Friday, February 1, 2002
Editors: Eric Kokish
Bulletin Number 4

## NEC Cup: QuarterFinals

| Rank | Team | $\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ Half | $\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }}$ Half | Final |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | e-bridge (+.5) | 75 |  |  |
| 5 | NAITO | 32 |  |  |
| 4 | England/Norway (+.5) | 55 |  |  |
| $6-8$ | USA | 43 |  |  |
| 3 | England (+.5) | 68 |  |  |
| $6-8$ | India | 25 |  |  |
| 2 | Sweden (+.5) | 47 |  |  |
| $6-8$ | Canada | 22 |  |  |

NEC Cup: Final Swiss Standings

| Place Team | VPs | Place Team |  | VPs | Place | Team | VPs |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 112 e-bridge | 161 | 141 | Chinese Taipei | 129 | 2716 | PABF Women | 110 |
| 27 Sweden | 154 | 1517 | HANA | 128 | 2829 | MATSUBARA | 109 |
| 36 England | 149 | 1615 | PABF Open | 127 | 2925 | SKOTII | 106 |
| 44 England/Norway | 148 | 1622 | Three Diamonds | 127 | 3024 | Girasol | 105 |
| 523 NAITO | 135 | 1819 | OKAY | 125 | 3131 | 2002 | 101 |
| 63 India | 132 | 199 | Australia | 123 | 3232 | Merry Queens | 98 |
| 68 USA | 132 | 2013 | Taiwan Amethyst | 117 | 3333 | SWAN | 96 |
| 611 Canada | 132 | 2026 | GEEZER T | 117 | 3337 | Koyuzu | 96 |
| 92 Netherlands | 131 | 2221 | ESPERANZA | 116 | 3520 | PS-JACK | 93 |
| 910 Austria/Denmark | 131 | 2228 | CITRUS | 116 | 3635 | COSMOS | 92 |
| 914 GOING AT' EM | 131 | 2436 | Kinki | 113 | 3734 | K.S. | 83 |
| 125 Russia | 130 | 2538 | My-bridge | 112 | 3830 | TORNADOS Plus | 82 |
| 1218 SLAM DUNK | 130 | 2627 | HANAGUMI | 111 |  |  |  |

## Starting Times

|  | Match | Starting Time | Rooms |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Today | NEC Cup QF2 | $10: 00-12: 50$ | 416 \& 417 |
|  | Lunch Break | $12: 50-14: 00$ |  |
|  | NEC Cup SF1 | $14: 00-16: 50$ | $416 \& 417$ |
|  | NEC Cup SF1 | $17: 10-20: 00$ | $416 \& 417$ |
| Tomorrow | NEC Cup Final 1 \& Playoff | $10: 00-12: 20$ | Room 416 \& 417 |
|  | NEC Cup Final 2 \& Playoff | $12: 30-14: 50$ |  |
|  | NEC Cup Final 3 | $16: 00-18: 20$ |  |
|  | NEC Cup Final 4 | $18: 30-20: 50$ |  |
|  | OUCHI Cup | $10: 00-17: 00$ | Room 501 \& 502 |

## NEC Cup 2002: Conditions of Contest

An 8 round Swiss, qualifying the top 8 teams to the Knockout phase; no playbacks.

| V.P. Scale | WBF 20-board scale (a copy can be found in the score book provided in your NEC |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\quad$ Bridge Festival bag). |  |

Seating Rights Toss of coin 5 minutes before start of match. Failure will constitute loss of rights.

| KO-Phase Seating | The winner of a coin toss has the choice of seating in either of the two 20-board <br> segments. In the four 16-board segments of the final, the choices will alternate over <br> segments. |
| :--- | :--- |

Swiss Pairings For the first and second Swiss matches, pairings will be determined by randomly pairing each of the teams numbered 1-19 with one of the teams numbered 20-38. Subsequent match pairings will be based on current VP totals.

Home and visiting
1st numbered team sits $N / S$ in open room, $E / W$ in closed room.
Tie-Breaks At the end of the Swiss: ties will be broken by the result of the head-to-head match (if one was played) or an IMP quotient otherwise. If more than two teams are involved, WBF 2001 Conditions of Contest procedures will apply.

In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a $1 / 2$-IMP carryover.
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Systems } & \text { No HUM methods will be permitted in this event. } \\ \text { In the Swiss, no Brown Sticker methods will be permitted. } \\ \text { In the KO Phase, Brown Sticker methods will be permitted only if filed before the }\end{array}$

Length of Matches 2 hours and 50 minutes will be allotted for each 20-board segment (or 2 hours and 20 minutes for each 16-board segment of the final). In addition a 5 -minute grace period will be allotted to each team. Overtime and slow play penalties as per WBF 2001 Conditions of Contest.

Appeals The WBF Code of Practice will be in effect. The Chief Director will have 12C3 authority. Appeals which are found to be without merit may incur a penalty of up to 3 VPs.

Match Scoring Pick-up slips are to be completed and all match results are to be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections and notifications of appeals will be permitted up until the start of the next session.

KO Draw The team finishing $1^{\text {st }}$ in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing $4^{\text {th }}-88^{\text {th. }}$. The team finishing $2^{\text {nd }}$ will have their choice of the remaining teams from the $4^{\text {th }}-8^{\text {th }}$ group. And so on.

In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes $1^{\text {st }}$ in the Swiss chooses their semifinal opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

Wednesday's Match Results

| Match 7 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SWEDEN (30) | 14-16 | e-bridge (33) |
| ENGLAND (51) | 20-10 | ENGLAND/NORWAY (26) |
| RUSSIA (37) | 18-12 | NETHERLANDS (22) |
| CANADA (30) | 14-16 | PABF OPEN (35) |
| GOING AT 'EM (34) | 15-15 | NAITO (32) |
| CHINESE TAIPEI (35) | 20-10 | USA (9) |
| AUSTRALIA (63) | 20-10 | PABF WOMEN (38) |
| HANA (6) | 9-21 | THREE DIAMONDS (36) |
| INDIA (40) | 16-14 | OKAY (32) |
| GEEZER T 59) | 19-11 | GIRASOL (41) |
| HANAGUMI (57) | 16-14 | KINKI (52) |
| SLAM DUNK (33) | 19-11 | TAIWAN AMETHYST (14) |
| AUSTRIA/DENMARK (62) | 24-6 | MATSUBARA (20) |
| ESPERANZA (65) | 22-8 | 2002 (33) |
| SKOTII (73) | 25-5 | KOYUZU (20) |
| PS-JACK (20) | 10-20 | CITRUS (43) |
| MY-BRIDGE (56) | 21-9 | SWAN (28) |
| K.S. (32) | 16-14 | MERRY QUEENS (26) |
| TORNADOS PLUS (47) | 23-7 | COSMOS (8) |
| Match 8 |  |  |
| RUSSIA (21) | 7-23 | e-bridge (59) |
| ENGLAND/NORWAY (21) | 10-20 | SWEDEN (45) |
| ENGLAND (57) | 20-10 | CHINESE TAIPEI (34) |
| GOING AT 'EM (39) | 15-15 | CANADA (37) |
| NAITO (41) | 20-10 | PABF OPEN (15) |
| THREE DIAMONDS (28) | 14-16 | NETHERLANDS (31) |
| AUSTRALIA (32) | 8-22 | USA (67) |
| GEEZER T (32) | 8-22 | AUSTRIA/DENMARK (65) |
| PABF WOMEN (29) | 4-25 | INDIA (87) |
| ESPERANZA (35) | 11-19 | OKAY (53) |
| HANA (86) | 24-6 | HANAGUMI (40) |
| GIRASOL (16) | 4-25 | SLAM DUNK (73) |
| KINKI (38) | 12-18 | (54) MATSUBARA |
| CITRUS (49) | 23-7 | SKOTII (12) |
| 2002 (21) | 11-19 | TAIWAN AMETHYST (41) |
| MY-BRIDGE (70) | 21-9 | KOYUZU (39) |
| PS-JACK (45) | 12-18 | MERRY QUEENS (59) |
| COSMOS (87) | 25-4 | K.S. (33) |
| TORNADOS PLUS (35) | 9-21 | SWAN (64) |

## Pre-Registration for OUCHI Cup and Asuka Cup

ALERT! Players planning to enter a team in Saturday's OUCHI Cup must pre-register by Friday night at 9 p.m. Players planning to play in Sunday's Asuka Cup are similarly required to pre-register by Saturday night at 10 p.m. All pre-registration will be done in the Secretariat (Room 412). Entry fees will be waved for players eliminated from the NEC Cup at any stage and who wish to play in either of the two weekend events.

For those wishing to take a day or two off from bridge and looking for suggestions of what to do, we suggest a visit to Kamakura (a small town about 30 minutes by train from Yokohama, famous for its temples, giant statue of Buddha, lake and tourist shops) or a day trip to Tokyo (try the Ginza shopping area). Those interested should check with Hotel Information for travel details.

| Day/Date | Time | Event | Location |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Friday (Feb. 1) | $10: 00-12: 50$ | NEC Cup Quarter-Final 2 | Room 416 \& 417 |
|  | $12: 50-14: 00$ | Lunch Break |  |
|  | $14: 00-16: 50$ | NEC Cup Semi-Final 1 |  |
|  | $17: 10-20: 00$ | NEC Cup Semi-Final 2 |  |
| Saturday (Feb. 2) | $10: 00-12: 20$ | NEC Cup Final 1 \& 3 3r Playoff Room 416 \& 417 |  |
|  | $12: 30-14: 50$ | NEC Cup Final 2 \& 3 |  |
|  | $16: 00-18: 20$ | NEC Cup Final 3 |  |
|  | $18: 30-20: 50$ | NEC Cup Final 4 |  |
|  | $10: 00-17: 00$ | OUCHI Cup | Room 501 \& 502 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Room 301 \& 302 |
|  | $10: 00-17: 00$ | Asuka Cup | Room 303 \& 304 |
|  | $18: 00-19: 00$ | Closing Ceremony |  |

## Congratulations PABF Women: Good Luck in Salt Lake City

Congratulations to Japan's PABF Women's Team, who leave today to participate in the Salt Lake City Olympic demonstration event, February 2-6. They will meet nine other women's bridge teams from around the world to show the IOC just how exciting our game can be. We wish them the best of luck and a safe and successful trip to the U.S.


## NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Call your friends and tell them that your exploits are being chronicled on the World Wide Web. They can follow all of the action at the $7^{\text {th }}$ NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:
http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html

- or -
http://www.jcbl.or.jp
- or -
http://www.greatbridgelinks.com


# NEC Cup Feature Match Seven: Russia vs The Netherlands 

## by Eric Kokish

Our first feature match of the third day of the NEC Cup pits the young Russians (Gromov/ Petrunin and Doubinine/Krasnosselski) against the always dangerous men from The Netherlands (Vis/van Cleeff, Bertens/ Bakkeren), with only 2 VPs separating the teams in the standings (Russia fifth, The Netherlands tied for sixth).

| Bd: 1 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | ¢ 9754 |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc$ K65 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond 82$ |  |  |
|  | \& J754 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - QJ862 | - A10 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 108$ | $\bigcirc 943$ |  |  |
| $\diamond$ J10 | $\diamond$ KQ953 |  |  |
| - K863 | \& AQ9 |  |  |
| South |  |  |  |
| ¢ K3 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ AQJ72 |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ A764 |  |  |  |
| -102 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  | Pass | 1NT | 2** |
| 24 | All Pass |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki 1NT | van Cleeff $20^{*}$ |
| 24 | All Pass |  |  |

Both Souths competed over 1NT with bids that showed hearts and a minor. Andrei Gromov decided to try for ruffs and started with the $\diamond 8$ to the king and ace. Alex Petrunin cashed the $\triangle A$, got an encouraging signal, cashed the $\triangle Q$, then reverted to diamonds. Ton Bakkeren played ace and another trump and Petrunin won to play a third diamond, promoting a trump trick for Gromov, but that was not enough; +110.

Jean-Paul Vis preferred to attack the suit that his partner was known to hold. Jan van Cleeff played three rounds of hearts, Alex Doubinine ruffing the last to play the $\diamond J$. South took the
ace and played a fourth round of hearts, following through on his plan for the defense. Declarer threw a club and North his remaining diamond, dummy ruffing with the 10 . Doubinine cashed the A , came to the K , and led the $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ to the king. A fifth round of hearts allowed Vis to score the $\uparrow 9$ on an over-ruff and now a club exit tucked dummy in. Vis had to score his remaining trump now on a diamond ruff and so Doubinine had to go one down; -50 . Nice defense, gentlemen. 4 IMPs to Netherlands.

| Bd: 2 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: East | - J64 |  |  |
| Vul: N/S | $\bigcirc$ AK6 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ Q98 |  |  |
|  | * AJ108 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| ¢ Q752 |  | ¢ AK109 |  |
| $\bigcirc 94$ |  | © QJ1052 |  |
| $\diamond$ AJ62 |  | $\diamond 7$ |  |
| - 743 |  | - Q95 |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | $\pm 83$ |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 873$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K10543 |  |  |
|  | * K62 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  |  | 18 | Pass |
| 19 | Dbl | 39* | All Pass |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff |
|  |  | 18 | Pass |
| 14 | Pass | 24 | All Pass |

Gromov did not have ideal shape to double for takeout, but he risked it just the same, prompting Huub Bertens to jump to 34 as a semi-preemptive move. I confess that wild horses would not have torn me away from bidding $4 \diamond$ with Petrunin's hand, but he judged far better by passing. Gromov led the $\vee \mathrm{K}$, got the upside-down eight from partner, and switched to the $\Leftrightarrow$, leading to a quick one down; -50.

Vis preferred to pass at his first turn, so Mikhail Krasnosselski had no reason to bid more than $2 \boldsymbol{A}$. When Vis elected not to reopen, the Russians had bought a contract they had a chance to make.

Vis found the good lead of the $\diamond 8$ to the king and ace and Doubinine started hearts. Vis won the ace and switched to the J , covered. Van Cleeff might have returned a diamond here to force dummy, but (perhaps influenced by his partner's play of the $\triangle A$ ) instead continued clubs, and now declarer could handle the play easily for +110 . 4 IMPs to Russia, tying the match at 4-4.

| Bd: 3 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dlr: South | ¢ QJ8642 |  |  |
| Vul: E/W | $\bigcirc 83$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ Q4 |  |  |
|  | - AK9 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - A97 | - K3 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ A942 | Q Q1076 |  |  |
| $\diamond$ A1096 | $\diamond 7$ |  |  |
| +32 |  |  | 108764 |
| South |  |  |  |
| - 105 |  |  |  |
| Q KJ5 |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ KJ8532 |  |  |  |
| 2 J5 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| $1 \diamond$ | 14 | Db** | Pass |
| 20 | 2 | 30 | All Pass |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff 3॰ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

Yesterday, as I was working on my masterpiece of the moment, I was approached by the world-renowned editor of the Dutch bridge magazine IMP, who was curious about my reference to one of his actions as a "hairychested" effort. I looked up and noted that his shirt buttons had been neatly closed to reveal nothing of questionable taste, so I could tell that I was going to have to avoid any literal rejoinders. "Macho," my dear Jan, "your (adjective withheld to avoid a visit from the

Manners Committee) $3 \diamond$ opening on a random 6-3-2-2 hand with king-ten-sixth of diamonds and some side defensive strength was very macho indeed. "Really," he demurred with at least one raised eyebrow, "that was completely normal for us. Even the girls play this way in Holland" A quick glance over my shoulder revealed that there was no one else (neither Jean-Paul Vis nor any of those undoubtedly fabulous Dutch girls) present to corroborate this, but I took his word for it, hoping that sooner or later we might catch Jean-Paul opening a favorable-vulnerability three-bid as dealer with something in the same family.

As luck would have it, the only piece of evidence we can muster to support the van Cleeff position is provided by Professor IMP himself on Board 3...

The only nice thing I can think of saying about $3 \diamond$ is that if one doesn't play weak $2 \diamond$ bids one might fall prey to temptation (especially if you're a fabulous Dutch babe). On the other hand, Jan could have opened 2 to show, among things, a weak two-bid in diamonds, so please cancel anything nice I might have dared to think in a moment of delusional weakness. Jan bought a nice dummy, but alas, finished a few tricks short of Nirvana. He got the lead of the 3 from Doubinine and elected to play low from dummy. The queen won and a club came back. He played the third club to throw a spade and Doubinine ruffed, then switched to the $\diamond 10$, which declarer ran to his jack. A second diamond was taken by the ace and the 9 went to the king for a further club play. Declarer ruffed and West over-ruffed to exit with the $\uparrow \mathrm{A}$. Declarer discarded a heart and West was endplayed. Still that was three down; -150 .

Petrunin, too young to be tempted into an indiscretion of the magnitude of a $3 \diamond$ opening, passed as dealer. Gromov bid his spades twice (the second a questionable decision) and the bidding ended at $3 \checkmark$. The opening lead of the k K did declarer no harm. Gromov switched to the $\varphi \mathrm{Q}$ and declarer won in hand to play a second club. Gromov won and continued spades, but Bakkeren won the king and played ace and another heart; +140. No swing, but at least we have a story. Colker-san tells me that I should watch my back.


I'd like to believe that Gromov mis-sorted his hand, but the rest of the auction suggests that he and Petrunin have adopted an old Italian style of takeout doubles, perhaps on the theory that if it was good enough for the Blue Team it's good enough for them. Bertens led the $\&$ Q, which held, and the defenders played two more rounds of the suit. Gromov won the king and led a low diamond to the queen and king, won the diamond return in hand, and led a heart to the queen and king. Later, he caught West in a spade-diamond squeeze-endplay for +120 .

Vis, who has his hands full restraining the effervescent van Cleeff, is not quite ready to go retro Italian, so he passed over $1 \diamond$, allowing his opponents to coast into 20 , where they went two down; -200. 2 IMPs to Netherlands, 6-4.


[^0]| Bd: 5 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | $\pm 5$ |  |  |
| Vul: N/S | $\bigcirc$ J74 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond 854$ |  |  |
|  | * AK9862 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| ¢ K7432 |  | $\pm$ AJ106 |  |
| $\bigcirc 6$ |  | $\checkmark$ AQ102 |  |
| $\diamond$ J63 |  | $\diamond$ Q1092 |  |
| \% QJ104 |  | - 7 |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | ¢ Q98 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ K9853 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ AK7 |  |  |
|  | \& 53 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  | Pass | $1 \diamond$ | 18 |
| 19 | 3\%(1) | 49 | All Pass |
| (1) Fit-showing |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff |
|  | Pass | $1 \diamond$ | 18 |
| 19 | 24 | 49 | All Pass |

Gromov led the $\Leftrightarrow \mathrm{K}$, seven, three, four, and switched to the $\diamond 5$, Petrunin playing three rounds of the suit. Bakkeren needed only to guess the trumps to get home from here and there seems enough information available to get the suit right (North would not bid 3 with 2-3-3-5 with two of his points the $\Delta Q$ ). Alas, he played the ace, then led the jack to the king; -50. It was not nearly as clear to Doubinine after the bidding he saw, although he knew the club position. Vis led the A and continued with the 6 when van Cleeff followed with the five. Doubinine discarded from dummy, won in hand, and played $\uparrow \mathrm{K}$, spade; -50 . No swing.

"Even from this angle it's still the deuce of spades."

| Bd: 6 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: East | - K753 |  |  |
| Vul: E/W | - K1093 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond A Q$ |  |  |
|  | \& 1097 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - 6 |  | ¢ AQJ982 |  |
| $\bigcirc$ A4 |  | $\bigcirc$ Q8652 |  |
| $\diamond$ J743 |  | $\diamond 8$ |  |
| \& AKJ652 |  | $\bigcirc 3$ |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | ¢ 104 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ J7 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K109652 |  |  |
|  | \& Q84 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  |  | 14 | Pass |
| 2** | Pass | 20 | Pass |
| $3 \diamond$ | Pass | 30 | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 44 | All Pass |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff |
|  |  | 14 | Pass |
| 2e* | Pass | 20 | Pass |
| 32 | Pass | 30 | Pass |
| 40 | All Pass |  |  |

Bertens had his hands full in 40 after two rounds of diamonds. He ruffed and led the $₫ Q$, which Gromov might have ducked. He won, however, and switched to the 83 , a play that could not have been comfortable on the auction. Declarer played low from hand, took the seven with the ace, ruffed a diamond ( $\quad 7$ from North), and drew trumps. Then he led a club, called for the jack, and soon discovered that he could run the suit; +650 . No problem.

Krasnosselski, in $4 \checkmark$, was also treated to two rounds of diamonds. He ruffed and played the \&AQ, discarding a club from dummy. Vis won the $\Phi K$ and returned the suit, van Cleeff ruffing with the $\vee 7$ in front of dummy. A trump to the queen won but a second trump revealed that this was not the trump layout of Krasnosselski's warmest dreams. Down three; -300. 14 IMPs to Netherlands, ahead now 20-4.

3NT would have been a lucky make, but apart from that I would not be comfortable bidding spades, hearts, hearts with the East hand,
regardless of my fourth action. I am sure that passing as dealer would be a minority action and equally certain that bidding spades, spades, hearts would not appeal to many players, but I like both those plans better than the one chosen by our featured Easts.

| Bd: 8 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: West | ¢ 72 |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc$ J863 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ KQJ |  |  |
| \& K862 |  |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - 543 |  | - Q98 |  |
| - K10 |  | $\bigcirc$ A742 |  |
| $\diamond 1087642$ |  | $\diamond$ A3 |  |
| - Q9 |  | \& AJ74 |  |
| South |  |  |  |
| ¢ AKJ106 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ Q95 |  |  |  |
| $\diamond 95$ |  |  |  |
| \& 1053 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
| Pass | Pass | 1NT | All Pass |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff |
| Pass | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 2NT* | Pass | $3 \diamond$ | All Pass |

The Russians' $3 \diamond$ had some realistic chances played by East on the lead of the $\boldsymbol{4} \mathrm{A}$, but van Cleeff judged well not to continue after seeing Vis' seven. He switched to a trump and now the defense got three natural spade tricks and two trumps for one down; -50 .

Bertens' 1NT wasn't much fun to play after $\mathbf{~} \mathrm{K}$, heart switch. He won in hand and led a club to the nine, giving him three clubs, two hearts and a diamond for one down; -50 . No swing.


[^1]| Bd: 9 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | - AJ96532 |  |  |
| Vul: E/W | $\bigcirc 8$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K |  |  |
|  | * KJ106 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - K10 | $\pm 4$ |  |  |
| - KQ43 | $\bigcirc$ AJ1095 |  |  |
| $\diamond 98743$ | $\diamond$ A105 |  |  |
| - A3 | 9852 |  |  |
| South |  |  |  |
| - Q87 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 762$ |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ QJ62 |  |  |  |
| Q Q74 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  | 14. | 28 | 24 |
| 40 | 49 | All Pass |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff |
|  | 14 | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 49 | All Pass |  |

Even with the $\mathbf{~ K}$ a dubious value Bakkeren had a huge hand facing a vulnerable $2 \triangle$ overcall, but he judged well to sell out cheaply. He gave count on Bertens' lead of the $\triangle A$, but Bertens switched to the $\diamond 5$. Gromov won the king and played the ace of trumps, losing two black tricks; +420.

Krasnosselski also led the $\nabla A$, but he continued the suit when Doubinine encouraged with the three. Vis ruffed and tried the $\diamond K$ but Krasnosselski ruffed and switched to the 8 . Vis could play neither the queen nor a low card with profit; when he played low, Doubinine did the same, and with no clear way to reach dummy to take the spade finesse, Vis tried the ©A;-50. 10 IMPs to Russia, 14-20.

"Why did I eat that last piece of shashimi?"

| Bd: 11 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: South | - QJ64 |  |  |
| Vul: None | - Q8 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond 9763$ |  |  |
|  | * AJ5 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - 95 | $\triangle$ A |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 97652$ | $\bigcirc$ AK104 |  |  |
| $\diamond$ AQ104 | $\diamond$ K852 |  |  |
| - 86 |  |  | Q93 |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | - K108732 |  |  |
|  | จ J3 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond J$ |  |  |
|  | - 10742 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin 34 |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass |
| 45 | All Pass |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn's/ki | van Cleeff |
|  |  |  | $2 \diamond^{*}$ |
| Pass | $2 \bigcirc^{*}$ | Dbl | 24 |
| Pass | 34 | Dbl | Pass |
| 48 | All Pass |  |  |

What's this? Van Cleeff out-van Cleeffed by that Russiankid? Nice going, Sasha, but where was Gromov with 4s when you might have needed him? An easy 480 for Bakkeren. In the same vein, Vis might have tried $4 \boldsymbol{\perp}$ over $2 \boldsymbol{4}$, but as it happened, 3 h was about as effective. Plus 480 for Doubinine; no swing. 4s doubled would have gone for 500.

| Bd: 12 <br> DIr: West <br> Vul: N/S | North |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ¢ K987 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ K62 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K542 |  |
|  | - 98 |  |
| West |  | East |
| - 642 |  | ¢ J1053 |
| $\bigcirc$ Q743 |  | $\bigcirc$ A985 |
| $\diamond$ A1083 |  | $\diamond$ Q96 |
| - K3 |  | - J2 |
|  | South |  |
|  | $\triangle A Q$ |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ J10 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ J7 |  |
|  | * AQ107654 |  |


| Open Room |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | $2 \mathbf{2 d}$ |
| Pass | $2 \diamond^{*}$ | Pass | $2 N T(1)$ |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass |  |
| (1) Maximum, 6+ clubs |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | $1 N T$ |
| Pass | $2 \mathbf{2 N}$ | Pass | $2 \diamond$ |
| Pass | $2 N T$ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

Both Souths fetched up in 3NT, Petrunin after describing his hand, van Cleeff after indulging his muse. Bakkeren led a third-from-even $\vee 4$ and Bertens put in the eight. Petrunin won the jack, led the $₫ Q$ to dummy's king, and tried the \&8 to his queen. Bakkeren won and unerringly continued the VQ which held. East won the fourth heart so the best the defense could do was take the setting trick in diamonds; -100 .

Against the Wizard of Odd, Doubinine attacked with the $\diamond 3$, the defenders clearing the suit as declarer parted with the $\vee 10$. When the Q lost to the king and West cashed the $\diamond 10$, East discarded the $\$ 10$ to discourage in that suit and declarer released the $\vee \mathrm{J}$, hoping that if the ace were wrong his heart discards would convince West that he could actually afford them. Alas, West did not hold the PA and was not fooled; he switched to the $\triangle$ Q and 3NT went quietly (or not so quietly) down 400. 7 IMPs to Russia, ahead now 21-20.

The Dutch reclaimed the lead with a couple of overtrick IMPs on Board 13, but Russia was back in front on the strength of a couple of undertricks on the next deal...

"It's still rock ' $n$ roll to me."

| Bd: 14 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: East | $\pm 5$ |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc$ J1082 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond 10753$ |  |  |
|  | * AQ73 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - 108 |  | - AKJ64 |  |
| $\bigcirc 93$ |  | $\bigcirc$ AQ64 |  |
| $\diamond$ KJ62 |  | $\diamond$ Q98 |  |
| ¢ KJ965 |  | - 4 |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | - Q9732 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ K75 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A4 |  |  |
|  | - 1082 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  |  | 19 | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 20 | Pass |
| 24 | Pass | $3 \diamond$ | Pass |
| $4 \diamond$ | Pass | $5 \diamond$ | All Pass |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff |
|  |  | 19 | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 20 | Pass |
| 24 | Pass | $3 \diamond$ | All Pass |

Although both auctions were ostensibly the same through $3 \diamond$, Krasnosselsi was limited by his failure to open a Polish 1 (which includes 17+ unbalanced hands) while Bertens was limited only by his failure to jump shift, which he would be reluctant to do with $5-4-4-0$ shape. Aware that Bertens might have only three diamonds, Bakkeren raised and Bertens, hoping for a fitth diamond, went on to $5 \diamond$. Both declarers took eight tricks on the unfriendly layout, so Russia won the board with +150 and -50. Russia, 24-22.


| Bd: 17 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | - QJ2 |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc$ Q854 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ Q9853 |  |  |
|  | - 10 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - 953 |  | - 108764 |  |
| O KJ107 |  | $\bigcirc 963$ |  |
| $\diamond$ AK42 |  | $\diamond$--- |  |
| - A2 |  | * K9876 |  |
| South |  |  |  |
| \& AK |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ A2 |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ J1076 |  |  |  |
| * QJ543 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  | Pass | Pass | $1 \diamond^{*}$ |
| 1NT | Db | $2 \bigcirc^{*}$ | 2NT* |
| Pass | $3 \diamond$ | Pass | $4 \diamond$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn's/ki | van Cleeff |
|  | Pass | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | Pass | 2風) | Pass |
| 20* | Pass | 24 | All Pass |
| (1) Clubs and another suit |  |  |  |

Petrunin's third-seat $1 \diamond$ most often delivers real diamonds, and his "minors" 2NT confirmed that; but he had no way to know that Gromov was bidding some of his hand already so he tried for game over $3 \diamond$. That might have been beyond his capabilities had Bakkern started trumps, but on the $\vee J$ lead dummy's queen won and he was in with a chance. His 10 drew the ace and Bakkeren continued hearts. Now Petrunin played on the side suits without touching trumps and was able to single in enough of his trumps to get home with +130 .

Against 24 van Cleeff might have started with his high trumps but instead he attacked with the $\diamond 7$. Krasnosselski won, discarding a heart, ruffed a diamond, and led a heart, catching van Cleeff in a variation of the Morton's Fork. South took the VA to continue diamonds, declarer winning to discard a club. He cashed the จK, ruffed a diamond and went to the \& to play a second club. Vis did well to ruff but less well to play a trump back. Van Cleeff won and cashed his remaining trump; +140. Had Vis returned a
heart the defenders could have scored all four of their remaining trumps separately. 7 IMPs to Russia, 31-22. 2 more undertrick IMPs went to Russia on Board 18 to make it 33-22. Then...

| Bd: 19 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: South | ¢ K754 |  |  |
| Vul: E/W | $\bigcirc$ J873 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K10 |  |  |
|  | \& K62 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - Q10 |  | ¢ J862 |  |
| $\bigcirc$ Q9654 |  | $\bigcirc$ AK |  |
| $\diamond$ A53 |  | $\diamond 764$ |  |
| - 753 |  | - AJ98 |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | $\pm$ A93 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 102$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ QJ982 |  |  |
|  | \& Q104 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Bakkeren | Gromov | Bertens | Petrunin |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | 13 | 1॰ |
| 18 | Db** | Pass | 19 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Doubinine | Vis | Krasn'slki | van Cleeff |
|  |  |  | 2@(1) |
| Pass | $2 \diamond(1)$ | All Pass |  |

Ah, there it is now, a textbook illustration of a vanCleeff weak $2 \diamond$ opening in sheep's closing. It would appear that with six, one bids three and with five, one bids two. I got you...babe. Vis could have made $2 \diamond$ after VK, spade switch, but to do so would have had to play on clubs early. When he didn't, the defenders played on spades allowing West to discard two clubs and eventually come to a 1club ruff; -50 .

Although the defenders got around to trumps in 1s after one round of hearts, Petrunin was able to get his diamonds going in time and came to seven tricks; +80. 4 IMPs to Russia, 37-22. Which is how it ended. Russia won 18-12, which left them fifth with one round to go. The Netherlands slipped to equal tenth, but just 2 VP short of qualifying and a date with THREE DIAMONDS to decide their future in this event.

Our final feature match of the Swiss teams stage pits the $3^{\text {rd }}$ place England team (Brian Senior, John Armstrong, Pablo Lambardi, Brian Callaghan), against the $6^{\text {th }}$ place team from Chinese Taipei (Hsui-Hen Hu, Ding-Min Yen, Jung-Fu Lee, Wei-Ming Chang, ChungCheng Chen, Sheng-Feng Wu). Fasten your seat belts. We're in for a bit of turbulence.

| Bd: 1 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | - K84 |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc$ Q102 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A10873 |  |  |
|  | - 82 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - A5 |  | ¢ J763 |  |
| $\checkmark$ A9863 |  | $\bigcirc 754$ |  |
| $\diamond$ K5 |  | $\diamond 42$ |  |
| \& J1076 | * AKQ3 |  |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | 4 Q1092 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{KJ}$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ QJ96 |  |  |
|  | * 954 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 18 | Pass | 20(1) | Pass |
| $2 \diamond(2)$ | Pass | 28 | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | Pass | 24 |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | All Pass |
| (1) Reverse Drury |  |  |  |
| (2) Legitimate opening values |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
|  | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 18 | Pass | 30 | All Pass |

Yen-Lee's Reverse Drury auction must have established the mind set that the hand was theirs, so when Senior-Lambardi backed into the auction with 24 Lee doubled with his four trumps and Yen passed with his reasonable defense. Yen started the $\diamond K$ and Lambardi won and played a club to Lee's queen. A spade to the ace and a spade to the jack and queen left Lambardi in control. He knocked out the $\vee \mathrm{A}$, won the heart return with the queen, cashed the
$\Delta \mathrm{K}$, and pitched his third club on the $\nabla 10$. When a diamond to the queen held Pablo was able to draw the last trump pitching dummy's remaining club and claim the rest of the tricks with dummy's good diamonds to score ten tricks and +670 .

With no Drury for a safety net Armstrong chose to make a limit raise of Callaghan's fourth-seat 18 opening holding the 754 of trumps-ugh! But what this bid lacked in both practicality and esthetics it made up for in serendipity since it kept John from exercising the same losing option that confronted his counterpart at the other table. With two inescapable losers in both trumps and diamonds and another in spades $3 \bigcirc$ was doomed to go one down, -50 , but that was still good for a 12-IMP pick-up for England.


They say good bidding is its own reward-not true, as this deal attests. Senior's 4e bid was more than just a little unlucky. His side has the resources to hold their losers to three since the spade loser can, in theory, be pitched on the third diamond. Unfortunately, on the normal spade lead, the fast entry to the South hand (to pitch North's second spade once the diamonds are unblocked) is removed and declarer must fail. But wait. Yen led a low club to the jack and king so that now Lambardi could unblock the diamonds while he still retained his A entry. This he did at tricks two and three and all was readied for the +130 . But wait. Twice he led up to the $\vee \mathrm{K}$ and twice he...ducked-one down; -100.

So how would his opponents fare at the other table with "The Strong Arm" to contend with (remember his $3 \bigcirc$ bid on the previous board)? Well, John was at it again. "Two spades" on his fine five-bagger (ugh! again), crowding N/S's auction. To be fair to Wu, his hand offers good prospects for game if he can find Chen with a sound four-card heart holding. So his Stayman bid has a lot to recommend it. Unfortunately, this was not Wu-Chen's day and they subsided in 3NT. Callaghan led a low spade (why not one of the honors?) and Chen ducked two rounds before winning the ace. Diamond, club, diamond, club (all ducked), and eventually Chen ended three down; -300. 5 more IMPs to England, leading 17-0.

It was 19-0 after Board 3. Then...

| Bd: 4 <br> DIr: West <br> Vul: Both | North |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ¢ K104 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{KJ} 3$ |  |
|  | $\diamond 64$ |  |
|  | \& A8632 |  |
| West |  | East |
| ¢ J6 |  | - 7 |
| $\bigcirc$ AQ95 |  | $\bigcirc 872$ |
| $\diamond$ Q1097 |  | $\diamond$ AKJ532 |
| \& 1075 |  | * QJ4 |
|  | South |  |
|  | - AQ98532 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 1064$ |  |
|  | $\diamond 8$ |  |
|  | \& K9 |  |


| Open Room |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
| Pass | Pass | $1 \diamond$ | 3 |
| Pass | $4 \uparrow$ | All Pass |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
| Pass | Pass | $3 \diamond$ | 3 |
| $5 \diamond$ | Dbl | All Pass |  |

With the cards lying well for N/S, Lambardi's 4s produced 11 tricks; +650. Continuing his campaign of terror, Armstrong tried the effect of $3 \diamond$ in third seat. Has the strong-armed one been studying at the side of Jan van Cleeff, our resident Renaissance Man? Callaghan made a small wager by bouncing to $5 \diamond$ but his horse is still running. Had Chen led the K the price might have been 1100, but he started a heart and declarer did the right thing by winning the ace to draw trumps. He lost two clubs, two hearts and a spade for -800.4 IMPs to Chinese Taipei, 4-19.

| Bd: 5 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | - A852 |  |  |
| Vul: N/S | $\bigcirc 1872$ |  |  |
| $\diamond$ J7 |  |  |  |
| - Q102 |  |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - Q10 |  | - 93 |  |
| $\bigcirc 93$ |  | ¢ KQ1064 |  |
| $\diamond$ K10932 |  | $\diamond 85$ |  |
| - AJ43 |  |  | 876 |
| South |  |  |  |
| - KJ764 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ A5 |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ AQ64 |  |  |  |
| +95 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  | Pass | Pass | 14 |
| $2 \diamond$ | 24 | All Pass |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
|  | Pass | $2 \bigcirc(1)$ | 24 |
| 3*(2) | 34 | Pass | $4{ }^{4}$ |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| (1) Hearts and a minor |  |  |  |
| (2) Pass or correct |  |  |  |

If we raised ourselves to 4 4 as Chen did we'd catch three small trumps in dummy and go for at least 500. But Chen bought himself a hand with some play. Spades behaved but diamonds didn't; -100. In 24, Lambardi had sound reasons to misguess trumps, so he made only two; +110. 5 IMPs to England, 24-4.


In 68 Callaghan took the lead of the $\mathrm{Q} Q$ with dummy's ace, played $\nabla K$, heart to the ace, diamond ruff, club to the ace, drew the last trump and led a second spade, North showing out. Declarer won the A , and led a club to the jack and king; +1430.

When you save at the seven level for 1100 you'd better be right, and right Lambardi was. 8 IMPs to England, 32-4.


| Bd: 7 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dlr: South | - 9763 |  |  |
| Vul: Both | ¢ KJ9 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A752 |  |  |
|  | + 53 |  |  |
| West |  |  | East |
| - 10854 |  |  | - AK |
| $\bigcirc 763$ |  |  | $\checkmark$ A102 |
| $\bigcirc$ K108 |  |  | $\diamond$ Q94 |
| - 872 |  |  | * KQ1094 |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | - QJ2 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ Q854 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ J63 |  |  |
|  | * AJ6 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  |  | 16 | All Pass |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Arm | ong Chen |
|  |  | 2NT | All Pass |

I say, John, are we expecting a devalued sterling in the immediate future? 2NT (20-22) might have come home on a better lie of the club suit, but the $\diamond J$ was favorable for declarer's purposes, so perhaps -200 was not all that unlucky for England. 1e made three; +110.7 IMPs to Chinese Taipei, 11-32.

| Bd: 8 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: West | - AQ54 |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc 4$ |  |  |
|  | - KQ942 |  |  |
|  | * Q52 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - KJ107 | - --- |  |  |
| © J753 |  |  | $\bigcirc$ AKQ962 |
| $\checkmark J$ |  |  | $\diamond$ A108763 |
| - 10976 |  |  | *K |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 108$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond 5$ |  |  |
|  | - AJ843 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
| Pass | $1 \diamond$ | 49 | All Pass |


| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | W $u$ | Armstrong | Chen |
| Pass | $1 \diamond^{*}$ | $1 \varnothing$ | Dbl $^{*}$ |
| $3 \diamond$ | $4 \uparrow$ | $5 \diamond$ | $5 \uparrow$ |
| Dbl | All Pass |  |  |

No one has written the manual on the proper care and feeding of hands like East's after a natural one-bid on the right in one of the long suits. Lee's $4 \triangle$ was a good practical shot and managed to silence everyone, Senior taking the path of least resistence with tempting shape. Lee made five; +450.

I'm not sure why Chen didn't bid 14, but when Wu was willing to jump to 4s, Chen took the push to 54. That went only two down, doubled, for -300 , and Chinese Taipei gained 4 IMPs, 15-32.

| Bd: 9 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | - 32 |  |  |
| Vul: E/W | $\bigcirc 842$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ QJ10962 |  |  |
|  | -102 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - K1075 | - A986 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 9$ | $\bigcirc$ AKQ73 |  |  |
| $\diamond$ A854 | $\diamond 3$ |  |  |
| - K874 |  |  | Q3 |
| South |  |  |  |
| - QJ4 |  |  |  |
| Q J1065 |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ K7 |  |  |  |
| * 9965 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  | $3 \diamond$ | Dbl | Pass |
| 44 | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 59 | Pass | 64 | All Pass |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
|  | Pass | 18 | Pass |
| 14 | Pass | $4 \diamond^{*}$ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 54 | Pass |
| $5 \diamond^{*}$ | Pass | 54 | Pass |
| 6 | All Pas |  |  |

64 is where you'd like to be with the E/W cards and the Brits in the Closed Room had no trouble
in an uncontested auction, Callaghan's seventry showing great respect (some of it surely misplaced) for Armstrong's potential perfectfitting maximum.

Mr van Cleeff, might we recommend Mr Senior's $3 \diamond$ opening. Note its internal texture and general lack of defensive strength. Note its potential for being raised and for actually taking a few tricks in the main suit. Not that it did anything here when Lambardi was unwilling to raise (perhaps more used to the van Cleeff style of three-bid that is all the rage in certain pubs in the Low Country and may have been exported to darkest Nottingham). Yen's choice of 4s worked well when Lee took charge and drove to slam. No swing at +1430 .

| Bd: 10 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: East | - 102 |  |  |
| Vul: Both | $\bigcirc 972$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ QJ53 |  |  |
|  | * 10843 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - AK8 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ AQ1063 | Q KJ54 |  |  |
| $\diamond 98$ | $\diamond 2$ |  |  |
| - Q92 |  | $\cdots$ |  |
| South |  |  |  |
| - 963 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 8$ |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ AK10764 |  |  |  |
| - AK5 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  |  | Pass | $1 \diamond$ |
| 18 | $3 \diamond$ | Dbl* | 40 |
| $4 \bigcirc$ | All Pass |  |  |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
|  |  |  | $1 \diamond^{*}$ |
| 10 | Pass | 2^(1) | $3 \diamond$ |
| 30 | All Pass |  |  |
| (1) Fit-show |  |  |  |

You can't make bids like Senior's $3 \diamond$ unless you know that partner has at least four diamonds, and not-so-old-fashioned Acol permitted him that luxury. Lambardi had no idea whether he could beat $4 \odot$ but thought $5 \diamond$ doubled was going to go at least one down, so
he decided to try for a plus on defense. No, $4 \checkmark$ was quite cold and perhaps it's cutting it a bit fine to stop short of $5 \diamond$. Plus 620 for Yen.

At the other table, Callaghan/Armstrong had an auction that they hadn't encountered before and I'm betting that Callaghan intended his 3s as forcing. Plus 200 when South led a trump. 9 IMPs to Chinese Taipei, 24-32.

| Bd: 11 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: South | - AK75 |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc$ AK87 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K10964 |  |  |
|  | * --- |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - 109 |  | - 863 |  |
| - Q10643 |  | $\bigcirc$ |  |
| $\diamond$ J7 |  | $\diamond$ Q8532 |  |
| - KQ65 |  |  | J93 |
|  | South AJS |  |  |
|  | - QJ42 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 952$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A |  |  |
|  | - 108742 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| Pass | $1 \diamond$ | Pass | 14 |
| Pass | $4{ }^{2}$ | Pass | 4, |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North |  | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| Pass | 12(1) | 1NT | Dbl |
| 320 | Pass | Pass | Dbl |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| (1) Precision |  |  |  |

Senior-Lambardi had no trouble reaching 4a, and +420 was pretty simple even after Lee surprised Lambardi with a heart ruff.

A funny thing happened on the way to 4 . Armstrong's 1NT overcall showed both minors and Callaghan seems to have taken him more seriously than either of your editors would have. There was no reason to expect the opponents' trumps to split five-zero but then there was no reason to expect the opponents to have five trumps. Callaghan managed to take five trumps and one heart but that was still three down,
-500, and 2 IMPs to Chinese Taipei, 26-32.
Both sides made a routine overtrick in $4 \varnothing$ and then came...

| Bd: 13 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | - 92 |  |  |
| Vul: Both | $\bigcirc 96542$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ QJ85 |  |  |
|  | - A10 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - Q104 | 4 J86 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ A1087 | $\bigcirc$--- |  |  |
| $\diamond$ K10 | $\diamond 76432$ |  |  |
| - KQ75 |  |  | 66432 |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | - AK753 |  |  |
|  | ® KQJ3 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A9 |  |  |
|  | * J9 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  | Pass | Pass | 19 |
| Dbl | Pass | $2 \checkmark$ | 28 |
| Pass | 30 | Pass | 40 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
|  | Pass | Pass | 12(1) |
| Pass | $1 \diamond^{*}$ | Pass | 14 |
| Pass | 28 | Pass | 49 |
| All Pass <br> (1) Precisio |  |  |  |

$4 \checkmark$ requires careful handling, and Lambardi was up to the task. Pablo rose with the ace on Yen's lead and led a heart to the king and ace. Yen cashed the $Q$, then exited with the \& 10 to Lambardi's ace. $\uparrow$ K, spade ruff, and two more high hearts followed, Yen pitching the $\diamond 10$ at his first opportunity hoping to catch Pablo napping. But the $\diamond 10$ was too suspicious a spot card and Pablo cashed the $\diamond A$ to bring home his game $;+420$.

On the other hand Wu was not quite up to the play in $4 \Upsilon$. Armstrong led the 2 to the queen and ace and Wu played a heart to the king and ace. Callaghan cashed the K and exited with the Q . The K and a ruff were followed by a losing diamond finesse and Wu was one down;
-100. 12 more IMPs to England, now leading 44-26.

After Chinese Taipei picked up 1 IMP on an overtrick to cut England's lead to 17, this little gut tester came along...

| Bd: 15 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: South | - 8 |  |  |
| Vul: N/S | $\bigcirc$ AQ9832 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ KQ8 |  |  |
|  | - K63 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - KQ5 | - J1043 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ J76 | $\bigcirc 5$ |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ J109 | $\diamond 76543$ |  |  |
| - AJ108 | - Q92 |  |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | ^ A9762 |  |  |
|  | - K104 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A2 |  |  |
|  | ¢ 754 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  |  |  | 14 |
| Pass | 28 | Pass | 48 |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5® |
| Pass | 68 | All Pass |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| 18(1) | 18 | Pass | $2{ }^{*}{ }^{*}$ |
| Pass | 49 | All Pass |  |
| (1) $5+$ clubs | or (1-4-4) | or balanced |  |

Senior-Lambardi had no trouble bouncing into $6 \bigcirc$ via Blackwood, and when Lee led a club there was little to the subsequent play.

When Chen decided to pass with the South hand his side's slam hopes were substantially diminished. Still, there was no reason for Wu to sign off so precipitously once South showed a good hand for hearts. After all, even a modest holding like sxxxx $\vee J 10 x x \diamond A x x \& A x$ would make $6 \checkmark$ a favorite (after West's opening bid). Being only in $4 \bigcirc$ Wu drew trumps and played safe for ten tricks, making +450 in the process. 13 more IMPs to England, leading now 54-27.

With pushes on Boards 16 and 18 and a mere
overtrick IMP on Board 17, Chinese Taipei still trailed England 28-57. Then...

| Bd: 19 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: South | - A10732 |  |  |
| Vul: E/W | $\bigcirc$ Q62 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ KQ |  |  |
|  | * K105 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - 195 | - K4 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ KJ1075 | $\bigcirc$ A9 |  |  |
| $\diamond 976$ | $\diamond 10832$ |  |  |
| - J6 | - AQ872 |  |  |
| South |  |  |  |
|  | - Q86 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 843$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ AJ54 |  |  |
|  | + 943 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Yen | Senior | Lee | Lambardi |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| Pass | 1NT | All Pass |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Callaghan | Wu | Armstrong | Chen |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| Pass | 14 | Pass | 24 |
| Pass | Pass | 2NT(1) | Pass |
| $3 \diamond^{*}$ | All Pass |  |  |
| (1) Scramb | le: minor | or red suits |  |

Lee led the $2\left(3^{\text {rd }}\right.$ and $\left.5^{\text {th }}\right)$ to the jack and king and Senior tried a sort of Statue of Liberty play by exiting the 10 . Lee cashed out his clubs, Yen discouraging in diamonds (upside down), then pitching a low spade and low diamond, while Senior pitched the 3 and $\uparrow$. Lee exited safely with a diamond. Senior won the queen, overtook the $\diamond K$, and tried the jack (pitching the 10), only to find the suit not splitting. He then threw Lee in with the fourth diamond while he pitched a low heart, and now the defense could cash out the hearts for two down (Yen pitched one of his hearts on the fourth diamond), -100 .

Having already established himself as the man of action, Armstrong dusted off his balancing act and drove poor Callaghan to the three level in diamonds. While they found their secondbest fit, their honor holding in the trump suit left more than a little to be desired. The defense
took the obvious five tricks for one down; -100 . 5 IMPs to Chinese Taipei, 33-57.

The final deal saw Chinese Taipei pick up 1 overtrick IMP to close the Brits' lead to 23.

The match ended with England ahead 57-34, $20-10$ in VPs, placing them in the $3{ }^{\text {rd }}$ qualifying spot for the quarterfinal playoffs.

# The QuarterFinals of The NEC Cup 

by Eric Kokish

In the expected nail-biting finish to the Swiss, three tied for $6^{\text {th }}-8^{\text {th }}$ with 132 VP , with several ties at 131 and 130 to create nightmares for the non-qualifiers. E-bridge, the easy winners, chose Naito, a surprise (to others but not to them) qualifier. Sweden selected Canada and England opted for India, leaving Mavromichalis to play USA. For the first half of the 40-board quarterfinals, we will focus on the match between Sweden and Canada, two four-man teams.

First Half (Boards 1-20):

| Bd: 1 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: North | A A10875 |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc$ J3 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ Q3 |  |  |
|  | * AQJ2 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - KQJ |  | ¢ 963 |  |
| $\bigcirc$ A10954 |  | $\bigcirc \mathrm{KQ}$ |  |
| $\diamond$ J65 |  | $\diamond$ K842 |  |
| \& 94 |  | - K1063 |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | - 42 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc 876$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A1097 |  |  |
|  | - 875 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
|  | 19 | Pass | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2** | Pass |
| $2 \diamond(1)$ | Pass | 2NT A | All Pass |
| (1) Minimum |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan |  | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
|  | Weolpert | Pass | 1NT* |
| Pass | 24 | Pass | 29(1) |
| Pass | 24 | All Pass |  |
| (1) Puppet | to 24 |  |  |

Darren Wolpert, in 24, had no chance, even after two high hearts and a club shift around to his tenace. He finished two down; -100.

Kamel Fergani, in an exciting 2NT, got a low spade lead. He won and tried to sneak a diamond through, but dummy's king lost to the ace and the defenders cleared spades, Peter Fredin discarding the $\%$. Having failed miserably to score the $\diamond K$, Fergani tried his luck with clubs, and Magnus Lindkvist, thinking of extra undertricks, put in the $\boldsymbol{e} \mathrm{J}$. Fergani won the king, issued a silent prayer to The Great Shuffler, cashed the $9 K$, and overtook the $\triangle Q$. LOUD was the fall of the jack; +120. 1 remarkable IMP to Canada.

| Bd: 2 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: East | ¢ KQ973 |  |  |
| Vul: N/S | $\bigcirc$ AKQ87 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$--- |  |  |
|  | * A108 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - A1084 | 4 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 65$ | $\bigcirc 942$ |  |  |
| $\diamond$ J82 | $\diamond$ K10743 |  |  |
| - J743 | K952 |  |  |
| South |  |  |  |
|  | - 652 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ J103 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ AQ965 |  |  |
|  | * Q6 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
|  |  | 2¢(1) | Pass |
| 4* | $4 \diamond^{*}$ | Pass | 48 |
| Pass | 5\% | Dbl | 50 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |


| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan | Wolpert | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
|  |  | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 14 | Pass | 24* |
| Pass | 30 | Pass | 4, |
| Pass | 52 | Pass | 5 |
| Pass | 50 | Pass | 5 |
| Pass | 64 | All Pass |  |

Jan van Cleeff, please pick up the white courtesy phone. A Mr. Kokish is calling to apologize for depicting you as the ultimate cowboy. He says that he forgot about his great and good friend from La Belle Province, a certain Nicolas L'Ecuyer, who dearly loves his toys. As you can see from the auction in the Closed Room, it's easy to get too high with the N/S cards on your own, but there is something subtly appealing about the notion of reaching 4* with these two powerful E/W hands before North has had a chance to speak. Can North afford to bid over 4ワ? All my instincts tell me that the answer is no, but it's easy to see that slam may still be possible, as North has not yet shown everything he happens to hold. Fergani led a club against 59 , ducked to the king. L'Ecuyer switched to the A and got a second round ruff for one down; -100.

To my jaundiced eyes, the South hand looks like an easy maximum raise to $2 \boldsymbol{4}$, but many of my Canadian friends tell me that Drury starts with a constructive raise. If that is so, and if Jurek Czyzowicz's 44 was indeed "fast arrival," then it's not without risk for North to keep bidding, especially if $3 \checkmark$ showed a slaminterested five-five with good suits. Still, it's human to try again. By now, Czyzowicz felt he could bid $5 \diamond$ with a clear conscience, but the rest of the auction suggests that Wolpert was headed for slam in any case. PO Sundelin was going to lead from a king on this auction and chose diamonds, the suit in which declarer had no real choice. The $\diamond Q$ won, and with no club loser, prospects were much better for declarer. A spade to the king held, and with two heart entries to dummy Wolpert could have neutralized West's trump holding. But he led the second spade to his queen and so went one down; -100 . No swing.

The Canadian pair in the Open Room must
have reflected that on some days it can be difficult to earn a living. Two other pairs in the quarterfinals (Shivdasani/Hara and Senior/ Lambardi) attempted 6s and neither of them made it. Sam Lev and Justin Hackett, in 54 and 49 respectively, both took 12 tricks. Once the $\Phi A$ doesn't come up from West on the second round the only relevant holds are singletonjack and jack-ten doubleton. It's really a restricted choice situation.

| Bd: 5 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dlir: North | - KJ1095 |  |  |
| Vul: N/S | $\bigcirc 987$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond 1042$ |  |  |
|  | - 75 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - 7 |  | - 8632 |  |
| $\bigcirc$ AKJ4 |  | $\bigcirc 10652$ |  |
| $\checkmark$ AQ75 |  | - K98 |  |
| - A1093 |  | -62 |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | - AQ4 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ Q3 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ J63 |  |  |
|  | * KQJ84 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
|  | Pass | Pass | 1NT |
| Dbl | 24 | Pass(1) | Pass |
| Dbl | Pass | 30 | Pass |
| 40 | All Pass |  |  |
| (1) Alerted by West as forcing |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan | Wolpert | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
|  | Pass | Pass | 1 NT |
| Dbl | $2 \bigcirc^{*}$ | Pass | 2 |
| Db | Pass | $2 \mathrm{NT}^{*}$ | Pass |
| $3{ }^{*}$ | Pass | 39 | All Pass |

It would be interesting to know exactly what the two E/W sequences are supposed to mean. On the face of it L'Ecuyer's 30 could be treated as constructive, with 2NT as some sort of weak takeout or lebensohl extension. Sundelin's sequence seems to reflect the other side of that coin. That's only one way to look at these auctions, however. Perhaps the best approach is to treat 2NT as a scramble for the right strain rather than a weakness toy. In this scenario, Sundelin's scramble into the highest ranking unbid suit over the lowest would
suggest invitational values, and in that case Sylvan could bid game. In any case this type of sequence is not uncommon and it's worth whatever time you put into it. Both declarers took 11 tricks, +450 and +200 . 6 IMPs to Canada, 8-0.


Lindkvist got out for one down in $3 \checkmark$ on the Q lead when the defenders never broke spades and got themselves endplayed:; -50 .

Sundelin made an overtrick in $2 \diamond$ on a heart lead to the ace, when the defenders played three rounds of trumps; +110. 2 IMPs to Sweden, 2-8.

| Bd: 7 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: South | 4 K53 |  |  |
| Vul: Both | $\bigcirc 53$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K873 |  |  |
|  | d 8432 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| Q QJ10642 | - 98 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 107$ | $\checkmark$ A9842 |  |  |
| $\diamond$ Q42 | $\diamond$ J95 |  |  |
| \& Q5 | * A107 |  |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | $\triangle$ A7 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ KQJ6 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ A106 |  |  |
|  | * KJ96 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
|  |  |  | 19* |
| 24 | Pass | Pass | Dbl |
| Pass | $3 \diamond^{*}$ | All Pass |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan | Wolpert | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
|  |  |  | 1\% |
| Pass | $1 \diamond$ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3NT All | Pass |  |

Perhaps 3NT is the normal contract, but it's not a particularly good one. Czyzowicz went down two without doing anything particularly good or bad, ducking the first spade;-200.Fredin's 1 \& opening was two-way, 11-13 balanced or any $17+$, and his takeout double of 24 suggested the strong variety.

Although $3 \diamond$ suggested some values, Fredin had no interest in going further. The defenders had a chance to defeat the contract after Lindkvist led a club to the jack in the middle game, but they didn't take their club ruff and allowed declarer to draw trumps easily when West ruffed a high heart with a low trump; +110. 7 IMPs to Sweden, ahead now 9-7.


Johan Sylan led a spade against $3 \diamond$ and the queen won. Czyzowicz lost three trumps and a heart for +110 . Lindkvist could have responded 1 s to show an unbalanced $8+$ with at least four hearts but preferred the economy of 10 , which permitted Fredin to start relaying with the upper-range $1 *$. By the time he found out what his partner held he knew that game might not be so good, but there was no way to stop after the initial positive. 3NT was not without hope but with the diamonds as they were, there was no chance on a heart lead to the eight and queen. Fredin got out for one down; -100. 5 IMPs to Canada, 13-9.



The auction timed out badly for Canada in both rooms. Against 5* doubled, Wolpert led the จK, and Czyzowicz's suit-preference eight underscored the attractive diamond switch, which was essential to beat the contract; -100 . There was no defense to Fredin's 5®; +450. 8 IMPs to Sweden, back in front, 17-13.

Sometimes even the simplest hands can be exciting. Consider the events in the Open Room on the next deal...


| Bd: 12 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: West | - AKJ7 |  |  |
| Vul: N/S | $\bigcirc 1084$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ K85 |  |  |
|  | - Q62 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - 432 | 4 865 |  |  |
| - K73 | $\bigcirc$ AQ92 |  |  |
| $\diamond 10974$ | $\diamond 2$ |  |  |
| - 197 |  |  | 08543 |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | - Q109 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ J65 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ AQJ63 |  |  |
|  | - AK |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
| Pass | 10* | 18 |  |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | $2 \bigcirc(2)$ |
| Dbl | Rdbl(3) | Pass | $3 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 34 | Pass | 4* |
| All Pass |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan | Wolpert | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
| Pass | 14. | Pass | $1 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

PO led a club agaibst 3NT so Wolpert took the first 12 tricks; +690.

L'Ecuyer's enterprising 18 overcall created a special challenge for Lindkvist/Fredin, who soon discovered that they didn't have a heart guard. They handled the situation beautifully by wriggling into4s, the best game, even without the threat in hearts created by the intrepid Canadian East; +620 on a low heart lead from L'Ecuyer and 2 well-earned IMPs to Canada, 15-17.

"I can get you one in Bombay for 20 rupees."

| Bd: 14 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: East | - QJ53 |  |  |
| Vul: None | $\bigcirc$ AK5 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ J1043 |  |  |
|  | - J 2 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - A10 |  | - 98742 |  |
| ¢ J106 |  | $\bigcirc$ Q9 |  |
| $\diamond$ Q8765 |  | $\diamond$ A92 |  |
| + K94 |  | - AQ7 |  |
| South |  |  |  |
| - K6 |  |  |  |
| $\bigcirc 87432$ |  |  |  |
| $\diamond$ K |  |  |  |
| - 108653 |  |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
|  |  | $1 \times$ | Pass |
| 1NT* | All Pass |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan | Wolpert | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
|  |  | 10** | Pass |
| $2 \diamond$ | Pass | $3 \diamond$ | All Pass |

East had just the sort of hand that the semiforcing 1NT response envisions in its job description, and Fergani made two on a low diamond lead, ducking South's king; +120. Sylvan's $2 \diamond$ was not forcing and neither was PO's $3 \diamond$, but neither of those truths enabled Sylvan to avoid losing two trumps, two hearts and a spade for one down; -50. 5 IMPs to Canada, back in the lead, 20-17.

| Bd: 17 <br> DIr: North <br> Vul: None | North |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ¢ QJ9765 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ AK5 |  |
|  | $\diamond A K$ |  |
|  | * A6 |  |
| Westهـ K104 |  | East |
|  |  | - 82 |
| $\bigcirc$ Q1083 |  | $\bigcirc 94$ |
| $\left\lvert\,\right.$ |  | $\diamond 109875$ |
|  |  | * QJ102 |
|  | South |  |
|  | - A3 |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ J762 |  |
|  | $\diamond$ QJ43 |  |
|  | - K83 |  |


| Open Room |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
|  | 19** | Pass | $1 \mathrm{NT}(1)$ |
| Pass | 20** | Pass | $2 \diamond(2)$ |
| Pass | 20* | Pass | 30(3) |
| Pass | 4*(4) | Pass | 4-(5) |
| Pass 64 All Pass |  |  |  |
| (1) 8-12 balanced, not 4 |  |  |  |
| (2) 8-11 balanced, $4 \bigcirc$ |  |  |  |
| (3) 2443 |  |  |  |
| (4) RKCB for spades |  |  |  |
| (5) 10-11 HCP/1 key card |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan | Wolpert | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
|  | 14 | Pass | 1NT* |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass |  |

The North hand is particularly difficult for standard methods as it does not fit into any neat pigeonhole for an opening bid or rebid over the expected response of 1NT. Wolpert tried to solve his problem by raising to 3NT, but even if it simply showed "more than 2NT" (rather than long near-solid spades) it's hard to imagine South doing "the right thing"; +490.

In contrast, the North hand is ideal for systems employing a forcing club opening and here Lindkvist was able to learn quite a bit about his partner's hand before committing to slam; +980 . Played from the North side, East is likely to lead a club, after which 6s might well fail because of the bad diamond break, West returning a club when he wins the first or second spade. With South serendipitously on play, Fergani led a heart from strength and declarer could win to play ace and another spade. 10 IMPs to Sweden, back in the lead, 27-20.

In the other matches 64 was bid four times and made only once, by Lev/Blanchard. 6NT, meanwhile, is cold with the spades three-two.

In 64 on a club lead declarer goes down if he plays for diamonds four-three because his natural play in trumps is ace and another. West must win (not always so clear) and return a club, but that will often be the indicated play. If declarer wishes to cater to some different layouts, he might run the $\mathbf{Q} \mathrm{Q}$ after cashing the
$\diamond A K$. Now the position is not the same. If West wins and returns a club declarer can leave the A in dummy and try to cash a high diamond. West can ruff but declarer over-ruffs and returns to the $\Delta \mathrm{A}$ to draw trumps and cash the remaining diamond winner. That's all very nice but it's an inferior line and I would be surprised if that's how Lev made 6 $\boldsymbol{4}$. How about this line: win the club, cash the $\diamond A K$, lead a spade to the ace and try to cash a high diamond. That makes the contract on this layout because the short diamonds are with king-third of spades.

| Bd: 18 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: East | ¢ KQ4 |  |  |
| Vul: N/S | $\bigcirc$ A98 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ AJ10 |  |  |
|  | \& J 976 |  |  |
| West |  | East |  |
| - 62 |  | ¢ 1085 |  |
| $\bigcirc$ KQ43 |  | $\bigcirc 107652$ |  |
| $\diamond 65$ |  | $\diamond 43$ |  |
| - K10852 |  | \& AQ3 |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | ¢ AJ973 |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ KQ9872 |  |  |
|  | * 4 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
|  |  | Pass | $1 \diamond(1)$ |
| Pass | 1NT(2) | Pass | 3\%(3) |
| Pass | $3 \diamond^{*}$ | Pass | 4\%(4) |
| Dbl | $4 \bigcirc(5)$ | Pass | $5 \diamond(6)$ |
| Pass | $6 \diamond$ | All Pass |  |
| (1) 11-16, 4+ /unbalanced |  |  |  |
| (2) Game-forcing relay |  |  |  |
| (3) 4252 or 5 $66 \diamond$ |  |  |  |
| (4) 5161 |  |  |  |
| (5) RKCB for diamonds |  |  |  |
| (6) 2 key cards plus the $\diamond$ Q, no $\Delta \mathrm{K}$ |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan | Wolpert | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
|  |  | Pass | 19 |
| Pass | 24 | Pass | $2 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 24 | Pass | $3 \diamond$ |
| Pass | 38 | Pass | 34 |
| Pass | $4 \diamond$ | Pass | 49 |
| Pass | 5 | Pass | 64 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

The Swedish auction is much more impressive
than the Canadian sequence, but Wolpert/ Czyzowicz coped pretty well after the 1s opening and 2 response, both systemic choices.

It is only our dedication to objective reporting that forces us to reveal that Lev/Blanchard played the N/S cards in 3NT.

| Bd: 19 | North |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DIr: South | ¢ 4983 |  |  |
| Vul: E/W | ¢ QJ642 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond 9$ |  |  |
|  | \& 1092 |  |  |
| West | East |  |  |
| - QJ6 | - K10542 |  |  |
| $\bigcirc$ K3 | $\bigcirc 1095$ |  |  |
| $\diamond$ KJ8 | $\diamond 64$ |  |  |
| - AJ874 | 2 KQ6 |  |  |
|  | South |  |  |
|  | $\pm 7$ |  |  |
|  | $\bigcirc$ A87 |  |  |
|  | $\diamond$ AQ107532 |  |  |
|  | \& 53 |  |  |
| Open Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Fergani | Lindkvist | L'Ecuyer | Fredin |
|  |  |  | $1 \diamond^{*}$ |
| Pass | 18 | 14 | $2 \diamond(1)$ |
| 20* | Pass | 24 | $3 \diamond$ |
| 3NT | Dbl All | Pass |  |
| (1) Generally denies three hearts |  |  |  |
| Closed Room |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Sylvan | Wolpert | Sundelin | Czyzowicz |
|  |  |  | $1 \diamond$ |
| 1NT | Dbl | 20* | Pass |
| 24 | Pass | Pass | $3 \diamond$ |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl* | Pass |
| 34 | All Pass |  |  |

Curiously, Fergani, who did not overcall 1NT, reached 3NT while Sylvan, who took the plunge, finished in 3 . 4 is excellent, but the diamond ruff beats it. 3NT was more attractive to West because South seemed to have only two hearts, but here Fredin won the diamond lead and switched to ace and another heart. Fergani took the diamond finesse for an eighth winner and in the end knew that North held the 4A, so he cashed out for one down; -200. Sylvan was +140 in 34 and Sweden gained 8 IMPs, 35-22.


The Swedish methods in the Closed Room made the weaker hand declarer in 44 with a directed club lead from North. Czyzowicz took the 10 with his queen and switched to the $\diamond$ Q. Sylvan won in dummy, cashed the $\Delta K$ and led the $\& \mathrm{~K}$ to South's ace. Declarer won the diamond continuation with the king and played a third diamond, North discarding a heart. Dummy scored the $\uparrow 7$, cashed the $\uparrow Q$, took the $\vee A K$, and played the high club, discarding his heart loser as North ruffed with his trump trick. An easy +620 .

L'Ecuyer, playing from the strong side, got a surprise diamond lead after Lindkvist doubled West's transfer to direct a heart lead. Declarer won the king in dummy to lead a club to the jack and queen. Fredin continued with his lowest diamond, in the process tipping off declarer about the location of the A. L'Ecuyer won the $\diamond A$, cashed the $\uparrow K$, and was in a position similar to the one faced by Sylvan. But rather than play a high club to knock out the ace, he cashed the $₫ Q$, following low from dummy for the second time. Now he played a club honor and South won to switch to hearts,

Declarer won and led a low club, ruffing with the eight. Lindkvist over-ruffed with the jack and played the $\triangle Q$ to knock out declarer's entry. North ruffed declarer's high club behind dummy and L'Ecuyer was one down; -100. Had he unblocked the 8 or 9 he would have had an entry in the $\mathbf{7}$ if North over-ruffed the low club that set up the suit. And if he didn't over-ruff, declarer would ruff a diamond with the $\$ 7$ and play a high club to discard a heart.

12 IMPs to Sweden, who won the exciting first half by 25 IMPs, 47-22.

In the other matches, England was well ahead of India, 68-25, and e-bridge were having their way with NAITO, 75-32. The closest match, as expected, was Mavromichalis vs USA, with the Europeans ahead by 12, 55-43.

Images of Our Game

"l've never had to count this high before."

"Some times it makes you just want to scream."

"No, they don't match."

"That's fine, and one for my friend."

"Three inches to the right and it would have gone in the cup."

"A long, hot bath would be nice."

"Are you ready for this...?"

"We qualified, I can’t believe it. Kiss me."

P.O. Sundelin

"P.O. the technician"

Everyone knows Per Olof Sundelin as PO (or, more formally, P.O. or Peo). It is rumored that he was named PO to prepare him for the hard knocks in life and to deal with the fact that others, despite his undeniable charm, would be telling him on occasion to simply $\mathrm{p}_{-1} \mathrm{o}_{-}$. Okay, so it's only a rumor.

PO has been around since September 29, 1937, when he was born in Gävle, a small town 65 miles north of Stockholm. That would make him 64, for those of you wondering whether he will require needing and feeding. Some years after his birth, PO graduated from the Stockholm School of Economics and when he works these days, he is a self-employed trouble-shooting computer consultant.

A WBF World Life Master, PO played in his first European Championship in 1963, and has been competing at the highest level ever since. Over the years, he has also built a substantial collection of Bronze medals. He has four times finished third in World Championship events the 1988 Olympiad and the Bermuda Bowls in 1977, 1987 and 1991. He has a complete collection of European Teams Championship medals, having won in 1977 and 1987, finished second in 1991, and third in 1989.

He has twice won the Sunday Times Invitational Pairs (which became the Macallan), in 1978 and 1981, playing with Tjolpe Flodqvist. He has
two North American titles to his credit, the more notable one being the 1984 Life Masters Pairs playing with the late Peter Pender. He also won the Nordic Teams Championship (in 1984) on the only occasion he competed in the event.

PO's only hobby is bridge, which tells you a little bit about how strange he is. When pressed, however, he admitted that he gets regular exercise on the squash court, and he also confessed an affinity for Thai food, while adding that he was a hopeless cook.

Although PO is interested in all aspects of the game (he is a member of the WBF Systems Committee and enjoys theoretical systemic discussions), he is perhaps best known for his card play. In his prime, he was widely referred to as "PO the technician." The danger in such a flattering label is that no technician is always in his prime, but PO is still a superb analyst.

He lives in Stockholm. His wife, Jill Mellström, who has also played for Sweden several times, spends most of her time at her boxer kennel outside the city, where she also breeds Holy Birma cats (which PO says he's told are not Burmese). She also produces user documentation for computer systems, writes textbooks on PC programs, and teaches. Their daughter Tina, the last of their three children to leave the fold, is now attending the University of Toronto.


Johan Sylvan

Johan was born in Sweden in 1960. He lives in Stockholm with his wife and two daughters.

As a junior, Johan twice won the Nordic Junior Teams title. Since 1993, Johan's regular partner has been the aforementioned living legend of Swedish bridge - PO the technician. It was also in that year that Johan made his first appearance at the European Teams Championships. Their Swedish team enjoyed a good run in the Rosenblum teams in Lille in 1998 before bowing to Brazil in the quarterfinals. Johan was a member of the


Magnus Lindkvist

Magnus can stake a strong claim on the title of Sweden's Mr. Bronze, with six third-place finishes in World Championships. He came close to winning his first NABC title in 2000, but his team lost the Spingold final in Anaheim.

Magnus was born in 1958 in Karlskrona, Sweden. He now lives in Hoor, in southern Sweden, where he is a bridge teacher, writer, travel consultant, and the Editor of

## Johan Sylvan

Swedish team that competed at the 2000 World Teams Olympiad in Maastricht and also the Swedish team that competed in the 2001 European Teams Championship in Tenerife.

Johan/PO combined with Bjorn Fallenius/ Magnus Lindkvist to finish second in last year's NEC Cup.

Away from the bridge table, Johan enjoys cooking, reading novels, travel, and all types of games.

## Magnus Lindkvist

Bridgetidningen, the world's second-oldest bridge magazine. Magnus has accumulated a large collection of Bronze medals: two in the Bermuda Bowl (1987 in Jamaica and 1991 in Yokohama), two in the Rosenblum Cup (1986 in Miami Beach and 1998 in Lille), one in the World Teams Olympiad (1988 in Venice), and one in the World Open Pairs (1998 in Lille).

He also has some medals that are not Bronze.

He won the European Teams Championship in 1987 in Brighton and finished second in the same event in 1999 in Malta. It goes without saying that he also has a Bronze medal from the European Teams (from 1989) and another from the European Open Pairs (1997 in The Hague). Magnus is a WBF World Life Master.

In 1988, Magnus wonthe Cavendish Invitational Pairs playing with Bjorn Fallenius. His partner has been young Peter Fredin since 1996, when they began their career in representative events by winning the Nordic Teams.


Peter Fredin

Peter was born in 1969 in Halmstad, Sweden, but moved to Malmo in 1999, where he now lives with his fiancee Susanne. He is a professional bridge player who believes that he will soon be one of the world's greatest players.

Swedish bridge can look forward to a bright future if the first four years of the partnership of Peter and Magnus Lindkvist is any indication. They began by winning the 1996 Nordic Championship and represented Sweden at the Rhodes Teams Olympiad that year. They have since won Bronze medals at three major championships - the 1997 European Pairs in The Hague, and both the World Open Pairs and the Rosenblum Teams in Lille, in 1998.

Peter won both the Nordic and the Swedish Junior Championships (the Pairs five years in a row) before forming his partnership with Magnus. In addition to their joint major successes, Peter also has a growing collection

In addition to hundreds of articles, Magnus has collaborated (with long-time teammate Mats Nilsland and Anders Wirgren) on four books about expert Swedish (Scanian) methods and has just completed a book on his own. Magnus has enjoyed productive partnerships with Fallenius, Hans Gothe, Johan Ebenius and Goran Lindberg, among others.

Away from bridge, his hobbies include computers, movies, sports and all sorts of games. His son, born in 1995, also keeps him busy...but very happy.

## Peter Fredin

of Swedish national titles to his name, including a string of early successes with Magnus Eriksson (his previous Magnus).

Peter won the China Cup in 1999 and the Icelandic Open in 2000. Away from the table, he enjoys listening to music and is interested in all sports, particularly golf.

His most memorable bridge moment came at the 1998 Rosenblum..."Winning our quarterfinal match against the Hackett team in Lille...I made four hearts on the very last board on VuGraph to earn a
double-figure swing and we won the match by just 8 IMPs."

And the worst..."Losing to Bermuda at my first Olympiad, in Rhodes in 1996. A win in that match would have left Sweden well-placed to qualify for the knockout stage."




[^0]:    "What time is it in Moscow, Andrei?"

[^1]:    "You know, Makiko, that must taste better than it smells."

