king

and Tan ruffed a heart before exiting with a club. Furuta won the king and led a third spade as Takano ruffed, cashed the $\diamond A$, and got out with a club. Tan ruffed, ruffed a heart, ruffed another club, and ruffed another heart as Furuta over-ruffed for the defense's final trick; down one, -50.

In the other room Teramoto led the $\diamond 3$ against Lim's 3NT, ducked to the jack and queen. Lim cashed the $\clubsuit AK$, getting the bad news, then continued with a club to the queen and a fourth club. Ino won, played the $\spadesuit Q$ which held, the switched back to diamonds. Lim won the ace perforce, cashed dummy's last club, then tried the $\heartsuit K$ and a heart, again getting the bad news as he won the ace. But that was the end and he finished with only eight tricks for down one, -100, and another 4 imps to Japan who led now 27-19.

Board 17 was a push when Furuta-Takano played in 2 \spadesuit down one (-100) in one room while Ino-Teramoto made 1NT (+90) in the other room. The final three boards were recorded on BBO in the Closed Room but not in the Open Room. We have the final contracts and results, but not the bidding or play, so we will do our best to show you what happened from the information we have.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East \spadesuit 95
 Vul: N/S \heartsuit K75
 \diamond A875
 \clubsuit AK86

West
 \spadesuit AKQ2
 \heartsuit AJ3
 \diamond Q9
 \clubsuit Q532

East
 \spadesuit 108
 \heartsuit 984
 \diamond J10632
 \clubsuit 974

South
 \spadesuit J7643
 \heartsuit Q1062
 \diamond K4
 \clubsuit J10

Open Room

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| | 2NT | | |

Closed Room

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 1 \clubsuit (Prec) | Pass | 1 \diamond (Neg) | Pass |
| 1NT | All Pass | | |

In the Open Room Lai played in 2NT and took seven tricks for down one, -100. IN the Closed Room Liu-Lim had a Precision auction and stopped in 1NT. Ino led the $\clubsuit K$, got the jack from Teramoto, and switched

to the $\heartsuit 5, 4, Q, A$. Liu now made a strange play by exiting with a low club to South's ten, and now Teramoto dutifully returned a heart, ducked to Ino's king. A trick for a trick, thank you very much. Ino returned a third heart setting up a trick for Teramoto, who still had a diamond entry. Liu exited with the $\diamond Q$, which rode to the king, and Teramoto now cashed his good heart as Liu threw a diamond. Now someone was going to be endplayed. Teramoto was down to the $\diamond 4$ and $\spadesuit K7643$. If he played a diamond Ino would be in having to give dummy two diamond tricks or declarer the $\clubsuit Q$. So he played a spade and Liu ducked to the ten and now cashed out his three top spades for down one, -50, and another 4 imps to Japan, who had won imps on seven of the last nine boards that were not pushes. Japan 31-19.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South \spadesuit 9862
 Vul: E/W \heartsuit Q74
 \diamond KQ8
 \clubsuit 1076

West
 \spadesuit AK104
 \heartsuit J2
 \diamond J1092
 \clubsuit A32

East
 \spadesuit 7
 \heartsuit 9653
 \diamond A43
 \clubsuit KQJ85

South
 \spadesuit QJ53
 \heartsuit AK108
 \diamond 765
 \clubsuit 94

Open Room

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| | | | |

Closed Room

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| | | | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2 \clubsuit | Pass |
| 2 \spadesuit | Pass | 2NT | All Pass |

Takano played 3NT in the Open Room and with only eight tricks on top (South can split his spade honors and North can cover the first diamond) the defense can collect five tricks before declarer can set up his ninth. But the sheet says he made it for +600, perhaps by leading a sneaky $\diamond 9$ early and North either not recognizing the need to cover or covering and not find a heart switch. In the Closed Room E/W stopped in 2NT. Liu won the $\diamond K$ lead, ran five clubs, then cashed the $\spadesuit AK$ and played the $\diamond 9$. When Ino ducked that was his ninth trick for +150. Still, 10 more imps to Japan who had now completely separated from SMJ at 41-19.

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q1032
 ♥ A
 ♦ A8543
 ♣ 1062

West
 ♠ KJ4
 ♥ Q9532
 ♦ Q72
 ♣ Q3

East
 ♠ 876
 ♥ J874
 ♦ K10
 ♣ A974

South
 ♠ A95
 ♥ K106
 ♦ J96
 ♣ KJ85

Open Room

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Takano</i> | <i>Lai</i> | <i>Furuta</i> | <i>Tan</i> |
| | | | 2NT |

Closed Room

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Ino</i> | <i>Lim</i> | <i>Teramoto</i> |
| All Pass | | | |

On the final deal Tan as South declared 2NT in the Open Room and managed only six tricks on a heart lead for -300 while in the Closed Room the board was passed out. That was 7 more imps to Japan well fitted, who won the match 48-19, 21-9 in VPs.

APBF Teams RR: Shenzhen Nangang vs. Japan MIURA

by Barry Rigal

Match 15:

With one match still to go each group had four or five teams still very much in contention. In Group A Hyx China had a bye and was a lock to qualify. Japan well fitted was playing Beijing Evertrust and if either team won 20-10 or better they would go through. If not, fourth-place Shenzhen Nangang had a chance.

In Group B Beijing Jinhua was leading and had a bye, not such good news for them since the three teams chasing them were only 1, 2 and 4 VPs back. China Geely Automobile was playing fifth-placed Japan SAYN, Pan-China was taking on bottom-placed Japan c'est si bon, and Beijing BEIH was playing the Thai team CBLT1 in mid-table.

We're watching fourth-place Shenzhen Nangang take on MIURA. The former needed 21-9 or better to have a chance if the second and third place teams would be kind enough to fight it out to a draw. Sydney or the bush! as the Australian might say.

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ K1094
 ♦ QJ84
 ♣ K63

West
 ♠ J9853
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 73
 ♣ QJ1084

East
 ♠ 4
 ♥ AQJ82
 ♦ AK102
 ♣ 952

South
 ♠ K10762
 ♥ 765
 ♦ 965
 ♣ A7

Open Room

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| | 1NT | 2♥ | 2♠ |

Closed Room

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Kobayashi | Shi | Koike | Li |
| | 1NT | 2♦(1) | 2♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass |
| Pass | 2NT | All Pass | |

Kobayashi's pass of the takeout double was at the very least speculative; some would use harsher words. North believed him though, ran to 2NT, and nobody doubled that. On a top heart lead declarer came to seven tricks, three spades and two each in hearts and clubs. No swing when 2♠ also went one down, declarer scoring all five spade tricks via a ruff and trump endplay, plus his two clubs.

Bd: 2
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ QJ86
 ♥ 2
 ♦ J109
 ♣ K8652

West
 ♠ 732
 ♥ AJ654
 ♦ AK54
 ♣ A

East
 ♠ AK94
 ♥ KQ973
 ♦ Q73
 ♣ 7

South
 ♠ 105
 ♥ 108
 ♦ 862
 ♣ QJ10943

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♠ | Pass |
| 5NT | Pass | 6♦ | Pass |
| 7♥ | All Pass | | |
| All Pass | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|----------|-------|-------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 4♣ | Dbl | Pass | Pass |
| Rdbl | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♠ | Pass |
| 6♥ | All Pass | | |

Zhang's 2♦ response seems distorted unless he knew he was going to take control of the auction. As it was, when his partner did not raise diamonds he may have expected club length opposite. I'm not sure if Zhang was hoping to buy ♣KQx to pitch his spades or just gambling on finding the ♠J or ♠Q in the East hand. Even though his side needed a big win it still seems an quixotic move on his part. The Grand Slam had no play, while I'm not sure what the 3♦ bid from the Closed Room meant, and why West did not explore harder for the seven level. Be that as it may, he got it right to stop in 6♥; 14-0 for MIURA.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ K10876
 Vul: E/W ♥ J108
 ♦ AK3
 ♣ Q6

| | |
|---------|---------|
| West | East |
| ♠ --- | ♠ J9542 |
| ♥ K9753 | ♥ A64 |
| ♦ J8762 | ♦ 10 |
| ♣ 752 | ♣ J1093 |
| South | |
| ♠ AQ3 | |
| ♥ Q2 | |
| ♦ Q954 | |
| ♣ AK84 | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| | | | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |
| | | | 1♣ |
| Dbl(1) | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |
| (1) Reds or blacks | | | |

At both tables 3NT looked to be the safest contract at one point in the auction, especially in the Closed Room where there had been no opposition bidding. Both Norths won the club lead in hand and played a spade to dummy. (Yes, it might have worked better to win in dummy blocking the suit to create extra entries back to hand, but that was hard to spot and perhaps only relevant against 5-0 trumps.)

Where Miura was declarer he led a diamond to hand and advanced the ♠7, covered all around. When East got in with the ♠J he led the ace and another heart and West gave him the ruff; down one. Shi tried something else. After the same first two tricks he led a heart to the jack at trick three, won the diamond lead in hand, and drove out the ♠J as in the Open Room. When West got in with the ♥K he did not give his partner the diamond ruff but played a third heart, so declarer could draw the last trump and claim. That was 10 imps back to Shenzhen, down 14-10.

For the record, Margi Bourke succeeded on ace and another heart, followed by a revealing diamond shift to her king and East's ten. She played a spade to the queen, a club to the queen, and the ♠7, covered by East and won in dummy. Then she played the ♣AK (pitching a diamond) and ruffed a club, then cashed the ♥J. That is 10 tricks (two spades, three hearts, one diamond and four clubs). When she led her diamond winner East ruffed and was trump-endplayed to lead from her ♠Jx at trick 12.

On the next deal both Norths, with ♠K105 ♥4 ♦954 ♣AQJ762, overcalled 2♣ over 1♥ and found themselves on lead to 4♥ after a couple more bids (dummy having jumped to game or had a limit raise accepted). Both Norths led a spade — bingo! Partner has the ♠A and little else and needs to be put in at trick one for the club shift to set the game or else the losers go on dummy's diamonds. Shenzhen then gained an undertrick imp for going only a little overboard on an awkward deal. That made it 14-13 after six deals, before Miura struck a blow for his side.

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ AQ1032
 Vul: Both ♥ 6
 ♦ AJ9
 ♣ Q1098

West
 ♠ 654
 ♥ K10
 ♦ K1054
 ♣ KJ73

East
 ♠ 87
 ♥ QJ753
 ♦ 7632
 ♣ A2

South
 ♠ KJ9
 ♥ A9842
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ 654

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|----------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |
| Pass | | | |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 2♠ | All Pass | |

Miura's jump to 4♠ looks a little extravagant, North's sign-off in the Closed Room in 2♠ a little pessimistic. However, he was doubtless expecting wasted values in hearts (imagine ♥KJxxx in dummy instead). Both declarers won the heart lead in dummy, advanced the ♦Q, covered and taken with the ace, then ruffed a diamond in dummy and played on clubs, coming to ten tricks with a minimum of pain. But it was still 10 imps and 24-13 to MIURA.

Bd: 8 North
 Dir: West ♠ 73
 Vul: None ♥ J852
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ A10963

West
 ♠ QJ964
 ♥ Q1073
 ♦ J104
 ♣ 4

East
 ♠ 2
 ♥ 964
 ♦ A9632
 ♣ QJ87

South
 ♠ AK1085
 ♥ AK
 ♦ 875
 ♣ K52

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| 2♥(1) | Pass | 3♥ | All Pass |

(1) majors, weak

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♣ |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

Operation successful, patient died. Zhang's 2♥ opening stole the deal and he made an impressive seven tricks, but when you look at the full deal you can see that this was not exactly a triumph. Left to their own devices Shi and Li bid to 3NT and on a diamond lead that contract had only a slim chance in theory (clubs and diamonds splitting) and less than no chance in practice. When clubs did not break Koike was able to get in and clear diamonds. The fall of the diamond honors let him take six tricks at once for down two, and 5 more imps to MIURA. They led 29-13.

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ 5
 Vul: E/W ♥ A10973
 ♦ Q1074
 ♣ 984

West
 ♠ J87
 ♥ Q54
 ♦ K96
 ♣ A732

East
 ♠ AKQ106432
 ♥ 8
 ♦ J82
 ♣ K

South
 ♠ 9
 ♥ KJ62
 ♦ A53
 ♣ QJ1065

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| 5♠ | 2♥ | 4♠ | 5♥ |
| | Pass | 6♠ | All Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|-------|----------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |
| | Pass | 1♠ | Dbl |
| 2♥(♠) | Dbl | 4♠ | 5♥ |
| Pass | Pass | 5♠ | All Pass |

Both N/S pairs made a valiant effort to disrupt their opponents' lives, but Asakoshi could do it at his first turn to speak thanks to the 2♥ opening while Shi's initial pass let East know his partner's values

precisely, as 8-10 or so. While Koike could compete as high as he wanted, Wang had to gamble if his partner was going to deliver the goods or a facsimile thereof. Since the set had not been going well, perhaps his gamble on slam was justified; I'm not fully convinced of that, but never mind. Against 6♠ Asakoshi's normal top-club lead must have scared him to death when declarer pitched his heart loser. But all was well from his perspective when Miura came through with the ♠Q. That made it 42-13 now for MIURA.

Both N/S pairs stayed out of a game needing a finesse and a break (the cards co-operated). Then:

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ Q985
 Vul: None ♡ AQJ3
 ♢ A432
 ♣ K

West
 ♠ AKJ3
 ♡ 852
 ♢ KQJ7
 ♣ 103

East
 ♠ 1076
 ♡ 104
 ♢ 109
 ♣ AQ7642

South
 ♠ 42
 ♡ K976
 ♢ 865
 ♣ J985

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |

| | | | |
|------|----------|------|----|
| 1NT | 2♣(MAJs) | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | Pass | 3♣ | 3♥ |

All Pass

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |

| | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1♦ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | 2♣ | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | Pass | 2♥ |

All Pass

I cannot imagine where Asakoshi found his 3♥ bid (unless he was playing pairs) but the defenders were not too concerned. They just set up their diamonds, then cashed them out and sat back to wait for the spade tricks. When declarer rejected the opportunity to lead up to the ♠Q he went two down. This was not exactly a tragedy since 3♣ goes down only one trick, but in the other room Koike did not compete to the three level, perhaps worried about a trump stack. Here 2♥ made eight tricks when West led off with a top spade and declarer knew what to do after that. It

was 42-18 at the half.

For Shenzhen to get back into the match, they had to convert their opportunities. Instead...

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q62
 Vul: N/S ♡ AKJ7
 ♢ Q96
 ♣ A103

West

♠ 97
 ♡ 63
 ♢ J873
 ♣ QJ952

East

♠ AJ108
 ♡ Q10
 ♢ K105
 ♣ K864

South

♠ K543
 ♡ 98542
 ♢ A42
 ♣ 7

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|----------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Dbl | Pass |
| 3♣ | 3♥ | All Pass | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

The South hand looks closer to a drive to game than a sign-off to me (especially if I have to go through a transfer rather than Stayman). Asakoshi got his side to hearts but not to game, and here it was logical to finesse in trumps against East's presumed singleton. That meant +140 and a chance for Shi if he could bring home 4♥.

Koike also led a club against 4♥. Declarer stripped off the clubs, using the ♥K as a re-entry to hand, then also chose to finesse in hearts. What should East exit with? A club doesn't work if declarer can work out to ruff in dummy and pitch a spade from hand. Then he leads a spade to the queen and ace, wins the spade return, and ducks a diamond to East. That player can only exit with a spade. Declarer ruffs and plays his last trump to squeeze East between the guarded ♦K and the master spade. To defeat 4♥ legitimately East must exit with the ♦10 (or ♦K). On the low diamond actually chosen declarer could have won cheaply in hand and played two more rounds of diamonds to endplay East to broach spades, but naturally he didn't do that. Instead he played for 3-3

spades and went down when the defenders scored two spades and a diamond in the ending. Six moreimps to MIURA, up 48-18.

Bd: 13
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J32
 ♥ 1076
 ♦ AQJ873
 ♣ K

West
 ♠ AK96
 ♥ 5432
 ♦ K106
 ♣ 103

East
 ♠ 87
 ♥ QJ9
 ♦ 942
 ♣ J8764

South
 ♠ Q1054
 ♥ AK8
 ♦ 5
 ♣ AQ952

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| | | | 1♣ |
| Dbl | Rdbl | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 3NT |

All Pass

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kobayashi | Shi | Koike | Li |
| | 1♦ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3NT |

All Pass

Asakoshi won the heart lead in hand and followed the direct route to goal. He finessed in diamonds and cleared that suit, then won the next heart (somewhat fortuitously leaving it blocked), crossed to the ♣K and ran the diamonds. On the run of the diamonds East erred and pitched clubs. In the four-card ending, when declarer led a spade to the king West played a heart. East won and led a spade back to his partner to cash out.

In the Closed Room Li saw that the above line would not be likely to work. He won the heart lead and advanced the ♠Q. West ducked (an interesting decision) and won the next spade to play on hearts. Declarer won and only now went after diamonds. He finessed, cashed the ♦A, played the ♠J, letting West win, return a heart, then win the next diamond to cash the long heart for down one.

The lines to make 3NT are far from easy to describe, but there are quite a few successful variations. You can, for example, succeed by winning the first heart (necessary) and taking an early diamond finesse, unblocking clubs, then stranding the ♦A and leading a spade to an honor in your hand and West's ace-king. You must take the next heart and lead a spade to the jack; West must duck and now you exit in

hearts to East. That leaves East on lead with only the minors left and since a diamond is clearly fatal he must play a club, whereupon you endplay him right back in clubs forcing him to concede two diamonds to dummy at the death. In total, the defense takes one spade, one heart and two clubs. You get one spade, two hearts, and three tricks in each minor.

The score was still 48-18 now to MIURA.

Bd: 14
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 64
 ♥ AQ943
 ♦ K9654
 ♣ 5

West
 ♠ K83
 ♥ 86
 ♦ A32
 ♣ Q9874

East
 ♠ J109752
 ♥ 10
 ♦ Q108
 ♣ 632

South
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ KJ752
 ♦ J7
 ♣ AKJ10

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| | | | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | 3NT |

All Pass

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kobayashi | Shi | Koike | Li |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♣ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 6♥ |

All Pass

Neither Shenzhen pair was prepared to give up and the combination of Wang's Multi 2♦ and West's preemptive jump to 3♥ got the job done nicely, so that N/S never mentioned hearts. In the other room, once North showed 5-5 and some presumed extras because of the rebid of the second suit and the cuebid on shortage, Li was prepared to gamble on a diamond control opposite. Bob Hamman would approve of the slam — because it makes. If the diamond finesse had lost we might all be pursing our lips and criticizing South for his rashness. 48-29 now.

MIURA regained all of that big swing with three small ones of their own. One came where the weakness of the Precision auction 1♦-1M; 2♣ in not defining the minor-suit lengths led to Shenzhen playing the wrong partscore. Then an undertrick and a partscore declared in both rooms added back further small swings to make it 58-29 with two deals to go.

Bd: 19
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ A654
 ♥ K8
 ♦ J109
 ♣ K754

West
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ J109653
 ♦ Q
 ♣ AJ63

East
 ♠ 10972
 ♥ 7
 ♦ K7543
 ♣ 1092

South
 ♠ Q83
 ♥ AQ42
 ♦ A862
 ♣ Q8

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|----------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| 1♥ | Dbl | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | 1NT |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |
| 2♦(1) | Dbl. | Pass | 1NT |
| 2♥ | Dbl. | All Pass | Pass |

(1) One major

3NT looks a healthy enough contract, but West has three entries and a six-card suit to lead. Asakoshi won the heart lead in dummy, finessed in diamonds, won the heart return to cross to a spade, then played diamonds twice more. When he led a club to the queen West won and cleared hearts, with the ♠K as the entry to his winners.

2♥x rated to be a bloodbath on the ♦J lead to South's ace, but in fact when West guessed spades all the defenders could score was one trick in each side suit and four trumps. Still, +500 meant 11imps back to Shenzhen, down 58-40. Time for one more swing.

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 10975
 ♥ QJ103
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A542

West
 ♠ QJ
 ♥ A9652
 ♦ 943
 ♣ Q103

East
 ♠ A86
 ♥ 74
 ♦ AQJ865
 ♣ K9

South
 ♠ K432
 ♥ K8
 ♦ K102
 ♣ J876

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|----------|------|----------|
| Zhang | Miura | Wang | Asakoshi |
| Pass | Pass | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♥ | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|----------|-------|-------|
| Kobayashi Shi | | Koike | Li |
| Pass | Pass | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♥ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | Pass | 2♠ |
| 3♦ | All Pass | | |

3♦ on a spade lead wrapped up 11 tricks when the defenders did not attack hearts early enough and declarer pitched his heart on the ♣10. But 3NT was a much more delicate affair. North led a top heart, giving declarer a dilemma. If he ducked, a spade shift to the king and a reversion to hearts might be fatal. Maybe ducking the first heart might have been best. Declarer can't duck hearts twice as repeated spade plays will be fatal. All things considered, with the minor-suit honors where they are 3NT looks hopeless on a heart lead. Having said that, the contract made eight times in the Open Series, always on a black-suit lead. At the table Zhang won the heart and finessed in diamonds. South ducked and declarer led diamonds from the top as North discouraged spades. So Asakoshi unblocked the ♥K and led a club to let North cash out for down one. Nicely done and a 64-40 win, which translated to a 20-10 win in VPs.

Beijing Evertrust wrapped up second place in group B with a 35-11 win over Japan well fitted. Group A was much closer. Group leaders Beijing Jinghua had a bye (18 VPs in their last match), with three teams breathing down their necks. Would they be able to retain their lead? No indeed. All three teams behind them blitzed their last match and overtook them. Bad luck for Beijing BEIH who finished on the outside looking in behind China Geely and Pan-China Construction (who had picked up 13imps on the final deal to break an exact tie with BEIH). Moreover, since the two teams' head-to-head match had been an exact tie at least that swing meant we were spared imp-quotient or some other calculation that would have gone on long into the night.