



2017 YEh BROS CUP

3rd-7th July, 2017 Tokyo JAPAN

Bulletin Editors: Barry Rigal and David Stern ♦ **Co-Bulletin Editor:** Andy Hung ♦ **Bulletin #4 Thursday 6th July 2017**

THE TOUGH WORK STARTS NOW

Wednesday saw the start of the knockout phase of the tournament. The first 32 board match results:

UPPER (Undefeated) Bracket Round 1

Team	Seg 1	Seg 1	Total
YBM	36	25	61
BulGer	71	35	106
Pepsi	22	31	53
IsPolta	35	51	86

Team	Seg 1	Seg 1	Total
Kokish	36	40	76
Poland	33	15	48
Kranyak	52	63	115
Beijing BEIH	42	3	45

UPPER (Undefeated) Bracket Round 2

Team	Seg 1	Seg 1	Total
BulGer	38	13	51
Kokish	27	40	67

Team	Seg 1	Seg 1	Total
IsPolta	34	2	36
Kranyak	47	45	92

LOWER (One-Loss) Bracket Round 1

Team	Seg 1	Seg 1	Total
Monaco	59	28	87
Japan 3	11	48	59
Sweden	27	42	69
India	13	25	38

Team	Seg 1	Seg 1	Total
France	32	23	55
PD Times	23	29	52
Norway	18	31	49
China Open	29	17	46

LOWER (One-Loss) Bracket Round 2

Team	Seg 1	Seg 1	Total
YBM	22	23	45
Monaco	38	32	70
Pepsi	42	42	84
Sweden	7	14	21

Team	Seg 1	Seg 1	Total
Poland	17	9	26
France	30	12	42
Beijing BEIH	17	29	46
Norway	36	35	71

Tomorrow will see the following match-ups:

No Loss Bracket

Kranyak Vs. Kokish

One Loss Bracket Triangle 1

IsPolta - Monaco - France

BulGer - Pepsi - Norway

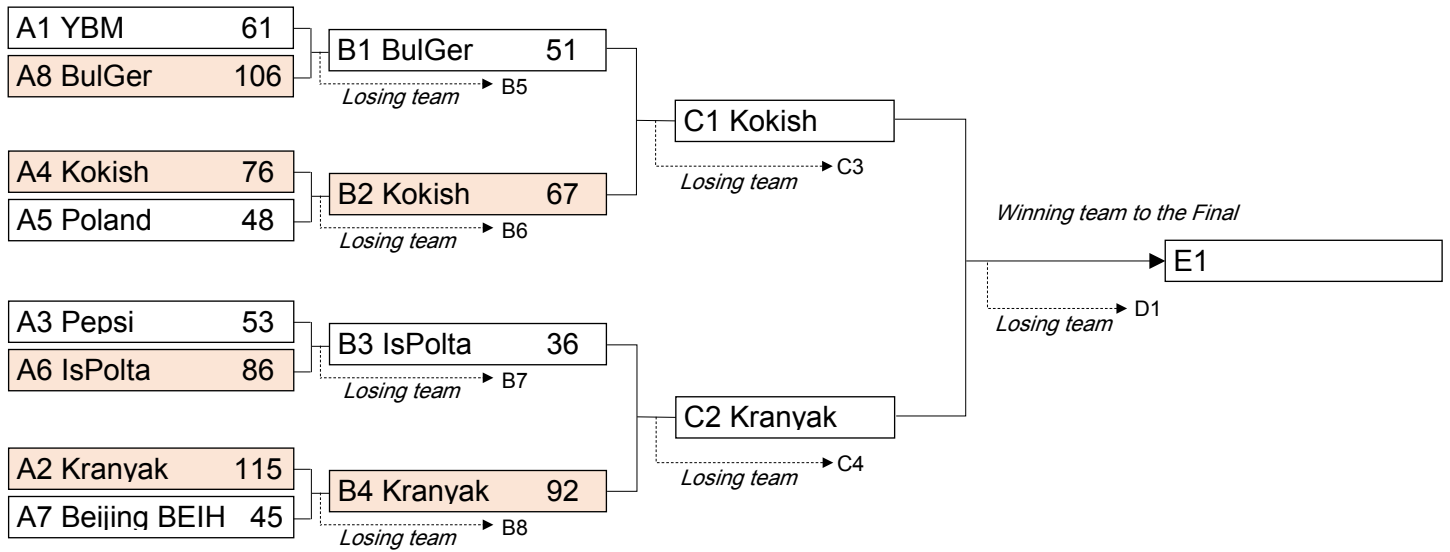
Lest you think that there are any soft matches here, most of the teams here have National, European or World titles. In terms of absentees at this point of the tournament, your editors are surprised that Netherlands, Poland and perhaps Sweden aren't still in. But at this stage there are bound to be surprises. We should also comment that the presence of Kokish and Gitelman disproves the theory that those who can do, and those who can't, float on the periphery.

OPEN PAIRS REGISTRATION

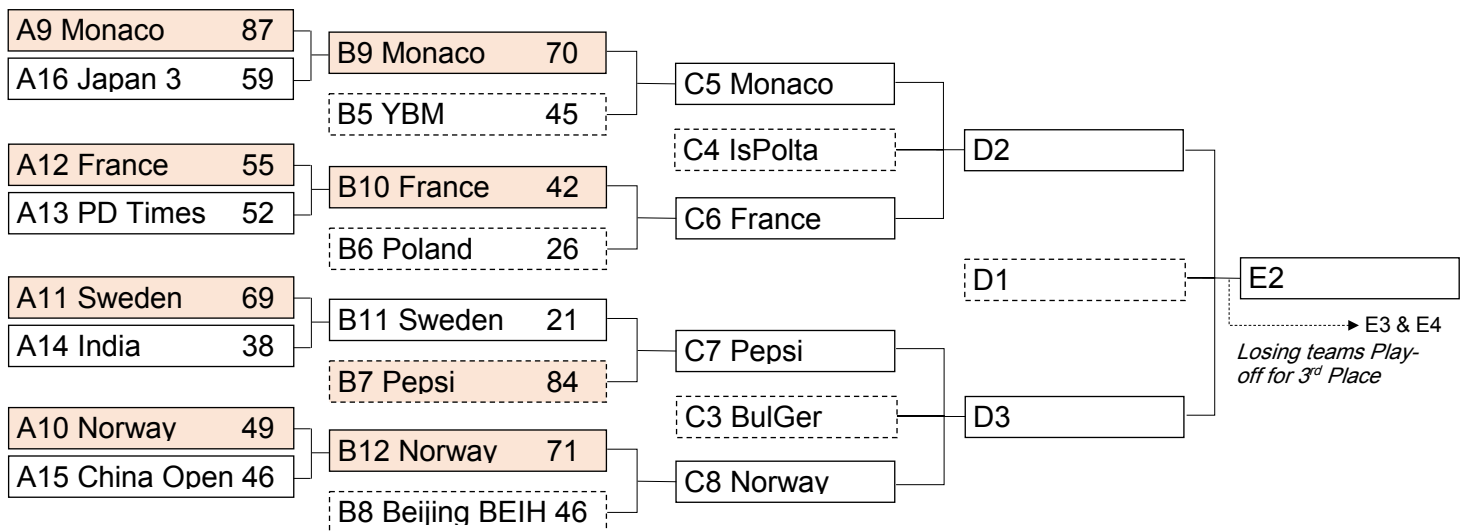
The Entry Sheet for the Open Pairs event is located at the lineup desk. Up to two pairs from each team are eligible to enter. Entries will close at 12 noon.

KNOCKOUT BRACKETS

UPPER (Undefeated) BRACKET



LOWER (One-Loss) BRACKET



CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL & THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF

Teams	Segment 1 (1-16)	Segment 2 (17-32)	Segment 3 (33-48)	Total
E1				
E2				
E3				
E4				

CONSOLATION SWISS STANDINGS AFTER ROUND 5 of 8

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Singapore	75.25	10	Chinese Taipei	58.10
2	Netherlands	66.72	11	Pertamina Indonesia	55.25
3	China Open	61.23	12	Japan 3	53.52
4=	India	59.91	13	Shanghai Finance	49.28
4=	YBM	59.91	14	Pharon	46.90
4=	Poland	59.91	15	Australia	46.65
4=	Sweden	59.91	16	PD Times	42.25
4=	Beijing BEIH	59.91	17	Japan 1	34.93
9	Germany	58.50	18	Japan 2	15.15

CONSOLATION SWISS MATCH RESULTS

Round 1		IMPs		VPs	
1 Shanghai Finance	6 Netherlands	14	19	8.15	11.85
2 Pertamina Indonesia	7 Pharon	5	34	2.32	17.68
3 Japan 1	8 Australia	29	16	14.28	5.72
4 Singapore	9 Japan 2	64	8	20.00	0.00
5 Germany	10 Chinese Taipei	13	24	6.28	13.72
Round 2		IMPs		VPs	
4 Singapore	7 Pharon	8	15	7.49	12.51
3 Japan 1	10 Chinese Taipei	14	12	10.77	9.23
6 Netherlands	5 Germany	39	12	17.34	2.66
1 Shanghai Finance	8 Australia	41	2	19.10	0.90
2 Pertamina Indonesia	9 Japan 2	16	15	10.39	9.61
Round 3		IMPs		VPs	
7 Pharon	6 Netherlands	17	30	5.72	14.28
4 Singapore	1 Shanghai Finance	49	19	17.84	2.16
3 Japan 1	2 Pertamina Indonesia	9	34	3.03	16.97
10 Chinese Taipei	9 Japan 2	43	4	19.10	0.90
5 Germany	8 Australia	21	10	13.72	6.28
Round 4		IMPs		VPs	
4 Singapore	6 Netherlands	15	6	13.14	6.86
10 Chinese Taipei	7 Pharon	21	16	11.85	8.15
11 PD Times	12 Japan 3	16	28	6.00	14.00
13 India	14 China Open	7	13	7.82	12.18
2 Pertamina Indonesia	1 Shanghai Finance	51	15	18.71	1.29
3 Japan 1	5 Germany	7	28	3.82	16.18
8 Australia	9 Japan 2	32	8	16.78	3.22
Round 5		IMPs		VPs	
4 Singapore	10 Chinese Taipei	27	3	16.78	3.22
6 Netherlands	12 Japan 3	35	13	16.39	3.61
2 Pertamina Indonesia	14 China Open	34	43	6.86	13.14
13 India	7 Pharon	23	2	16.18	3.82
11 PD Times	5 Germany	10	54	0.34	19.66
3 Japan 1	8 Australia	15	40	3.03	16.97
1 Shanghai Finance	9 Japan 2	41	6	18.58	1.42

Link to the tournament liverscores (click below):

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/yehbros/tabid/1457/Default.aspx>

ROUND TEN – Kokish Vs. Sweden

As detailed elsewhere in yesterday's bulletin, when the bell sounded for round ten, the Kokish team looked reasonably comfortable for qualifying, ten VPs ahead of a bunch of teams in 7th - 11th place. 5 VPs would make them a mathematical lock, it seemed. Sweden, meanwhile, could assure themselves of a place with a 15-5 win unless all the other matches went against them.

On the first deal of the set E/W could make a partscore in one minor, N/S in the other. Due to the vagaries of system, neither partnership could ever sensibly explore the deal, West closing the auction by overcalling 1NT over his RHO's short-minor opening. An accurate shift by Cheek earned an extra undertrick to open the scoring in the match for Kokish, who led 2-0.



Eric Kokish

On the second deal Upmark pre-empted enthusiastically at red when his side came in over a strong club. He was right in the sense that his side had a ten-card fit, but wrong in that he could have gone plus had he bid one less. So he ended up going down 100 against his own partscore. Still, a natural auction had seen the pair with his cards frozen out altogether, and since his teammates went +110, there was no swing.

The next deal saw exactly the same sort of result for Sweden – but with a MUCH better consequence. Stealing the suit your opponents can make game in is never a bad idea...

Dealer: South Vul: E-W Brd 3	♠ Q J 6 4 ♥ K Q 9 3 ♦ A 10 ♣ 9 4 3	♠ --- ♥ A 6 2 ♦ K Q 9 7 4 ♣ K J 8 7 2	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West Sylvan</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North Bertens</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East Wrang</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South Cheek</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;"><i>*Both Majors</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kokish</td> <td>Upmark</td> <td>Gitelman</td> <td>Nystrom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> </table>	West Sylvan	North Bertens	East Wrang	South Cheek	Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠*	Double	2♠	3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass	<i>*Both Majors</i>				Kokish	Upmark	Gitelman	Nystrom	Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	All Pass	1♥
West Sylvan	North Bertens	East Wrang	South Cheek																																
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠*																																
Double	2♠	3♣	Pass																																
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass																																
<i>*Both Majors</i>																																			
Kokish	Upmark	Gitelman	Nystrom																																
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass																																
1♠	2♥	All Pass	1♥																																
♠ A 8 7 5 3 ♥ 8 5 ♦ J 8 6 3 ♣ A 5	♠ K 10 9 2 ♥ J 10 7 4 ♦ 5 2 ♣ Q 10 6																																		
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Makeable Contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">2</td> <td style="width: 20%;">-</td> <td style="width: 20%;">2</td> <td style="width: 20%;">-</td> <td style="width: 20%;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>♣</td> </tr> </table>				Makeable Contracts					2	-	2	-	NT	1	-	1	-	♠	2	-	2	-	♥	5	-	5	-	♦	4	-	4	-	♣		
Makeable Contracts																																			
2	-	2	-	NT																															
1	-	1	-	♠																															
2	-	2	-	♥																															
5	-	5	-	♦																															
4	-	4	-	♣																															

The auction timed out unbelievably well for N/S and badly for Gitelman in the closed room when Upmark bid diamonds then Kokish came in to prevent him from showing the minors at his next turn. 2♥ went down three after Kokish found the incisive ♠A lead; not enough, though. After a trump lead Wrang had 12 tricks in 5♦, and 11 IMPs, so the score was 11-2 for Sweden.

That lead went up by six IMPs when Kokish committed a deliberate violation of the LAW, selling out to 3♣ – a likely eight-card fit or better, while knowing his side had a nine-card spade fit. Surprise! You could make nine tricks your way in spades and the opponents' eight-card fit handled for nine tricks as well. Larry Cohen should be smiling as he reads this.

The next board saw both E/W pairs mishandle the auction; then it was up to the defenders to make them pay. If you want to put yourself in the hot seat, look just at the North and West cards.

Dealer: North
 Vul: N-S
 Brd 5

♠ 8 3
 ♥ K Q J 4
 ♦ 10 7 6 3
 ♣ A 7 3

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

♠ A 5 2
 ♥ 9 7 6
 ♦ K J 9 8 5 2
 ♣ 9

♠ K Q 7 6 4
 ♥ A
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ K Q J 10 8

West Sylvan	North Bertens	East Wrang	South Cheek
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

* Gazzilli

Kokish	Upmark	Gitelman	Nystrom
	Pass	1♣(16+)	1♦
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Double	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Makeable Contracts

3	-	3	-	NT
2	-	2	-	♠
-	-	-	-	♥
-	-	-	-	♦
4	-	4	-	♣

Kokish showed a game force but could not get to 3NT when Gitelman had too much shape to look at his partial stopper with favour. In the other room Gazzilli didn't help too much either. Both Souths astutely led diamonds. Both Norths won and needed to put partner in at once to get the second diamond winner. Bertens played a spade, Upmark a heart, and we can see who was right in practice. In theory declarer could hold five solid spades and a singleton heart – but then the losers don't go away, do they?

Half the field did get this right and bid to 3NT (maybe on a natural auction such as 1♠-1NT-2♣-2♠-3♣-3♥-3NT?). Only five pairs beat game here, and three times that game was 4♠. That made it 16-12 for Sweden, but the margin opened up again on the next deal when in fourth seat Bertens passed over a 1♥ opener to his right with a scattered ten-count including ♠J9753. His LHO bid Drury, and RHO discouraged with 2♥, and he passed again, selling out for -110 when his teammates were defending 2♠ for -110 here. (I'm guessing Larry Cohen would be pretty happy about this result too.)

Poland -- who were playing BulGer in a match where all either team wanted to do was avoid being blitzed in order to qualify – picked up their fourth significant swing here by making the same pair of partscores, and now led 33-1. At this rate BulGer would be out.



Curtis Cheek

Equally, at this point Sweden led 22-12 and were in shape to make the undefeated pool. But Kokish struck a blow for Light Opening Bids (either at his age one suspects he opens because he may feel he is running out of chances, or perhaps Precision is granting him a new freedom?) when he deemed ♦6432 in a scattered 11-count worthy of a second seat 1♦ opener.

Right he was; that allowed his side to compete to 3♥ making 140, with his counterparts passing throughout and conceding +110. Maybe there's more to bidding with nothing than you realized, Kokes?

Both E/W pairs then went minus in a partscore, on which the defence had four tricks in aces and kings and two club ruffs. BulGer doubled 4♠ to collect 500 (while the same contract went down 150 in the other room) and BulGer moved back into seventh place. Kokish picked up an undertrick here to make the match score 20-22, before we reached two explosive last deals.

Dealer: North
 Vul: E-W
 Brd 9

♠ Q 4 3
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ A 9 8 7 6 5

♠ 9 5
 ♥ K Q 3
 ♦ A 10 6 2
 ♣ K Q J 3

♠ A K J 2
 ♥ J 5
 ♦ J 9 8 5 3
 ♣ 4 2

♠ 10 8 7 6
 ♥ A 10 8 7 4 2
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ 10

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Bertens	Wrang	Cheek
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Kokish	Upmark	Gitelman	Nystrom
	1NT	Pass	3♣
Double	Rdbl	All Pass	

Makeable Contracts				
-	3	-	4	NT
-	2	-	2	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
-	3	-	3	♦
-	1	-	2	♣

See, that's why we play Stayman not Puppet! Had Sylvan doubled 2♣, he would doubtless have defended 2♣xx for -560 (unless Wrang ran – see below). When Sylvan passed, Bertens played sedately in 3NT, and the 6-2 heart break coupled with the lack of entries to the East hand meant declarer could not be stopped from coming to ten tricks. 3♣xx was a trick too high. All Upmark could collect was three clubs, one heart, one diamond and eventually three spades on the endplay. That meant 12 IMPs to Kokish, leading 32-22.

Meanwhile in BulgGer-Poland Klukowski did double 2♣, and when it was redoubled Gawrys as East ran to 2♥, where he was doubled. Since the spade ruff comes with a trump trick, he could not be stopped from coming to eight tricks, for an elegant 670 and 15 IMPs. Both Sweden and BulGer would need a miracle from the last deal. Maybe the card gods would deal them a swing hand? Did they ever...

Dealer: East
 Vul: Both
 Brd 10

♠ A
 ♥ A K Q J 7 5
 ♦ K J 9 7 2
 ♣ A

♠ 5 2
 ♥ 9 4 2
 ♦ A 8 6 5 3
 ♣ 8 7 2

♠ 10 8 7
 ♥ 10 8 3
 ♦ Q 10 4
 ♣ J 10 4 3

♠ K Q J 9 6 4 3
 ♥ 6
 ♦ ---
 ♣ K Q 9 6 5

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Bertens	Wrang	Cheek
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
Kokish	Upmark	Gitelman	Nystrom
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Makeable Contracts				
4	-	4	-	NT
7	-	7	-	♠
4	-	4	-	♥
4	-	4	-	♦
6	-	6	-	♣

Both tables at least selected the right trump suit, but neither could grab the brass ring. Showing a void with the East cards in response to keycard might have done it (and maybe Wrang might have done so, since he had surely limited his hand, indirectly, by not bidding 3♠ at his third turn?).

Eight pairs bid and made the grand slam, three pairs did considerably worse, one of them being the Poles, who played 7♥. Even on a non-trump lead the diamond losers don't all go away, so BulGer picked up 20 (count them) IMPs to sneak into the last qualifying place.

Never in doubt...but had Lauria/Versace been able to bid the grand slam on the last deal, that would have given Monaco the last spot.

YEH CUP (UPPER) UNDEFEATED BRACKET MATCH 1: Boards 1-16 of 32

Kranyak Vs. Beijing BEIH

It's money time here in Tokyo and there is plenty of it, in fact more than \$US300,000 is available for those with the ability and endurance to collect it. First Prize for the teams is a cool \$US175,000.

This first knockout match is from the Undefeated Bracket of eight teams and features Kranyak (John Kranyak, Vincent Demuy, John Hurd and Joel Wooldridge) against Beijing BEIH (Deng Zhuodi, Kang Meng, Sun Shaolin, Liu Jing, Liu Yinghao and Yin Jiashen). The winner will remain in the Undefeated Bracket while the loser will drop into the One-Loss Bracket, with a second chance.

On board one both tables reached game, the Open Room playing in 5♣ while 3NT was the chosen contract in the Closed Room.

Dealer: North
 Vul: None
 Brd 1
 Yeh KO Undef 1-1
 ♠ Q 10 5
 ♥ 9 8 3
 ♦ A Q 7 2
 ♣ A J 3

♠ A 4 3 2
 ♥ Q J 5
 ♦ J 10 9 6 3
 ♣ 6

♠ J 9 7 6
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ K 9 8 7 5

♠ K 8
 ♥ K 10 6 4 2
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ Q 10 4 2

West	North	East	South
Deng	Kranyak	Yin	Demuy
	Pass	1♦ ²⁺ Precision	1♥
1♠ ^{No Maj}	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	5♣	All Pass
Wooldridge	Sun	Hurd	Kang
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Makeable Contracts				
1	-	1	-	NT
2	-	2	-	♠
-	-	-	-	♥
-	-	-	-	♦
3	-	3	-	♣

With a combined 24 count game is not unreasonable, but bringing home ♣ A J 3 opposite ♣ K 9 8 7 5 for no loser is an uphill struggle. In this case it might have been possible (albeit unlikely) to divine the position, had there been another entry in the East hand. Both tables failed by two tricks for a flat board.

Board 2 saw the Kranyak team pick up 5 IMPs where they were allowed to play in 2♠ making at one table and 'pushed' the opponents to 3♠ going one down at the other. In the other BBO match BulGer were also pushed into 3♠ at one table while their teammates pushed themselves to 4♥, paying out 4 IMPs when both contracts failed.

It is always frustrating when your partner forces you to bid and you just know that, when you do so, he will drive you too high with his good hand.

Dealer: South
 Vul: E-W
 Brd 3
 Yeh KO Undef 1-1
 ♠ A 9 6 3
 ♥ 3
 ♦ A K Q J 10
 ♣ Q 7 2

♠ J 2
 ♥ A 7 5 4
 ♦ 7 5 4
 ♣ K 6 5 3

♠ Q 8 5
 ♥ J 10 9 8 6
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ 10 8 4

♠ K 10 7 4
 ♥ K Q 2
 ♦ 6 3 2
 ♣ A J 9

West	North	East	South
Deng	Kranyak	Yin	Demuy
			1♣
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Wooldridge	Sun	Hurd	Kang
			1NT
Double	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Makeable Contracts				
-	1	-	1	NT
1	-	1	-	♠
-	1	-	1	♥
1	-	1	-	♦
-	2	-	2	♣

In the Open Room, I am sure that Deng might have been tempted to pass partner's 2♦ transfer to hearts but perhaps "having done the crime he had to do the time" so he accepted the transfer and

played there (after all, for all he knew his partner could have had a good hand). The defence was accurate, taking two clubs, a spade and three trump tricks for one down.

The play in the Closed Room was interesting. The defence started with three rounds of clubs with declarer winning the third round with the ♣Q. A low spade to the queen was won by South, who switched to a diamond. Wooldridge cashed his five diamond winners and ♠A to reach this position:

♠ 9 6 ♥ 3 ♦ --- ♣ ---	♠ --- ♥ A 5 ♦ --- ♣ 6	♠ --- ♥ J 10 9 ♦ --- ♣ ---
♠ 10 7 ♥ K ♦ --- ♣ ---		

Reading the cards VERY accurately, he exited with a low heart and the defence was helpless. If North won the ♥A he would have to concede a heart at the end, and if South won the ♥K he would have to concede a spade at the end – a well deserved +120 and 6 IMPs to Kranyak who now led 11-0.

Board 4 saw some more IMPs come Kranyak's way.

Dealer: West ♠ J 10 7 4 Vul: Both ♥ A 10 6 Brd 4 ♦ K Q 3 2 Yeh KO Undef 1-1 ♣ 8 3 ♠ A K 9 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A 10 9 8 7 ♣ A K J	♠ 6 ♥ K J 9 4 ♦ J 6 5 4 ♣ Q 10 9 2 ♠ Q 8 5 3 2 ♥ Q 8 5 2 ♦ --- ♣ 7 6 5 4
---	---

West	North	East	South	
Makeable Contracts				
2	-	2	-	NT
-	1	-	-	♠
2	-	2	-	♥
4	-	4	-	♦
4	-	4	-	♣

In the Open Room, a seven-round auction saw Deng-Yin reach 5♦x. Perhaps bored with proceedings, or inspired by his fine trump holding and an apparently cashing ♥A, Kranyak decided to produce a red card. He duly collected +200.

In the Closed Room West opened with 2NT and after an enquiry by his partner reached 3NT, which seems destined for defeat, with declarer likely to go down one, even if he guesses hearts.

However, declarer won the low spade lead with the ♠K and then cashed four rounds of clubs on which North pitched a diamond. Declarer then played the ♦J from dummy and North perhaps pulled the wrong card when he ducked at this stage, holding ♦K Q 2. That allowed declarer to establish diamonds by losing just one diamond trick and make 10 tricks. +630 and 13 IMPs to Kranyak who was off to a flying start of 24-0 after just four boards.

Board 5 saw some editor respite when both sides reached 4♠, and you wouldn't want to be too much higher. Both tables made six by virtue of a friendly opening lead, a trump break and a finesse. However, even without the friendly lead, a squeeze would probably have led to both tables making six.



Joel Wooldridge

Board 6 saw a very delicate 3NT contract.

Dealer: East ♠ 9 3
 Vul: E-W ♥ 7 5 3
 Brd 6 ♦ K Q J 3
 Yeh KO Undef 1-1 ♣ Q 9 6 3

♠ K 5
 ♥ K J 9 8 6 4
 ♦ 10 8 7 5
 ♣ 2

♠ Q 7 4 2
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ A J 8 5

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

West	North	East	South	
Deng	Kranyak	Yin	Demuy	
1♥	1♠	Pass	1♣	
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT	
Wooldridge	Sun	Hurd	Kang	
2♥	Double	Pass	1♣	
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT	
Makeable Contracts				
-	3	-	3	NT
-	2	-	2	♠
-	1	-	1	♥
-	2	-	2	♦
-	3	-	3	♣

In the Closed Room, Wooldridge opted for a passive diamond lead, won by declarer's ♦A, followed by ace and another club. That was won by East, who then tried the ♠10, ducked and ♠J. That was won by West, who continued with a second passive diamond. No doubt guided by the 2♥ bid in this room rather than the 1♥ bid in the Open Room, declarer cashed dummy's remaining diamonds, finessed the ♣10, then cashed his winning club and exited with the ♥Q to the now helpless West. That player won and was forced to play a heart into the ♥A 10.

In the Open Room, Demuy received the same passive diamond lead. Declarer won the ♣A, crossed to dummy in diamonds and played the ♣Q, ♣K and ace. Next the ♣J and ♣8 which East won, although ducking this must surely have been better, with declarer having no entry to dummy's high diamonds. On winning the ♣10, this was the position:

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

East tried the ♠10, which held, and it was now essential for him to play a heart to avoid later endplays on his partner:

Two inaccuracies happened: East did not play a heart, but rather continued spades to his partner's king. West then exited with a diamond on which declarer discarded the critical ♥10, removing any possibility of a later endplay. He was held to three clubs, four diamonds and a heart for one down. That gave Beijing BEIH 10 IMPs to open their account, Kranyak leading 24-10.

Board 7 saw another 5 IMPs for Kranyak when 2♦ was bid at both tables, making at one table and going down at the other – Kranyak 29-10.

On Board 9 would you like to be in game on these combined hands?

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

Deng-Yin for Beijing BEIH certainly did on an uncontested auction while Wooldridge-Hurd opted to stop in 3♠ after a takeout double of their 1♠ opening and a freely bid 3♣ bid over the 2♥ response. That was 10 IMPs to Beijing BEIH when both major suits behaved. They trailed 21-29 at this point.

Board 10 saw Kranyak buy the contract at both tables, 1NT making +120 and 2♥ making +140 for a handy 6 IMPs and their lead was up to 35-21.

Two overtrick IMPs to Kranyak on Board 11 – making the score 37-21. Then came a combined 23 count 3NT on Board 12, with a differing view about whether to play in game or not.

Dealer: West
 Vul: N-S
 Brd 12
 Yeh KO Undef 1-1

♠ J 6 2
 ♥ Q 9 8 6
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ J 10 4 2

♠ K Q 8 3
 ♥ A
 ♦ Q 9 8 7
 ♣ K 7 6 5

♠ A 9 5
 ♥ K J 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ Q 3

♠ 10 7 4
 ♥ 10 3
 ♦ A J 10 3 2
 ♣ A 9 8

West	North	East	South
Deng	Kranyak	Yin	Demuy
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass
Wooldridge	Sun	Hurd	Kang
1NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Makeable Contracts			
2	-	2	- NT
5	-	5	- ♠
1	-	1	- ♥
6	-	6	- ♦
4	-	4	- ♣

I have done some analysis of hands where players open 1NT with a singleton ace or king and it proved to be much more successful than I originally thought - not this time however.

3♣ was Puppet Stayman looking for a 5-3 major fit, 3♦ denied a five card major but showed a four card major. The 3NT bid by East suggested that he held a three-card major and inferentially a weakness elsewhere - often the other major. Sun, North, opted for a heart lead, thereby sealing declarer's fate. 2 down, and 6 IMPs to Beijing BEIH who trailed 27-37.

With John Kranyak at the other table you know that when you throw in a board there is likely to be some sort of swing.



Meng Kang

Dealer: North
 Vul: Both
 Brd 13
 Yeh KO Undef 1-1

♠ K Q 10 3
 ♥ J 7
 ♦ A J 10 6
 ♣ 10 9 6

♠ J 5 4 2
 ♥ K 9 6 5
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ K 8 3

♠ A 7
 ♥ Q 8 2
 ♦ Q 9 7 5 4
 ♣ Q 7 2

♠ 9 8 6
 ♥ A 10 4 3
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ A J 5 4

West	North	East	South
Deng	Kranyak	Yin	Demuy
	1♦	Pass	2♠ ^{Limit} ♦
Pass	3♦	All Pass	
Wooldridge	Sun	Hurd	Kang
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Makeable Contracts			
-	3	-	3 NT
-	3	-	3 ♠
-	1	-	1 ♥
-	3	-	3 ♦
-	1	-	1 ♣

Maybe when I leaned bridge 50+ years ago, opening the North hand might have been reported to the psyche recorder; but in the modern game I think it would be regarded as a 'normal' opening. Joe Grue would tell you it had extras. Anyway, scoring +110 was 3 IMPs to Kranyak who led 40-27. This view is somewhat confirmed by the fact that only four of the 16 tables ended up passing out the board.

Board 14 generated a slam swing for Beijing BEIH.

Dealer: East ♠ K 4

West North East South

Vul: None ♥ 9 6 5 3 2
 Brd 14 ♦ K 9 7 6 2
 Yeh KO Undef 1-1 ♣ 4
 ♠ 10 8 6 3 ♠ A Q J 5 2
 ♥ --- ♥ K 7
 ♦ A 10 ♦ Q 8 5 4
 ♣ K Q 10 9 8 3 2 ♣ A J

♠ 9 7
 ♥ A Q J 10 8 4
 ♦ J 3
 ♣ 7 6 5

	Deng	Kranyak	Yin	Demuy
			1♣	2♦ ^{Tfr} ♥
3♣	Pass		3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass		4♠	Pass
5♠	Pass		6♠	All Pas
Wooldridge Sun		Hurd	Kang	
			1♣	Pass
2NT	Pass		3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass		4♣	Pass
4♦	Double	Pass		Pass
Rdbl	Pass		4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass		5♠	All Pass
Makeable Contracts				
	1	-	6	-
	7	-	7	-
	-	3	-	3
	1	-	1	-
	7	-	7	-
				NT
				♠
				♥
				♦
				♣

In the Open Room, Deng-Sun reached slam after a strong club opening. Sun elected to play the hand as safely as possible, ruffing the opening ♥A lead and playing ace and another spade. That was +980 and 10 IMPs to Beijing BEIH. It isn't clear what prevented Wooldridge-Hurd from reaching the excellent slam and being only one of two of the 16 tables to avoid the six level. The 11 IMP result of not doing so saw their lead cut to just 2 IMPs, with two boards to play.

Board 15 saw Kranyak declare at both tables and was not without interest.

Dealer: South ♠ Q 7 6
 Vul: N-S ♥ K Q 9 5
 Brd 15 ♦ A Q 10 6 3
 Yeh KO Undef 1-1 ♣ 9
 ♠ A K 10 8 5 3 ♠ 9 4 2
 ♥ 3 2 ♥ 8 7 6 4
 ♦ 8 4 2 ♦ K
 ♣ Q 10 ♣ A 8 5 4 3

♠ J
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ J 9 7 5
 ♣ K J 7 6 2

	West Deng	North Kranyak	East Yin	South Demuy
				Pass
2♠	Pass		3♠	Double
Pass		4♥	All Pass	
Wooldridge Sun			Hurd	Kang
				Pass
2♠	Pass		3♠	All Pass
Makeable Contracts				
	-	4	-	4
	1	-	1	-
	-	4	-	4
	-	5	-	5
	-	2	-	2
				NT
				♠
				♥
				♦
				♣

It's pretty hard to keep some people out of any auction – no matter how high you up the ante. As dangerous as it may be to pass and then force your side to a contract of 3NT or higher, one simply has to bite the bullet and act as Demuy did here. After all even though North has only four trumps, 4♥ is certainly playable.

Now to the play. As defenders in bridge we do everything (legally) that we can to keep partner informed of our holdings and views on how to defend the hand while at the same time obfuscating as much as we can from declarer.

Deng gave declarer a real chance to pick the bare ♦K when he won the first trick with the ♠K, thereby marking himself with the ♠AK. He then switched to the ♦2, putting declarer to the guess. Even with the information regarding the ♠AK, Kranyak elected to finesse, perhaps giving his RHO more credit this time than he will the next? That ended any chances of making the hand when trumps broke 4-2. At the other table 3♠ went one light, losing the 'obvious' 5 tricks. That gave Beijing BEIH 4 IMPs and the lead by 2 with just one board to go.

The final board produce the killer punch for Kranyak.

Dealer: West
 Vul: E-W
 Brd 16

♠ A 8 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K 8 7 4
 ♣ A Q 10 3 2

♠ K Q 10 7
 ♥ K J 9 4 3
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ 5 4

♠ J 6 4 3
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K J 9 8 7 6

♠ 9 5
 ♥ A Q 10 6 2
 ♦ A Q J 10 9 2
 ♣ ---

West	North	East	South
Deng	Kranyak	Yin	Demuy
1♦	1♥	2♦ ^{Inv+}	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Double	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
Wooldridge	Sun	Hurd	Kang
1♦	1♥	2♦	3♣
3♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	Double	Pass	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Makeable Contracts				
4	-	4	-	NT
2	-	2	-	♠
4	-	4	-	♥
7	-	7	-	♦
2	-	2	-	♣

In the Open Room, Yin heard his partner open the bidding and push to game in diamonds, his good six-card suit. Additionally he knew that the heart honours were very likely well placed for his side. Armed with that knowledge he seems to have taken a conservative view to pass 5♦, something confirmed by the fact that only one other table played in game, 10 tables played in small slam and four tables in grand slam. The slam bonus meant 12 IMPs to Kranyak, and some relief for Wooldridge for having taken the low road at his table. Kranyak led by 10 IMPs at the halfway mark.

YEH CUP (UPPER) UNDEFEATED BRACKET MATCH 1: Boards 17-32 of 32 Kokish Vs. Poland

We would be focusing on Kokish-Poland for the second half of the match, with an eye on Pepsi-IsPolta, where the margin was also relatively small. Poland had trailed by 30 before coming back with two late swings to level up the match. Would the momentum carry forward? Not if the first deal was anything to go by:

Dealer: North
 Vul: None
 Brd 17

♠ J 10 9 5
 ♥ K J 9 5 2
 ♦ A K 9 4
 ♣ ---

♠ 8 4
 ♥ 6
 ♦ Q 8 7 5 2
 ♣ A K 8 5 3

♠ K 6
 ♥ Q 10 8 4 3
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ J 9 6 2

♠ A Q 7 3 2
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ 10 3
 ♣ Q 10 7 4

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Bertens	Gawrys	Cheek
	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass
Kokish	Narkiewicz	Gitelman	Buras
	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♣	All Pass

**Unspecified Void*

Makeable Contracts				
2	-	2	-	NT
5	-	5	-	♠
3	-	3	-	♥
2	-	2	-	♦
-	1	-	1	♣

6♠ is a playable spot, (reached at most tables) but the cards could hardly lie in a more unfriendly fashion. While 4♠ proved easy enough, in 6♠ Gawrys won the lead of ♦J in dummy to finesse in spades. Cheek won and played back a spade, and declarer won to play hearts from the top. When the suit split 5-1, declarer had to struggle to escape for down one. That made it 46-33 for Kokish, and it might look as if declarer had had a chance to make his slam...but curiously, the only lead to set the hand at double-dummy is a diamond! On a heart lead declarer can play ace and another spade and North gets caught in a sort of ruffing squeeze. As declarer ruffs a heart back to hand (two trumps, three

Buras would no doubt have been less than thrilled to hear his partner pass 3♠x, but as things timed out he got to show his forcing club hand then use Exclusion. Cheek could set hearts as trumps for Blackwood because he had the ♥K, then set the final contract, he hoped. For IsPolta, the Italians switch minors in this auction, so South had to respond 4♦ at his first turn, but got a 4♥ response and jumped to 5♠ Exclusion as well, to reach 7♣.

After a 14-16 no-trump Both E/W pairs then had the frustration of looking for slam and settling for game, to be beaten on two ruffs, on an auction where a transfer had put the 'wrong' hand on lead. No swing, and still Kokish by 49-43. Liran-Friedlander were lucky enough to be playing 15-17 NT (does that count as luck or is that simply the reward for playing strong no-trumps the way the Lord intended?) and disciplined enough not to open the 14-count 1NT to 'earn' the swing by right-siding the game. IsPolta now led by 32 IMPs in the other match.

Dealer: East ♠ 7 2
 Vul: E-W ♥ A K J 3
 Brd 22 ♦ A 7 5 4
 ♣ K 8 7

♠ A J 10 5 4
 ♥ Q 7 6 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ J 4 3

♠ K 8
 ♥ 10 5 4
 ♦ K J 10 8 2
 ♣ A 9 2

♠ Q 9 6 3
 ♥ 9 8
 ♦ Q 9 3
 ♣ Q 10 6 5

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Bertens	Gawrys	Cheek
Kokish	Narkiewicz	Gitelman	Buras

			1♦
1♠	Double	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Makeable Contracts				
-	2	-	5	NT
2	-	2	-	♠
-	4	-	4	♥
-	4	-	5	♦
-	1	-	1	♣

Both tables reached 3NT, both Wests led a spade and gave South a cheap trick in exchange for setting up the potential setting tricks. Buras followed what appears to be the percentage line: he won the ♠K, ♥A, then cashed ♦A and played a diamond to the king. Then he fell back on bringing in hearts for four tricks when that failed. An unlucky one down.

By contrast, Cheek won the opening lead and immediately led a diamond to dummy and finessed in diamonds. Who can argue with success? That gave him 10 tricks and the same number of IMPs, to make it 59-43. Curtis said, "When the opponents bid at red with 14HCP, SOMEONE has a singleton!"

Kalita made basically the same play to bring home the game; however, he had cashed the ♥AK and seen West signal honestly, with East following with the ♥8-♥9, so he had even more of a clue that West might be 5-4 in the majors thus short in diamonds. Still, that was nicely done by both Souths, I think.

Both tables played a marginal slam hand in game, (off a cashing ace with six trumps to the KJ10 facing Ax), yielding an overtrick to Kokish, followed by each N/S pair playing a partscore in diamonds for +130. (I would say that Narkiewicz/Buras had done well to reach that suit in the fact of Kokish's Precision 1♦ opener, but they had in fact passed up on a 500 penalty to bid on to 4♦.)

Still 60-43 for Kokish, and after they gained an overtrick in 5♦, they led 61-43 with seven deals to go. The utility factor associated with Poland bidding a slam missed in the other room was therefore such as to indicate now might be a good moment to push the boat out.



Fred Gitelman

Dealer: East
 Vul: Both
 Brd 26

♠ Q J 10 3
 ♥ A J 6
 ♦ 6 4 3
 ♣ 7 6 2

♠ K 9 7 6 2
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ A Q 10
 ♣ A 10

♠ 8 4
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ J 9 7 5 2
 ♣ 9 8 5 4

♠ A 5
 ♥ Q 9 7 4 3
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ K Q J 3

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Bertens	Gawrys	Cheek
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥(GF)	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		
Kokish	Narkiewicz	Gitelman	Buras
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Makeable Contracts				
5	-	5	-	NT
4	-	4	-	♠
5	-	5	-	♥
4	-	4	-	♦
5	-	5	-	♣

I have a lot of sympathy with the Polish auction here. It is one of the hardest things to do to diagnose an internal trump weakness when you have each of the side suits controlled twice over. Let him who is without sin cast the first stone; but maybe 4NT was a little headstrong though. Klukowski said that maybe 5♥ instead of 4NT would have been wiser.

Declarer's chances of making the slam hinged around a miracle in the heart suit or an opening trump lead, and this was an auction where Cheek had a clear choice of a low diamond to trick one.

In the other room I'm sure Gitelman's choice of a no-trump opening is perfectly sensible; I don't have to like it, while I can of course understand it. And yes, maybe it was the weak hearts that persuaded him to do it; just sell me the Brooklyn Bridge while you are about it...

Both E/W pairs collected 500 on the next deal when the two Norths overcalled 1NT over 1♦, and caught their partner with a flat Yarborough and five small clubs.

Poland clawed back 3 IMPs when Buras found a nice singleton trump lead to set a partscore three tricks (the 4-4 fit playing worse than the 6-1 fit today) but Poland needed more than that.



Huub Bertens



The remaining boards didn't seem to offer much: 2 overtrick IMPs to Kokish, an undertrick IMP to Poland, so that the final deal (where both tables played 4♠x down one) was a push and an anti-climax. While the two critical deals were slam hands where Gawrys/Klukowski had gone down in both, one of those was certainly with the odds, the other one hard to avoid.

In fact I thought all four pairs had played well enough to merit advancing. The good news for Poland was that they were down, but not out.

Piotr Gawrys

YEH CUP (UPPER) UNDEFEATED BRACKET MATCH 2: Boards 1-16 of 32

Kranyak vs IsPolta

The No-Loss Bracket was down to four teams, Ispolta, Kranyak, Bulger and Kokish; The first match losers, YBM, Poland, Pepsi and Beijing BEIH had dropped into the One-Loss Bracket.

Another 32 board match would reduce the No-Loss to 2 Teams and the One-Loss Bracket to 6 teams.

Dealer: North
Vul: None
Brd 1

♠ 10 6 3
♥ A 7 6
♦ A 10 8 7 5 3
♣ A

♠ A Q J 2
♥ Q 2
♦ 9 4 2
♣ 8 5 4 2

♠ K 9 5
♥ K J 10
♦ K Q
♣ K J 10 9 3

♠ 8 7 4
♥ 9 8 5 4 3
♦ J 6
♣ Q 7 6

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Liran	Hurd	Friedlander

Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Pachtman	Kranyak	Zatorski	Demuy
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Makeable Contracts

-	-	-	-	NT
-	4	-	4	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
1	-	1	-	♦
-	4	-	4	♣

N/S certainly have the values for 3NT but missing three aces and having a tenuous single stopper in the opponents' suit is usually a recipe laced with disaster, as it was here. In the Closed Room, Kranyak didn't contemplate moving over his partner's 14-16 1NT opening. After all why put partner under pressure on the first board of the match? This proved to be a winning decision when, despite Demuy holding a maximum there was no way to avoid losing five diamonds and two outside aces for one down.

In the Open Room North committed to play 3NT with his nine-count and lost the same tricks for -150 and 3 IMPs to open the Kranyak account. After Wooldridge had taken seven tricks in his own hand I'm sure Hurd didn't asked him why he hadn't doubled...and since 4♣ might make for N/S, the answer is obvious.

Board 2 was a flat game in both rooms and then came excitement on Board Three.

Dealer: South
Vul: E-W
Brd 3

♠ A 7
♥ 6
♦ A Q 9 7 3 2
♣ 10 9 3 2

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

♠ J 8 5 3
♥ K Q 9
♦ 8 6 5
♣ K Q 6

♠ K 9 6
♥ A 4
♦ K J 10 4
♣ A J 7 4

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Liran	Hurd	Friedlander

1♦	4♥	Double	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	Double
Pass	Pass	6♦	Double
All Pass			
Pachtman	Kranyak	Zatorski	Demuy
			1♣

1♦	1♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	4♥	Double	All Pass

Makeable Contracts

4	-	4	-	NT
-	1	-	1	♠
-	2	-	2	♥
5	-	5	-	♦
5	-	4	-	♣

At first glance it seems that there could be an elimination and then endplay in 6♦; however with declarer's 4-4 club fit, South can simply give him a ruff and discard and score +200 without distress. In any event, North dutifully led the ♣8, putting paid to any future worries that his partner may have had. Kranyak, ever fearless, pushed on to 4♥ on his J-10 seventh and as we say "he bought well" finding partner with ♥KQ and working honours in the side-suits. When the defenders didn't take their spade ruff at trick one, that was also one down for -100 and 7 IMPs to IsPolta.

On Board 4 the irrepressible Kranyak again showed he won't die wondering whether he should have taken 'just one more bid'.

Dealer: West
 Vul: Both
 Brd 4

♠ K 10 4 3
 ♥ K Q 3 2
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ J 10 2

♠ J 9 8 6
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A Q 10 8
 ♣ K Q 5 3

♠ Q
 ♥ A J 10 9 5 4
 ♦ 9 7 6 3
 ♣ A 8

♠ A 7 5 2
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ K 5 4
 ♣ 9 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Liran	Hurd	Friedlander
Pass	1♦	1♥	Double
2♣*	2♠	3♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pachtman	Kranyak	Zatorski	Demuy
Pass	1♦	2♥	Double
3♥	4♠	All Pass	

Makeable Contracts				
1	-	1	-	NT
-	2	-	2	♠
3	-	3	-	♥
-	1	-	1	♦
-	3	-	3	♣

In the Open Room, the defence had to start early on the club suit to establish their club trick before declarer got to pitch his losing club on ♠K. With the trump lead, that didn't happen, and 10 tricks came home for Hurd.

In the Closed Room, having opened the bidding and heard partner's takeout double showing spades, Kranyak merrily jumped to 4♠ - which hardly cost anything, given the result from the other room, THIS time. The bad trump break was too much to handle, and declarer drifted two down for -200, but still a pick-up of 9 IMPs. Kranyak led 12-7.

In the BulGer Vs Kokish Match, Cheek led a diamond against 4♥, and Bertens accurately won that and switched to the ♣Q, setting the contract one trick. At the other table Auken also 'bought' the hand in 4♠ undoubled and went down three. -300 could have been a pickup as it was in our featured match, but today it was a 9 IMP loss given the opponent's accurate defence in the other room.

An overtrick IMP to Kranyak on board six saw Kranyak leading by 6 IMPs, a lead that would disappear on Board 7 when the opponents did a Kranyak and played the hand in both rooms.

Dealer: South
 Vul: Both
 Brd 7

♠ J 7 4 3
 ♥ 8
 ♦ A J 10 7 6
 ♣ K 7 4

♠ 8 5 2
 ♥ A K J 6 3
 ♦ 9 4 3 2
 ♣ J

♠ A K 10 9
 ♥ 7 4 2
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ A Q 5 2

♠ Q 6
 ♥ Q 10 9 5
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ 10 9 8 6 3

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Liran	Hurd	Friedlander
1♦	1♥	1NT	1♣
Pass	2♥	All Pass	Double
Pachtman	Kranyak	Zatorski	Demuy
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Makeable Contracts				
1	-	1	-	NT
-	1	-	1	♠
-	2	-	2	♥
1	-	1	-	♦
-	-	-	-	♣

In the Open Room Liran came home with eight tricks losing two hearts two diamonds and a club for +110.

In the Closed Room, it isn't clear why Zatorski passed 1♥ on a hand that clearly deserved some action – an 11 count with heart stoppers opposite an overcall. However, he had an opportunity to come back in at his next turn. When Demuy did not compete to 2♥, Zatorski found himself in a very comfortable spot. He ended up scoring five diamonds, two clubs and heart for 8 tricks and +120. That squared up the match at 13 apiece.

Board 8 saw an additional undertrick give Kranyak 2 IMPs when IsPolta bid an ill-fitting 21 count to 3NT, going two down for -100 while Kranyak stopped in 3♣ going one down for -50.

Board 9 saw a game swing to IsPolta.

Dealer: North	♠ A 10 8 7	
Vul: E-W	♥ A 9 6 3	
Brd 9	♦ A K 8	
	♣ A 9	
♠ 4 2		♠ Q J 5
♥ K J 5 4		♥ 8 2
♦ Q 7 4 2		♦ J 5
♣ 10 6 2		♣ K Q 8 7 5 4
	♠ K 9 6 3	
	♥ Q 10 7	
	♦ 10 9 6 3	
	♣ J 3	

West	North	East	South	
Wooldridge	Liran	Hurd	Friedlander	
	1♦	Pass	1♠	
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	
All Pass				
Pachtman	Kranyak	Zatorski	Demuy	
	2NT	Pass	3♣	
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	
Pass	4♠	All Pass		
Makeable Contracts				
-	1	-	1	NT
-	4	-	4	♠
-	3	-	3	♥
-	3	-	3	♦
1	-	1	-	♣

You'd expect game to play better from the strong hand wouldn't you? Wrong! In the Open Room, with South declaring, the defence started with a friendly heart lead, solving one potential guess for declarer, and allowing South to later play ♦A, ♦K and a third diamond, establishing the ten of diamonds for a club discard. When trumps behaved, that was a comfortable route to make ten tricks.

The defence in the Closed Room was less friendly where, with North declaring, East had a more attractive and considerably more successful choice of opening leads. When he put the ♣K on the table it established one trick in each suit for the defence. IsPolta led 23-16.

Board 11 saw 5 IMPs flow to Kranyak on a question of whether to duck the opening lead.

Dealer: South	♠ J 5 4	
Vul: None	♥ A K 3	
Brd 11	♦ 7 4 2	
	♣ K 5 4 3	
♠ Q 10 2		♠ A 9 7
♥ Q 8		♥ J 10 9 7 6 5
♦ A 6 5 3		♦ 9
♣ A 10 9 7		♣ 8 6 2
	♠ K 8 6 3	
	♥ 4 2	
	♦ K Q J 10 8	
	♣ Q J	

West	North	East	South	
Wooldridge	Liran	Hurd	Friedlander	
			1♦	
Pachtman	Kranyak	Zatorski	Demuy	
Pass	1NT	All Pass		
Makeable Contracts				
-	2	-	2	NT
-	1	-	1	♠
2	-	2	-	♥
-	3	-	3	♦
-	-	-	-	♣

Both tables played 1NT from North and got the ♥J lead. Your first instincts may well be to duck the lead perhaps, especially with none of the other suits appearing overly vulnerable. However after prolonged navel contemplation your editors speculated that it was only right to duck the lead if hearts were 6-2 (as they were here) and of little benefit otherwise. Worse; if the defenders shift to clubs at once it is easy to see that the slow entry to dummy might get dislodged and now the contract could easily hinge on the spade finesse. However defenders don't always shift in these positions, which complicates the mathematics.

Liran, North for IsPolta in the Open Room, took the first heart and thereafter could not make more than six tricks, for -50. Kranyak in the closed room ducked the opening lead and after a heart continuation he could then make four diamonds, two hearts a club and a spade for +120. Those 5 IMPs saw Kranyak reduce the margin to 21-23. Everyone else went plus as NS here – oh well!



Piotr Zatorski

Dealer: South
 Vul: N-S
 Brd 15

♠ A J 4 2
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A 8 7 6 5 2

♠ 10
 ♥ K Q 9 5 3
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ Q J 10 4 3

♠ 9 6 5
 ♥ A 8 7
 ♦ A K Q 9 3 2
 ♣ K

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

West	North	East	South
Wooldrige	Liran	Hurd	Friedlander
2NT	Double	3♥	1♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pachtman	Kranyak	Zatorski	Demuy
2NT	Pass	3♥	1♦
Pass	Pass		Pass

Makeable Contracts				
-	2	-	2	NT
-	4	-	4	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
-	3	-	3	♦
-	3	-	3	♣

3NT does look delicate for N/S in the Open Room, but the ability to isolate the West hand and simply deal with East gives South a chance for 9 tricks. To defeat 3NT, the defence must lead and continue hearts, and after declarer ducks twice, a club shift will remove the late entry to declarer's hand after establishing his diamond suit – not easy. The defence at the table was three rounds of hearts, after which declarer easily made nine tricks. Making that 3NT while Pachtman-Zatorski conceded -50 in the other room closed up the match, leaving Kranyak 39-34 in front.

Kranyak took the final IMPs leading up to the half-way mark with IsPOLta bidding a no-play 5♦ down two in one room, and Kranyak stopping in the sensible 3♦ and making it. Those 5 IMP's saw the score of Kranyak leading 47-34 at the half-way mark.

Round 10 – Every Little Helps!

When PD Times squeaked through the Swiss to make it into the once-defeated pool they needed more than just some good luck. Jerry Li reported two nice plays by his partner Fu Zhong.

Dealer: East
 Vul: N-S
 Brd 2

♠ Q J 5 2
 ♥ 5 3 2
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A Q 9 8 7

♠ K 8 7 4 3
 ♥ 8 7 4
 ♦ J 9 4
 ♣ J 3

♠ 9
 ♥ Q 9
 ♦ K Q 10 8 6
 ♣ K 10 5 4 2

♠ A 10 6
 ♥ A K J 10 6
 ♦ A 5 3 2
 ♣ 6

West	North	East	South
Li		Fu	
		1♣(16+)	1NT
Pass	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Makeable Contracts				
2	-	2	-	NT
3	-	3	-	♠
3	-	4	-	♥
2	-	2	-	♦
-	3	-	3	♣

South gave declarer a helpful hand by leading a top diamond. Fu won and cashed ♥A. When the nine appeared he decided to believe it, and took the second top trump, then drew the last trump and led a low spade to the king, and led back to the ten, playing South for his actual 5-5 shape. It would not help North to split his spade honours since declarer can clear spades and use the ♦J as entry.

So was the diamond lead fatal or might the defence prevail on a club lead and diamond shift? Declarer certainly cannot afford to duck this, so he wins, guesses trumps, and now leads a spade to dummy and a second spade. If North splits his honours declarer clears spades and has the ♥8 as the entry. So North plays low on the second spade. East wins cheaply, cashes ♠A and shifts to diamonds. He cannot now be stopped from ruffing the diamond in dummy.

Dealer: North
 Vul: E-W
 Brd 9

♠ Q 4 3
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ A 9 8 7 6 5

♠ 9 5
 ♥ K Q 3
 ♦ A 10 6 2
 ♣ K Q J 3

♠ A K J 2
 ♥ J 5
 ♦ J 9 8 5 3
 ♣ 4 2

♠ 10 8 7 6
 ♥ A 10 8 7 4 2
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ 10

West	North	East	South
Li		Fu	
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Double	Rdbl	All Pass	

Makeable Contracts				
-	3	-	4	NT
-	2	-	2	♠
1	-	1	-	♥
-	3	-	3	♦
-	1	-	2	♣

Earlier on, we remarked, elliptically that if you were going to be redoubled in clubs it was a good idea for that to happen at the two level not three level. Yes indeed, but that isn't the full story.

What we should have said was that if you are going to be redoubled at the two-level make sure it is South playing the hand, not North. Against 2♣xx, Fu put his finger unerringly on a spade, then won an early heart to play a second spade. That had the effect of tapping out declarer, who could thus only score two spades, three clubs, and one trick in each of the side suits. Down one!

INTERVIEW WITH LORENZO LAURIA AND ALFREDO VERSACE

By Christina Lund Madsen

The New Monaco Maestros

The hottest gossip in the bridge world is the news that Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace are switching to Monaco. The Yeh Bros Cup is their debut with Team Monaco. We tricked them into participating in an interview by saying we found a nice Italian restaurant in Tokyo.

What was the main reason for your decision?

Lorenzo shrugs his shoulders in the Italian way as if it is the dumbest question he ever had.

Lorenzo: "We don't have a team for international competitions. Bridge is my life."



The agreement to play for team Monaco doesn't include the American Nationals, where Lauria-Versace will continue to play with Jimmy Cayne. They do not know, who will play for Monaco in the States.

Alfredo: "After Angelini stopped, we were looking for a new good team for the biggest events in Europe like the European Winter Games, the Cavendish, the Champions Cup and tournaments like the Yeh Bros Cup. We had this opportunity to join such a strong team and took it. We decided very quickly. It was the last day in Montecatini. We met with Pierre. It was the first time we spoke and it was a complete surprise. We decided within 24 hours and were happy to accept and play 4-5 years with a very good team.

Did you ever imagine to play for another country than Italy?

Lorenzo shrugs his shoulders again as if to let me know it was yet another dumb question.

Alfredo: We played 35 years for Italy. Lorenzo played almost 40 years for Italy, first time in '79. We played the last three European Championships and the Olympics without the Lavazza-players, so we had bad results. It is not easy to carry the team. We could not make the best team for Lyon and if Monaco qualify for the Bermuda Bowl, we can play in 2019 with a very strong team.

What was the hardest part about your decision?

Alfredo: "We felt bad for the Italian Bridge Federation to tell them two months before Lyon we cannot play, and also to announce we will no longer play for Italy. Now we feel okay. After some time. It doesn't change a lot in our lives, the only thing is that we cannot play the Bermuda Bowl for Italy."

Which was the best moment you experienced playing for Italy?

Alfredo: “When we won the first Bermuda Bowl. Before Estoril, Lorenzo lost two finals in the BB on the last hand, so he was very happy.”

Lorenzo looks as happy as he can.

What is the best part about joining team Monaco?

Alfredo: “We will have a good team. We will play the most important events in Europe. This year we will play here at the Yeh Bros, the transnationals in Lyon and the Champions Cup. We always play against Helgemo-Helness for the last 20 years. Now finally we can compare with them.” *Alfredo laughs.*

What do you think about the team for Lyon?

Alfredo: “The Italian Bridge Federation send Garozzo to Lyon as a gesture to his unbelievable career. He taught us all how to play bridge. He is Nostro Maestro. (our master, ed.) Both the young pairs are good. I don't think they are strong enough at the moment to win the BB. Maybe in the future. But I hope I am wrong.” *He smiles.*

How do you see the future for the Italian national team?

Alfredo: We have some very good young players, so it is not so dark even if we leave. We gave them a good approach to the game. They are educated well. They can have success in the future.”

What is the main strength of your partnership?

Alfredo: “We have a good friendship. We play the same philosophy of the game. We are very professional, we study a lot, and we work a lot on the system. Every month we make some correction to the system.”

Lorenzo: “We have the same mentality in the bidding.”

Alfredo smiles: “I will tell you a secret: On the levels 1-4 you can ask me about bridge, on the levels 5-7 you should ask Lorenzo.”

Which time was the toughest during your bridge career?

Lorenzo: “Never. I don't remember.” *He waves his hand at me to wipe away the question.*

Alfredo twirls his curly hair while he thinks about the question:

“Before the European Championships in Ostend in 2010, we fought with Angelini and remained a couple of months without a sponsor and then Zaleski decided to take us for two years. It was really hard because we were fighting for good things, and he fired us because we wanted to represent Italy. He cannot forbid us to play for the national team. We always make clear before we make a contract to be free to play for the national team, not like Lavazza. Sometimes in Italy we have the problem that the Italian Federation fights with the sponsors.”

Which is the best part about playing with Alfredo?

Alfredo answers before his partner: “Tutti. (All, ed.)” and laughs.

Lorenzo: “Good partner. Always nice at the table. A good character, we are equal. If we make a mistake, nothing happens.”

Which is the worst part?

Lorenzo: “Pinocchio.” He points at his nose. Alfredo tells me with a laugh that sometimes Lorenzo thinks that Alfredo's bridge stories are not entirely true...

What is the best part about playing with Lorenzo?

Alfredo: “Every time we arrive at the 5-level I am so comfortable because I know that he will make the right decision. Lorenzo is very strong in crucial moments.”

Which is the worst part?

“When he wants to call the director...” Alfredo is laughing and glances at his partner. “I always disagree with him.”

Lorenzo turns 70 this month but will not tell me whether it is during the Yeh Bros Cup.

When do you plan to retire?

“I don’t know. I play at least five more years.”

Do you feel as sharp as when you were younger?

“It is different. I have more experience but the reflexes are not as sharp.”

What will you do when Lorenzo retires?

Alfredo: “I hope I can find a new partner after leaving Italy, because right now everybody is very upset with me,” he laughs.

The Yeh Bros is the first event with your new team. What are your expectations?

Alfredo: “I won this event a very long time ago playing with Sementa, Garozzo and De Falco. I always come with great pleasure to this tournament, always a very nice place, everything is perfect. Obviously with our team I hope to have a good result.”

MEET BARRY RIGAL



Many of the participants here travel the world pursuing our lifelong passion for bridge along with the hope of winning bridge titles along the way. Others however travel the same roads but are denied the opportunity of pursuing their passions in favour of supporting the tournaments that we all enjoy. They range from organiser and directors through to your humble bridge correspondents. Barry Rigal is one such person who has survived the test of time and has been attending bridge tournaments around the world for more than thirty years making it his full time profession twenty two years ago – yes he has good status with various airlines.

Born in central London 59 years ago, Barry may soon be considering competing in the various seniors tournaments that don’t clash with his reporting duties. This December he will celebrate his twentieth wedding anniversary to Sue Picus who he notes leads their ‘holder of World Titles competition’ five and zero. They have resided in Central Manhattan for many

years however the word ‘residing’ is used loosely when you know that Barry plays professionally around 180 days a year and writes almost every day as well.

He learned the basic rules of bridge from his family but learned the game more formally at St Paul’s School aged twelve. He went on to study at Queen’s College Oxford starting for a BA in Latin and Greek with a Classic before switching to Hebrew (*hmm must ask him what prompted that decision*). Life direction changes saw Barry enter the workforce as an accountant, but after 15 years decided that this was not his calling in life.

His first bridge successes were second in the Cino del Duca in 1982 and making the final eight of the Gold Cup and Crockfords while still at University. He is confident that his squad remains the weakest to complete this double. More recently he has won two US National titles – the NABCs are the one event that Barry, without any writing gigs, is able to play in regularly. His more regular partners have included Peter Czerniewski (1984-1991), Jeff Aker (1998-2005) and his current partner Glenn Milgrim. In terms of which player past or present he would love to have had a game with – “maybe Terrence Reese in his prime”.

His favourite tournament is the Board a Match Reisinger but he confesses that it is too hard for him while the occasional success is so much sweeter with the difficulty - but he enjoys the challenge. Going forward he looks forward to maintaining his current skills past 70 years of age and being a better partner (it is possible that this comment came from Sue, his wife).

On the question of systems he favours transfer responses to 1♣ opening or alternatively a strong club opening when not vulnerable. “with a standard base having a transfer response available by opener at his second turn makes life so much easier. The initial transfer responses by responder are a small plus as well of course. However I think that Strong Club with no pre-emption is obviously a better method”. If he struggles with any aspect of the game it is opening leads about which he says “mark up a loss of 10 IMPs and move on “this is the part of the game where partner knows 26 cards when dummy comes down at least not the 13 that you have to choose from for the opening leads”.

I asked Barry how he handles reviewing his performance after a session.....”when I was young I lost a match by 1 imp and couldn’t find it on my actions - probably more about my arrogance than anything else. I played a game to set the high percentage at the Young Chelsea and my partner (a stickler) and I independently decided we had done nothing wrong except bidding a game on a finesse that went down” (more suggestions – no post mortems with Barry).

Barry has been my co-editor for the Gold Coast Congress for the past eight years and having shared an apartment with him I have a very good idea of his hobbies. They include good food and wine (as he says check his waistline for evidence), classical music especially piano, word games (do not challenge him, trust me), watching sports, especially cricket and baseball and trivia (again do not challenge him). Another of his hobbies is reading, nay devouring bridge books, articles and bulletins where his favourite authors, apart from Rigal, are Reese, Kantar and Rubens the latter he regards as having a great wit. In fact Barry’s tip to improve your game is to read read read and then read some more.

Again as President of the IBPA, Barry has a strong interest in the recent cheating scandals.....“at the time I was shocked, shocked, shocked. Naively I believed in the purity of the game and goodwill of the people playing the game. Sitting here now it seems so obvious and the system let us all down. We need to work hard to ensure that those who choose to win by cheating are exposed and kept out of the game. I have a lot of respect for those who chose to speak out and expose the three pairs already convicted but I can’t eliminate the doubt in the back of my mind about whether there are other cheats still playing the game at the top level”.

Like most of us Barry is concerned about the future of the game. In his IBPA role, he fears that the dwindling number of newspapers and magazines carrying bridge articles and the ongoing difficulties in getting publishers on board for bridge related material is strong evidence of the waning interest in the game. To boost numbers Barry notes, “The future of the game lies in getting kids playing the game in school and to promote that concept the teachers in those schools have to be brought into the game. Patty Tucker in Atlanta, USA has a strong grass roots youth bridge scene and given her success NBOs should learn from her positive outcomes”.

2017 Yeh Bros Cup Schedule

THURSDAY 6 TH July					
09:30 – 11:40	Knockout 3, Seg. 1	16 bds	09:30 - 10:50	(4 teams) Cons. Swiss R6	Bds 21-30
12:00 – 14:10	Knockout 3, Seg. 2	16 bds	11:10 - 12:30	Consolation Swiss Rd 7	Bds 01-10
	<i>Lunch Time</i>		12:50 - 14:10	Consolation Swiss Rd 8	Bds 11-20
15:30 – 17:40	Knockout 4, Seg. 1	16 bds	16:20 - 19:50	Open Pairs Qualification	Bds 01-27
18:00 – 20:10	Knockout 4, Seg. 2	16 bds		<i>Lunch Time</i>	
FRIDAY 7 TH July					
09:30 - 11:40	Final & Play-off, Seg 1	Bds 01-16	09:30-13:00	Pairs Semi-Final	Bds 01-27
	<i>Lunch Time</i>			<i>Lunch Time</i>	
13:10 – 15:20	Final & Play-off, Seg 2	Bds 17-32	14:00-17:30	Pairs Final & Consolation	Bds 01-27
15:35 – 17:45	Final & Play-off, Seg 3	Bds 33-48			
19:00	** Victory Dinner **				
VENUE LOCATIONS					
Hotel	Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo (the former Four Season Tokyo)				
Yeh Cup Bridge	Ballroom, Hotel 1F				
Victory Dinner	Jupiter, Plaza 4F (in the Plaza, located at another part of Chinzanso)				

FREE LUNCH

On Wednesday and Thursday there will be 40 Japanese Lunchboxes and 40 Sandwich Lunchboxes available WITHOUT CHARGE on a first come first served basis.
Note however that there will be no lunch service or boxes available on Friday