



NEC Bridge Festival

Wednesday, April 17, 2013
Bulletin Number 2

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Day One of the 2013 NEC Cup

At the end of Day One, the top qualifiers are all foreign teams led by Pheron (the Hacketts+Hanlon) with 63.41 VPs. (We don't know how good that score is either. Darn this new math.) Back about 5 VPs is Russia (Gromov, Gladys, Dubinin, Krasnosselski, Drijver, Brink) followed closely by the Aussie Youth (Howard, Hollands, Whibley, Milne) and Yeh Bros (Mr. Yeh, Shih, Chen, Furuta, Huang, Grace). Rounding out the top eight are the Bulgarian All Stars, Down Under, Italy Lavazza and Australia/India. Since Day One has never been a great predictor of who will eventually qualify we'll leave the prognostications to you, dear reader. The complete Day One rankings are shown below; individual results for Matches 1-4 are on page 5.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day One (Four Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Pharon.....	63.41	17	Sakurai.....	46.03	33	AYB 56.....	34.69
2	Russia.....	58.54	18	NANIWADA.....	45.86	34	Kacho Fugetsu. . .	33.29
3	Australia Youth. . .	55.43	19	Golden Bull.	45.36	35	Iza Yokohama IV..	32.10
4	Yeh Bros.	55.19	20	USA.....	43.91	36	Seoul.....	31.44
5	Bulgarian All Stars.	54.96	21	sawa sawa.....	42.91	37	Morimura.....	29.39
6	Down Under.	54.77	22	SARA.	42.74	38	Hammer.	28.18
7	Italy Lavazza.	53.19	23	JAPAN Women....	41.79	39	Etsuko Naito.	27.82
8	Australia/India. . . .	50.45	24	England.....	40.24	40	ESPERANZA.....	25.86
9	Mixed.....	50.14	25	Verdure.....	40.05	41	Setsu Gekka.	24.53
10	Beauchamp.....	49.60	26	NEDUK.	39.86	42	JAPAN Youth.	24.33
11	PolUS.	48.88	27	Kitty's.....	39.38	43	KinKi.	23.78
12	NAITO.....	48.79	28	Korea/Japan.	37.54	44	River Side.	23.23
13	Oz Players.....	48.54	29	Friends.	36.78	45	akage.	22.85
14	Yamada.....	48.50	30	LAS FLORES.	36.28	46	Surfrider.	19.68
15	India.	46.58	31	Thailand/Japan. . . .	35.89	47	LANDOLT.....	16.71
16	Otvosi.	46.21	32	Aces & Deuces. . . .	34.71			

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 18th NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/tabid/662/Default.aspx>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

NEC Cup 2013: Conditions of Contest

A 12-round Swiss of 14-board matches will qualify the top 8 teams to the Knockout phase; no playbacks.

V.P. Scale: New WBF 14-board scale (20-point scale, continuous and given to two decimal places).

Seating Rights: Blind seating 10 minutes before the start of match.

KO-Phase Seating: The winner of a coin toss has the choice of seating in either of the two 16-board segments of the quarter- or semi-finals. In the four 16-board segments of the final, the choices will alternate over segments.

Swiss Pairings: First-round Swiss matches were made by randomly pairing each team in the top half with a team from the bottom half.

Home and Visiting: 1st numbered team sits N/S in the open room, E/W in the closed room.

Tie-Breaks: At the end of the Swiss, ties will be broken by IMP quotient. If more than two teams are involved, WBF 2008 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 ½-IMP carryover.

Systems: No HUM or Brown Sticker methods are permitted in this event. However, pairs may prepare written defenses against a two-level opening bid in a minor that shows a weak two-bid in either major, with or without the option of strong hand types. These defenses are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention cards.

Length of Matches: 2 hours will be allotted for each 14-board segment (or 2 hours and 15 minutes for each 16-board segment of the KOs). In addition, a 5-minute grace period will be allotted to each team. Overtime and slow play penalties as per WBF 2012 Conditions of Contest.

Appeals: The WBF Code of Practice will be in effect. The Chief Director will have 12C1c authority. Appeals found to be without merit may incur a penalty of up to 3 VPs.

Match Scoring: Bridgемate scoring terminals will be used. Match results should 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 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4th-8th group. The team finishing 3rd will then have their choice of any one of the remaining teams. In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

Security: No player may leave the playing area during play without permission, due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online Broadcast.

Smoking: Once play in a qualifying-round match or a KO-round session starts, smoking is prohibited at ALL times (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom), until the player completes the play of all boards in the match or session. (For those wishing to smoke at other times, smoking rooms are located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.) Automatic penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director as follows: Qualifying Swiss — 1 VP for the 1st offense, 3 VPs for all subsequent offenses; KO — 3imps for the 1st offense, 10imps for all subsequent offenses.

Screen Hesitations: When a delay in the return of the tray is suspected, a player on the opposite side of the screen must be the first to call attention to it (by summoning the Director). In case of dispute the call from the wrong side will be ignored, but in situations where the wrong side calls or a late call is made and there is no dispute the Director may accept the fact of the delayed call.

Electronic Equipment: Any and all electronic equipment capable of receiving or transmitting information to/from outside the playing room (e.g., cell phones, iPads and the like) must be turned off at all times from the beginning of a match/session until the player has completed all boards in the match/session and left the playing area. The Director may authorize exceptions in emergency situations. Penalties for violations are the same as for smoking violations.

Photography/BBO Vugraph: By entering the event, players (and kibitzers) agree to authorize still and/or video photography by the JCBL and also to appear on BBO VuGraph whenever requested by the Director.

Team Rosters: 18th NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	Down Under:	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Peter Gill, Martin Reid, Peter Newell
2	USA:	Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue, Justin Lall, Ishmael Del'Monte
3	Australia Youth:	Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Michael Whibley, Liam Milne
4	India:	Subhash Gupta, Arun Jain, Manas Mukherji, Sumit Mukherji, Subir Majumdar, Debrata Majumdar
5	Pharon:	Paul Hackett, Tom Hanlon, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett
6	Italy Lavazza:	Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa, Maria Teresa Lavazza
7	NEDUK:	David Bakhshi, David Gold, Jan Jansma, Ricco van Prooijen
8	Mixed:	Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Michael Kwiecien, Jacek Pszczola
9	Oz Players:	Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson
10	PolUS:	Michael Nowosadzki, Dominik Fillipowicz, Jacek Kalita, Jessica Piasfsky
11	Yeh Bros:	Chen Yeh (captain), JY Shih, Dawei Chen, Kazuo Furuta, Patrick Huang, Grace Lin
12	Russia:	Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnosselski, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink
13	Beauchamp:	Bruce Neill, Kim Morrison, Nathan van Jole, David Beauchamp, Michael Ware, Simon Hinge
14	Australia/India:	Magnus Moren, Neville Francis, Pranjal Chakradeo, Ajit Chakradeo
15	Hammer:	Sung Kyunghae, Hwang Inryung, Chung Ilsub, Yang Sungae
16	Bulgarian All Stars:	Valio Kovachev, Vladislav Isporski, Hristo Hristov, Manol Iliev
17	Thailand/Japan:	Nophanai Niyomchoke, Arnond Rotrugsa, Tomohiro Kiyama, Tadahiro Kikuchi
18	England:	Sandra Penfold, Brian Senior, Nevena Senior, Roumen Trendafilov
19	JAPAN SARA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Masayuki Ino, Hideki Takano, Shugo Tanaka, Takeshi Niekawa
20	JAPAN Yamada:	Tadashi Yoshida, Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Makoto Hirata
21	JAPAN Women:	Kyoko Shimamura, Makiko Sato, Michiko Ono, Natsuko Nishida, Yuki Fukuyoshi, Akiko Yanagisawa
22	JAPAN Morimura:	Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Shunsuke Morimura, Tadashi Imakura, Masayuki Hayasaka
23	JAPAN ESPERANZA:	Haruko Koshi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Fumiko Kimura, Terumi Kubo, Minako Takahashi
24	JAPAN NAITO:	Ryoga Tanaka, Sakiko Naito, Ayako Miyakuni, Kenji Miyakuni
25	JAPAN Kitty's:	Yoko Nenohi, Kyoko Toyofuku, Yoshiko Sakaguchi, Kumiko Matsuo, Toshiko Kaho
26	JAPAN sawa sawa:	Motomi Shirogane, Naoko Orihara, Michiko Iwahashi, Yumiko Oda, Ayako Shimazaki, Etsuko Takano
27	JAPAN Golden Bull:	Hiroaki Miura, Hiroya Abe, Kazuko Takahashi, Takako Fujimoto, Sumiko Sugino
28	JAPAN AYB 56:	Misae Kato, Yasuyo Iida, Takako Nakatani, Kimiko Kamakari, Atsuko Katsumata, Shoko Somemiya
29	JAPAN Setsu Gekka:	Junko Tsubaki, Kazuko Kawashima, Akiko Miyata, Yoko Tokushige, Kazuko Okamoto, Miyako Miyazaki
30	JAPAN Etsuko Naito:	Etsuko Naito, Yukiko Umezu, Midori Sakamoto, Nobuko Setoguchi, Setsuko Moriyama, Yoshihisa Konishi
31	JAPAN Surfrider:	Chieko Ichikawa, Kuniko Saito, Junko Den, Atsuko Kurita, Kei Nemoto
32	Verdure:	Katsumi Takahashi, Lee Bok Hee, Osamu Iiyama, Shunichi Haga, Yoichiro Kurihara
33	JAPAN Iza Yokohama IV:	Osami Kimura, Yoshiaki Aida, Setsuko Kimura, Harue Iemori, Chisato Kiriya, Yoko Shimominami
34	Seoul:	Hiroki Yokoi, Hye Young Kim, Hyemin Oh, Yasuhiro Shimizu, Nobuyuki Hayashi
35	JAPAN Kacho Fugetsu:	Akiko Miwa, Kunio Kodaira, Teruo Miyazaki, Makoto Nomura, Masako Otsuka
36	JAPAN River Side:	Yumiko Kawakami, Hiroko Tanaka, Masakatsu Sugino, Toyohiko Ozawa, Ryoichi Yasuhara, Toshiharu Hirose
37	JAPAN Otvosi:	Mizuko Tan, Akio Kurokawa, Hiroko Sekiyama, Kazuo Saeki, Yoshinori Kurachi, Ervin Otvosi
38	JAPAN Sakurai:	Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Takehiko Tada
39	JAPAN LAS FLORES:	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Yoko Komuro, Shimako Yaji
40	JAPAN NANIWADA:	Toshiro Nose, Masaru Naniwada, Hikoe Enomoto, Hisami Kataoka, Hideo Togawa
41	JAPAN LANDOLT:	Kyoko Kadono, Mitsuko Matsushima, Toru Amano, Takumi Seshimo
42	JAPAN Friends:	Yoko Saito, Mamiko Odaira, Koichi Onishi, Taiko Bando, Yumiko Kichise, Mitsuko Suyama
43	JAPAN akage:	Yukiko Hoshi, Megumi Takasaka, Yoko Yanagisawa, Yuko Kimura
44	JAPAN KinKi:	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka
45	Korea/Japan:	Akiko Kawabata, Keisuke Akama, Kim Yoonkyung, Park Jungyoon
46	JAPAN Aces & Deuces:	Masaru Yoshida, Takeshi Higashiguchi, Kim SunYoung, Tina Cho
47	JAPAN Youth:	Takashi Sugimoto, Yuki Harada, Tomoaki Matsunawa, Takahiro Honda, Tomoaki Nakanishi

**Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature Oz Players (9) vs JAPAN Yamada (20)
and Beauchamp (13) vs NAITO (24)**

Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

(An explanation for foreign players)

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

All side games at the NEC Bridge Festival (the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup) are restricted to "List C" conventions as described below. The use of the Multi-2♦ is strictly prohibited and will be subject to penalty.

LIST C (Yokohama IMP Pairs/Asuka Cup)

Opening Bids

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

Responses and Rebids

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

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

Competitive Bids

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

Carding

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

LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

Tuesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 1				Match 2				Match 3				Match 4			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	35	43	18.53	18.53	2	33	16.88	35.41	16	26	10.33	45.74	6	31	9.03	54.77
2	29	50	18.76	18.76	1	4	3.12	21.88	25	53	14.19	36.07	10	23	7.84	43.91
3	28	45	11.28	11.28	22	48	19.18	30.46	7	47	16.55	47.01	12	9	8.42	55.43
4	39	46	17.04	17.04	10	40	11.28	28.32	6	9	4.54	32.86	18	29	13.72	46.58
5	41	65	19.91	19.91	9	31	10.33	30.24	46	65	18.98	49.22	11	37	14.19	63.41
6	32	57	19.47	19.47	11	42	7.29	26.76	4	30	15.46	42.22	1	34	10.97	53.19
7	25	39	12.97	12.97	47	51	17.63	30.6	3	20	3.45	34.05	8	15	5.81	39.86
8	38	54	16.72	16.72	13	51	16.72	33.44	11	4	2.51	35.95	7	30	14.19	50.14
9	31	60	20.0	20.0	5	30	9.67	29.67	12	11	2.66	32.33	46	37	16.21	48.54
10	23	47	17.34	17.34	4	36	8.72	26.06	18	31	10.66	36.72	2	30	12.16	48.88
11	44	72	19.18	19.18	6	51	12.71	31.89	8	37	17.49	49.38	5	22	5.81	55.19
12	27	43	10.97	10.97	42	57	18.65	29.62	9	43	17.34	46.96	3	14	11.58	58.54
13	43	44	16.21	16.21	8	23	3.28	19.49	17	48	18.53	38.02	20	26	11.58	49.60
14	30	36	15.06	15.06	37	24	8.42	23.48	21	55	17.63	41.11	16	20	9.34	50.45
15	34	25	14.64	14.64	16	8	0.01	14.65	32	38	12.71	27.36	40	21	0.82	28.18
16	26	38	14.64	14.64	15	64	19.99	34.63	1	25	9.67	44.30	14	22	10.66	54.96
17	33	43	14.42	14.42	46	5	4.74	19.16	13	7	1.47	20.63	44	35	15.26	35.89
18	24	47	13.96	13.96	20	33	10.66	24.62	10	29	9.34	33.96	4	16	6.28	40.24
19	37	23	4.15	4.15	30	20	5.36	9.51	29	29	13.23	22.74	43	65	20.00	42.74
20	36	33	12.97	12.97	18	31	9.34	22.31	37	45	17.77	40.08	13	21	8.42	48.50
21	42	36	9.67	9.67	27	55	17.04	26.71	14	21	2.37	29.08	39	40	12.71	41.79
22	40	40	12.44	12.44	3	1	0.82	13.26	39	12	3.97	17.23	36	39	12.16	29.39
23	10	15	2.66	2.66	35	16	3.79	6.45	3w	21	4.15	10.60	31	38	15.26	25.86
24	18	33	6.04	6.04	33	34	13.48	19.52	30	34	14.42	33.94	45	48	14.85	48.79
25	7	29	7.03	7.03	36	32	15.26	22.29	2	38	5.81	28.10	42	13	11.28	39.38
26	16	21	5.36	5.36	34	15	5.15	10.51	31	33	15.06	25.57	30	43	17.34	42.91
27	12	40	9.03	9.03	21	25	2.96	11.99	33	42	17.91	29.9	28	36	15.46	45.36
28	3	41	8.72	8.72	40	31	8.72	17.44	47	29	12.71	30.15	27	15	4.54	34.69
29	2	7	1.24	1.24	44	31	6.52	7.76	19	18	6.77	14.53	3w	42	10.00	24.53
30	14	17	4.94	4.94	19	37	14.64	19.58	24	18	5.58	25.16	26	11	2.66	27.82
31	9	1	0.0	0.0	3w	22	10.0	10.00	26	14	4.94	14.94	23	18	4.74	19.68
32	6	7	0.53	0.53	3w	27	14.19	14.72	15	29	7.29	22.01	47	53	18.04	40.05
33	17	27	5.58	5.58	24	22	6.52	12.10	27	6	2.09	14.19	3w	58	17.91	32.10
34	15	8	5.36	5.36	26	33	14.85	20.21	45	29	8.72	28.93	38	22	2.51	31.44
35	1	2	1.47	1.47	23	41	16.21	17.68	40	42	12.16	29.84	37	20	3.45	33.29
36	20	23	7.03	7.03	25	12	4.74	11.77	42	21	3.62	15.39	22	32	7.84	23.23
37	19	46	15.85	15.85	14	29	11.58	27.43	20	10	2.23	29.66	35	47	16.55	46.21
38	8	26	3.28	3.28	39	34	10.0	13.28	44	42	15.26	28.54	34	55	17.49	46.03
39	4	16	2.96	2.96	38	34	10.0	12.96	22	36	16.03	28.99	21	31	7.29	36.28
40	22	32	7.56	7.56	28	35	11.28	18.84	35	35	7.84	26.68	15	68	19.18	45.86
41	5	10	0.09	0.09	3w	14	5.81	5.90	3w	32	8.72	14.62	3w	12	2.09	16.71
42	21	37	10.33	10.33	12	15	1.35	11.68	36	47	16.38	28.06	25	9	8.72	36.78
43	13	19	3.79	3.79	45	12	2.51	6.30	3w	52	16.55	22.85	19	6	0.00	22.85
44	11	25	0.82	0.82	29	43	13.48	14.30	38	22	4.74	19.04	17	15	4.74	23.78
45	3w	27	3.62	3.62	43	45	17.49	21.11	34	33	11.28	32.39	24	30	5.15	37.54
46	3w	40	14.64	14.64	17	25	15.26	29.90	5	20	1.02	30.92	9	12	3.79	34.71
47	3w	40	12.71	12.71	7	17	2.37	15.08	28	20	7.29	22.37	32	16	1.96	24.33

C-VP=Cumulative VPs; 3w=3 way

Match One: Down Under vs JAPAN Kacho Fugetsu

by Barry Rigal



Nunn



Kodaira



Hans



Miwa



Newell



Otsuka



Reid



Nomura

The defenders (plus Peter Gill) are on Vugraph for Match 1 playing Kacho Fugetsu. Newell-Reid play a strongish club with light transfer-style opening bids plus some canapé. Nunn-Hans play a weak notrump and natural methods. Both Japanese pairs play Standard methods. The first deal saw the strong club act as a preempt.

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ 102
♥ A753
♦ KQJ83
♣ A5

West
♠ AQJ7
♥ 104
♦ A102
♣ K873

East
♠ K964
♥ K62
♦ 74
♣ QJ94

South
♠ 853
♥ QJ98
♦ 965
♣ 1062

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Kodaira	Hans	Otsuka
	1♦	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Miwa	Newell	Nomura	Reid
	1♣ (14+)	Pass	1♦(Neg.)
1♠	2♦	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

On these auctions you'd surely want to be in 4♠ since the ♥A strongly rates to be onside. Miwa found her way into the auction but rejected her partner's game-try because of having only four spades. Nunn got to show 14-16 at his first turn — they double or pass with fewer values — then after the 2♣ inquiry showed spades and was driven to game. Both tables took 10 tricks but Down Under had 6 imps.

The second deal saw both N/S pairs achieve a

modest triumph.

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AKQ1076
♥ 963
♦ A9
♣ 63

West
♠ 932
♥ QJ102
♦ K42
♣ QJ7

East
♠ J8
♥ K54
♦ Q106
♣ AK1092

South
♠ 54
♥ A87
♦ J8753
♣ 854

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Kodaira	Hans	Otsuka
		1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Miwa	Newell	Nomura	Reid
		1♣	Pass
1♥	2♠	All Pass	

With E/W able to take nine tricks in clubs, both N/S pairs recorded +110 in 2♠. The decline of clubs as a possible legitimate place to play is something we all know about and the weak notrump acted more as a preempt against E/W than N/S here. No swing at matching +110s. A significant percentage of the field got to 3♣; after a 1♠ overcall E/W have a far easier task. On to something more dramatic.

Did you know? 2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 10954
 ♥ J3
 ♦ 10982
 ♣ 752

West
 ♠ AKJ873
 ♥ AK4
 ♦ A53
 ♣ 10

East
 ♠ 6
 ♥ Q9762
 ♦ QJ74
 ♣ A98

South
 ♠ Q2
 ♥ 1085
 ♦ K6
 ♣ KQJ643

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>

Dbl	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦(Q♥?)	Pass	5NT(Yes)	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>

Dbl	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The 3♣ opening put the cat amongst the pigeons in the Closed Room. West doubled and converted 4♥ to 4♠ but that didn't really do justice to the hand and Nomura couldn't find another bid. Hans' expansive leap to 4♥ (probably not an overbid by more than a trick or two) left Nunn well placed to use keycard, then ask for the trump queen and drive to the grand slam when he found it. Hans won the club lead, cashed the ♥AK, then the ♠A and ruffed a spade. Had the queen not fallen he would have ruffed a club and ruffed a spade. When the ♠Q appeared on the second round he drew the last trump, took the diamond finesse, and claimed 13 tricks for a 17 imp pick-up.

In our other featured match the auction for Tanaka-Iino started as you might expect with Iino jumping to 2♥ in response to a double of 1♣. Otvosi as South now chose a great moment to muddy the waters by rebidding 3♣ and now it was somewhat hard for Tanaka to get his values across. He chose 3♠, then cuebid 4♣ over 3NT, but the auction proceeded 4♦-4♥-Pass. In the other room Seikiyama, basically after doubling 1♣, simply drove to 6♠ after a 2♥ response and found it couldn't be beaten when trumps behaved reasonably.

When Bakhshi-Gold defended 6♥ (a far tougher contract to play since there are so many more options in the play) Bakhshi led a top club. Declarer won, drew two rounds of trumps, then took the ♠A under which Bakhshi dropped the queen! Declarer fell for the bait and drew a third trump, then went to the ♦A to cash two spades to pitch his clubs, and now needed diamonds to be 3-3. Down one; 17imps for NEDUK.

For the record, only four other E/W pairs managed to reach the grand slam: Whibley-Milne for Australia Youth, Auken-Welland for Mixed, Fillipowicz-Nowosadzki for PolUS, Chen-Furuta for Yeh.

Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 10864
 ♥ 75
 ♦ J63
 ♣ K1095

West
 ♠ 52
 ♥ A42
 ♦ 10872
 ♣ 8743

East
 ♠ AK93
 ♥ K863
 ♦ KQ9
 ♣ A2

South
 ♠ QJ7
 ♥ QJ109
 ♦ A54
 ♣ QJ6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>

Pass	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♠(2)	Pass	2NT	All Pass

(1) 19-21 or GF

(2) Transfer to 2NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>

Pass	Pass	1♦	All Pass
------	------	----	----------

Both tables avoided game on the E/W cards but 1♦ was comfortable while 2NT was anything but on the lead of the ♥Q. Hans' solution to how to set up diamonds was simple: he led out the ♦K, then the ♦Q, and when they both held he played a third diamond. As easy as shelling peas and a flat board against 1♦ making +110. No swing; 23-0 still for Down Under.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 8753
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K862
 ♣ KQ82

West
 ♠ J109
 ♥ 872
 ♦ 54
 ♣ J9754

East
 ♠ KQ42
 ♥ A963
 ♦ 97
 ♣ A103

South
 ♠ A6
 ♥ KQJ104
 ♦ AQJ103
 ♣ 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>

Rdbl	2♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>
	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Hands up all of you who like Reid's jump to 3NT as opposed to a cuebid or a jump to 3♦. I thought so. 3NT is a perfectly acceptable spot, except on a low spade lead, but at both tables East had been dealt something close to a natural low spade lead and both defenses took their five tricks in relatively straightforward fashion. Meanwhile, though 5♦ has three top losers on the same spade lead, you cannot defeat 4♥ when trumps and diamonds behave as they should. It may be result-merchandising to mention this but that is, after all, what bulletin editors are paid to do. Still 23-0, Down Under.

Both tables in SARA-Otvosi played 5♦ here but Otvosi reached it from the South side, when that player doubled 1♣ and got both his suits into play thereafter, while Sashira for SARA bid 2NT over 1♣ and let North bid diamonds first. It was easy for East to lead a top spade but very hard for West not to lead the bid and supported club suit. Another 12imps for Otvosi, now leading 25-3.

Eleven pairs in all made game here. Lin-Huang for Yeh Bros were the only pair to play 4♥, the auction being P-(1♣)-Dbl-(P); 1♠-(P)-2♥-(P); 2NT-(P)-3♦-(P); 4♦-(P)-4♥-AP. Very nicely judged, but three pairs made 5♦ by South while seven pairs brought home 3NT or 5♦ by North on friendly defense.

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ A83		
Vul: E/W	♥ A2		
	♦ KJ965		
	♣ AQ6		
West		East	
♠ KQ752		♠ 4	
♥ 73		♥ K1085	
♦ AQ432		♦ 8	
♣ K		♣ 10985432	
	South		
	♠ J1096		
	♥ QJ964		
	♦ 107		
	♣ J7		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♣	2♥
3♦	Dbl	3♠	Dbl
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Kodaiwa's 3NT contract was not exactly comfortable on the ♣9 lead, but it got a lot better when he played low from dummy and the king appeared. He won, unblocked clubs, then took a spade finesse and when Nunn won the third spade to shift to diamonds he emerged with six black-suit winners, the ♥A and two diamond tricks for +400.

Not enough, though it might well have led to a gain had Miwa not bid 3♦ in the Closed Room. Thereafter red cards started flying with the speed of summer lightning and the final contract was 4♣x (which at this vulnerability was indeed absolutely frightening). Nomura played it well after a diamond lead, rising with the ♦A to play a heart to the king (Newell might have done better to take the ♥A to avoid endplays) to lead a spade up. The defenders ended up with just two hearts, a spade and three trump tricks but +800 was still enough for a 9-imp gain and a 32-0 lead for Down Under.

In SARA-Otvosi the latter defended 3♣ undoubled for +200, not a great result, but good enough for +6imps when Sasahira as South ducked the opening spade lead against 3NT. After a shift to the ♣K declarer went after hearts and ended up losing two hearts, two spades and the ♦A for down one.

If you are wondering about the biggest numbers achieved here by N/S, wonder no more. Howard-Hollands and Harada-Naskanishi collected 1400 from 3♦x (we hope Shimamura-Sato are not too embarrassed about only collecting 1100).

The next deal saw Down Under garner (or possibly "Weinstein") an overtrick from a quiet 4♥ to add to the lead. It was 33-0 at the halfway point of the set. Then Kacho Fugetsu had yet another possible opportunity for gain, but there is many a slip between cup and lip...

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AKQ		
Vul: None	♥ 8		
	♦ KJ10654		
	♣ A92		
West		East	
♠ 654		♠ J87	
♥ AK1064		♥ QJ952	
♦ 92		♦ A7	
♣ 764		♣ J85	
	South		
	♠ 10932		
	♥ 73		
	♦ Q83		
	♣ KQ103		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl
2NT(♥)	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Newell showed 14-16 with diamonds and Reid took a slightly cowardly decision not to invite game. 2♦+3 represented a real chance for gain, but Kodaira's thoughtful evaluation of the North cards was not understood by South, who might well have bid 5♦ over 3♠. Indeed, you might well make 6♦ (facing a hand with ♠AKx and slightly better diamonds). In 4♠ you wouldn't fancy your chances against a forcing defense, would you? But with spades and diamonds splitting there is no defense, even against repeated heart leads (as long as you pitch a diamond from hand at trick two). You can ruff the third heart in dummy and cannot then be prevented from setting up diamonds and drawing trumps in the fullness of time. Kodaira fell from grace by ruffing the second heart in hand. Now the defense won the ♦A to go back to hearts and declarer had to lose two trump tricks whatever he did. Down one.

Five pairs brought home 4♠. Four did it from the South seat where a top heart lead and club shift is easy to envisage. Well done Tsuneo Sakurai as the sole declarer to bring home 4♠ as North after repeated spade leads.

As to how to reach 5♦, Erwin Otvosi showed just how easy it was. After his partner opened 1♦ (unbalanced with diamonds) he raised to 2♦ at his first turn, letting Kurokawa jump to 5♦. Bridge isn't supposed to be that easy, is it? The 6 imps gained when they played a diamond partscore in the other room made it 37-4 now for Otvosi.

It was 38-0 to Down Under and after a flat board (memorable only because Newell's systemic opening at favorable vulnerability in first chair with a 4-3-4-2 five count, consisting of the ♥J and ♣A, was 2♦, diamonds and another). Kacho Fugetsu had another chance to get on the scoresheet; maybe the Great Shuffler wanted to get back at Newell for tempting fate on the previous deal.

Bd: 10 North
 Dir: East ♠ K54
 Vul: Both ♥ A9862
 ♦ 9762
 ♣ Q

West	East
♠ 762	♠ AQ1093
♥ Q4	♥ 3
♦ K5	♦ 1083
♣ 1086432	♣ AKJ9
South	
♠ J8	
♥ KJ1075	
♦ AQJ4	
♣ 75	

Open and Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>
	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass

Both tables played 4♠ on a heart lead to the ace and a shift to the ♣Q. Hans won in hand and played ace

and a low spade, while Nomura won the club to play a diamond. Reid won and played a second top heart and Nomura ruffed, cashed the ♠A, then crossed to the ♦K to misguess spades. Hans' misguess was understandable; Nomura's had less to recommend it because if declarer had guessed spades correctly he would still have run into a club ruff. Still 38-0 for Down Under.

Incidentally, Tan did guess spades in our other featured match, playing the ♠A, then the ♠Q from hand to pin the jack. Worth only 3 imps, though, since the 5♥ sacrifice in the other room had cost 500.

On the next deal something finally went right for Kacho Fugetsu.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ AQ10642
 Vul: None ♥ A9
 ♦ AJ54
 ♣ 2

West	East
♠ J3	♠ K9
♥ KQ7632	♥ 1054
♦ 107	♦ KQ86
♣ A108	♣ K943
South	
♠ 875	
♥ J8	
♦ 932	
♣ QJ765	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>
1♥	1♠	2♠	Pass
3♥	3♠	All Pass	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass

The favorable lie of the cards for the defense against 3♠ meant that eight tricks were the limit and declarer held himself to seven, but equally 3♥ could collect +170 painlessly enough. It was 38-2 now for Down Under.

In SARA-Otvosi both N/S pairs bid to 4♠. It was clear that Otvosi was saving so Ino doubled and collected 300 while it was less clear that this was the case in the other room. 4♠ undoubled was allowed to escape for down one and SARA had 6 imps to trail 40-11.

Only two pairs bid to 4♥ as E/W: Kiyama-Kikuchi scored +420 while Imakura-Morimura went one step better by being doubled there for +590.

Did you know? Shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line

Bd: 12
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 32
 ♦ Q952
 ♣ KJ9832

West
 ♠ QJ96432
 ♥ J7
 ♦ 7
 ♣ AQ7

East
 ♠ A1075
 ♥ AK54
 ♦ J4
 ♣ 654

South
 ♠ K
 ♥ Q10986
 ♦ AK10863
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT(♠)	3♠
4♠	5♣	Dbf	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbf	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the Closed Room you could argue that Reid's pass of 4♠ worked badly since 5♦ might not have been doubled (it wasn't in Otvosi-SARA giving SARA 6 imps: -200 vs +450). But it was clear for Hans to double 5♦ in the Open Room and E/W collected 500 for 2 imps vs 420 in the Closed Room. Down under led 40-2 now.

After some confusion about methods over weak notrumps gifted Down Under 3 undertrick imps, while SARA had been gifted 6 imps in even more unlikely fashion (an underlead of an ace-king against a suit partscore), we came to the final deal of the set.

Bd: 14
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ K86
 ♦ A843
 ♣ K954

West
 ♠ K10642
 ♥ J43
 ♦ 62
 ♣ A62

East
 ♠ J53
 ♥ 972
 ♦ KQJ7
 ♣ J107

South
 ♠ A97
 ♥ AQ105
 ♦ 1095
 ♣ Q83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Kodaira</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Otsuka</i>
1♠	2♠	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miwa</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Nomura</i>	<i>Reid</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	1NT
		All Pass	

The New Zealanders stopped safely low, which was just as well for them since West had an easy spade lead which should maybe have held declarer to 120, though 150 was the final result. This was flat against 150 from 3♠ undoubled down three. Down Under won 43-2, 18.5-1.5 VPs on the new scale.

In SARA-Otvosi, Teramoto as North heard the auction start 1♣ from partner, 1♠ to his right. He bid 2♠ as a club raise and heard 3♠ come back to him. He elected to pass it out, assuming that his side could not make 3NT, which was probably right, and collected +100. But since Kurokawa as North had jumped to 3NT facing a 1♣ opening, he was in with a sporting chance to make his game. On a top diamond lead he won and played a club to the queen and ace. The defenders shifted back to diamonds, then switched to (an unreadable?) ♠5 to the king. Last chance to go back to clubs? No. West played a second spade and declarer could win and drive out the remaining diamond honor. When hearts behaved he had his ninth trick. Otvosi had 7 more imps, to win 46-23, approximately a 16-4 win. 3NT was allowed to make 13 times in all here. I wonder whether, if declarer gets a spade lead and goes after clubs by leading to the queen, if West should duck his ace smoothly.



Match Two: JAPAN Women vs JAPAN Golden Bull

by Rich Colker



Fujimoto



Shimamura



Sato



Miura



Ono



Abe



Sugino



Nishida

Our second featured match of the day pits JAPAN Women against JAPAN Golden Bull (and that's no bull). We will also be following Beauchamp vs Mixed (using the names shown on BBO, not those on the printed record).

Bd: 17
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ A1082
♥ K107643
♦ Q8
♣ 2

West
♠ J96
♥ AJ2
♦ K65
♣ KQJ3

East
♠ Q73
♥ Q8
♦ J942
♣ A1086

South
♠ K54
♥ 95
♦ A1073
♣ 9754

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
	2♦	Pass	2♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♥	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Closed Room auction looks quite reasonable, even if the final contract was not as happy a spot as E/W would have wished. Abe led the ♥6 to dummy's queen and Ono led a diamond to his king, then switched to a spade to the queen and king. Sugino returned a heart to Ono's ace and now declarer ran her clubs, hoping the defense would have trouble pitching. But Abe pitched two spades, coming down to the bare ace, then a heart, and when Ono read the position correctly and exited with a low spade the defense cashed out for down two, -100 for N/S.

Three pairs brought home 3NT as E/W here, perhaps when after a heart lead South rose with the ♦A to play a second heart. That gets you to eight tricks and Edgar Kaplan says, "Where there are eight there are always nine." Giorgio Duboin was one of the successful declarers for Lavazza as was Debrata Majumdar for India.

The auction in the Open Room looks like something from a Stephen King novel, and your guess is as good as ours what most of the bids in it mean. Shimamura's 2♦ opening looks like either weak Flannery (four spades and five-plus hearts and less than an opening bid) or a slightly off-center Multi. South's 2♥ looks like either a preference for the five-two heart fit over the four-three spade fit or pass-or-correct. Fujimoto's 3♠ bid could be some sort of stopper/half-stopper ask for notrump or an artificial bid of some sort. What seems clear is that Miura must have interpreted the bid as natural, hence his raise to 4♠. Again a heart was led (this time the 7) to dummy's queen and Fujimoto played a second heart to the ace and tried to ruff his third heart in dummy with the ♠3 and was over-ruffed by the ♠4. Sato played ace and a diamond, declarer rising with the king as the queen fell. Next declarer led a trump to the queen and king and back came a third diamond, ruffed by North. Shimamura exited with a heart, ruffed in dummy, and eventually scored her trumps for down three, +150 for N/S; 2 imps to the Women.

Bd: 18
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 932
♥ AQJ82
♦ 93
♣ K107

West
♠ 8
♥ K105
♦ QJ87
♣ AQ986

East
♠ AQJ65
♥ 964
♦ 542
♣ J2

South
♠ K1074
♥ 73
♦ AK106
♣ 543

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
		2♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
		All Pass	

Sato led the ♦K against Miura's 2♠, got the nine from Shimamura (Upside Down?), and promptly switched to the ♥7, ducked to the jack. Back came a diamond to the ace for another heart through to the ten and queen. Shimamura cashed the ♥A and now, looking at all four hands, a trump appears best. Instead he tried a fourth heart (perhaps looking to promote a trump trick for partner's K10x thinking declarer had a six-card suit for his 2♠ opening) and declarer could pitch a losing club and ruff in dummy to escape for down two, -100 for E/W. With the deal having been passed out in the Closed Room that was 3 more imps to Women, leading now 5-0.

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ K10873
Vul: E/W	♥ 942
	♦ 765
	♣ J5
West	East
♠ A54	♠ Q92
♥ QJ7	♥ K53
♦ J1093	♦ A42
♣ 962	♣ K1084
	South
	♠ J6
	♥ A1086
	♦ KQ8
	♣ AQ73

Open/Closed Rooms			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Both Souths declared 2♠ on a transfer auction, both received the ♦J lead to East's ace, and both Easts returned the ♥3 ducked to the jack, followed by the ♥Q to the ace. Next they passed the ♠J to the queen, East cashing the ♥K before exiting with a diamond. A second spade to the ace was the defense's fifth and last trick for a pair of +110s. Still 5-0 Women.

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ 72
Vul: Both	♥ A82
	♦ AK8754
	♣ K10
West	East
♠ QJ1083	♠ AK54
♥ 104	♥ KQ95
♦ 96	♦ Q10
♣ 7643	♣ J52
	South
	♠ 96
	♥ J763
	♦ J32
	♣ AQ98

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♥
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The defense in the Open Room started with the ♠AK but with trumps two-two and the ♣J conveniently falling third for two heart discards Shimamura scored up an easy overtrick in 4♦ for +150. But would the defense find the same start against 3NT in the Closed Room? Unfortunately for her side, Nishida tried the ♥K (we're top spade leaders to see what partner does, ready to switch to the heart at trick two if necessary) and declarer took the same eleven tricks for +660. That was 11 imps to Golden Bull, taking over the lead at 11-5.

Bruce Neill found the same unfortunate lead against Pszczola's 3NT (1♦-(Dbl)-2♦-(2NT); 3NT) to lose the same 11 imps. Mixed led 14-0 after four deals.

With only four declarers in the room being allowed to make 3NT here, what are the odds that two of them would be in our matches? (As Hamman says "The best play lousy and the rest play worse!")

Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ 1082
Vul: N/S	♥ ---
	♦ K854
	♣ AKQ872
West	East
♠ J9	♠ Q73
♥ 8	♥ K76542
♦ Q10962	♦ 73
♣ J9654	♣ 103
	South
	♠ AK654
	♥ AQJ1093
	♦ AJ
	♣ ---

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
	1♣	2♥	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

Miura's hiccup of an overcall helped ensure that N/S would not end up in the wrong major at his table and Sato-Shimamura sailed right into 6♠ after an extended ace-asking sequence which, at least in part, was mimicked at the other table. Fujimoto led his partner's suit and when trumps broke two-two Sato could claim twelve tricks; +1430.

In the Closed Room Abe-Sugino headed for an iceberg similar to the one the Titanic struck 101 years ago (almost to the day: April 15, 1912). With spades having been bid twice and raised, Sugino launched into the same ace-asking sequence as in the Open Room but emerged with a pick-your-major 7♥ bid, which to us strongly suggests hearts as trumps within the context of the previous sequence (since 7♦ — an unbid suit — is available as a more neutral pass-or-correct). The bad news was that Abe passed with his heart void and three spades. The good news (if one may call it that) is that neither grand slam was makeable (though 7♠ only goes down one). Sugino received the ♦2 lead. She rose with the king and cashed the top three clubs, hoping to pitch her three losing spades and then lose just one trick to the ♥K. But Nishida foiled this plan by ruffing the third club with the ♥2 (why not the four?) and now Sugino could overruff with the three, play trumps from the top, and end up losing just one trump and one spade for down two; -200 for N/S. That was 17 imps back to the Women, who retook the lead, 22-11.

17 tables brought home the slam, almost all of them in spades but a couple made 6NT.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ KQJ
 Vul: E/W ♥ 10
 ♦ 75
 ♣ AKJ7432

West
 ♠ A3
 ♥ 8654
 ♦ Q6432
 ♣ 109

East
 ♠ 86542
 ♥ K9
 ♦ J1098
 ♣ Q8

South
 ♠ 1097
 ♥ AQJ732
 ♦ AK
 ♣ 65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>

Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>

Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

The 3NT contract in the Open Room appears to be

the safer game (barring four-zero clubs offside) but 4♥ in the Closed Room was not at all a terrible spot. Indeed, with trumps behaving as well as one could reasonably hope (without being totally piggy) life was easy enough. Sugino won the opening diamond lead, played a spade to the ace, won the diamond return, crossed to a spade, passed the ♥10, and could not then get back to hand to draw trumps (she cashed the ♣AK, then tried to cash the third spade) without losing a trump trick; she ended up losing one trump and the ♠A for +450.

Against Shimamura's 3NT Miura led the ♦J. Declarer won perforce, led a low heart to the ten and king (it does East no good to duck), won the diamond return, ran five more hearts, and now claimed twelve tricks when the ♣Q fell under the top two clubs; +490. That was 1 more imp to the Women, ahead now 23-11.

Beauchamp scored their first imps of the set when Pszczola-Kwiecien either had a disagreement about what had been set as the trump suit or what was — or wasn't — keycard. They reached 6♥ down one, surrendering 11 imps in the process, to make it 14-11, Mixed.

6♣ was bid and made just three times; well done Mukherji-Majumdar, Bocchi-Madala and the N/S pair in Kitty's. 6NT got the LAS FLORES N/S pair all the matchpoints.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ 1052
 Vul: Both ♥ K832
 ♦ A
 ♣ K10862

West
 ♠ KJ976
 ♥ J7
 ♦ 109762
 ♣ J

East
 ♠ A843
 ♥ AQ954
 ♦ K8
 ♣ 73

South
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 106
 ♦ QJ543
 ♣ AQ954

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
Pass	5♣	All Pass	2NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣	All Pass	2♣

Shimamura's leap to 5♣ could work on some days (switch the ♦10 and ♦5 and now only an underlead of the ♠A for a heart through beats the contract) — but this was not one of them. Miura led the ♠A (he could have led any card in any suit, including the ♦K, as long as he kept his fingers permanently off a heart), then panicked (or was it a suit preference/obvious

shift accident?) and played ace and another heart. Declarer won the jack with the king, unblocked the $\diamond A$, led a club to the queen, ruffed a diamond (noting the fall of the king), played a second club to the ace and claimed 11 tricks; +600.

In the other room Sugino opened light in first seat, after which Abe reasonably allowed the auction to stop in $3\clubsuit$. Ono led a low spade and Nishida won and returned the suit. Declarer ruffed, unblocked the $\diamond A$, led a club to the queen, then tried a heart to the king. Nishida won, cashed the $\heartsuit Q$, and Sugino eventually claimed his +130 when the $\diamond K$ fell doubleton. That was 10 more imps to the Women, whose lead had grown to 22 imps at 33-11.

Kwiecien got the imps back from the previous deal when he could open the South hand $2NT$, weak minors, letting Pszczola jump to $5\clubsuit$. Neill led the $\heartsuit A$ and that was that. In the other room Milner made a very nice play as West when he dropped the $\spadesuit K$ under the ace, making it clear to Lall that there was no future in a heart shift and that a spade continuation was safe. 26-11 for Mixed now.

Elsewhere $5\clubsuit$ only came home one other time; the Chakradeos made it. But equally one other game contract came in; Huang-Shih made $4\spadesuit$ on the E/W cards.

Bd: 24 North
 Dir: West $\spadesuit K$
 Vul: None $\heartsuit A10982$
 $\diamond K873$
 $\clubsuit Q97$

West
 $\spadesuit AQJ542$
 $\heartsuit 4$
 $\diamond 952$
 $\clubsuit K104$

East
 $\spadesuit 10963$
 $\heartsuit Q53$
 $\diamond 4$
 $\clubsuit AJ853$

South
 $\spadesuit 87$
 $\heartsuit KJ76$
 $\diamond AQJ106$
 $\clubsuit 62$

Open Room
 West North East South
Fujimoto Shi'mura Miura Sato
 $2\spadesuit$ Pass $4\spadesuit$ All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
Ono Abe Nishida Sugino
 $1\spadesuit$ $2\heartsuit$ $3\heartsuit$ $4\heartsuit$
 $4\spadesuit$ Pass Pass Dbl
 All Pass

$4\spadesuit$ in the Open Room made easily. Shimamura led the ace and a second heart. Fujimoto ruffed and followed the Rabbi's rule (never finesse when the king is singleton offside), then finessed North for the $\clubsuit Q$ and ended up with an overtrick for +450.

South's double in the Closed Room seems ill-advised (though tempting) when declarer needs only guess one of the black suits for her contract. The defense started as in the Open Room. Ono ruffed the second

heart and played a diamond, apparently planning to ruff a diamond to dummy to take the spade finesse. But when Sugino won the $\diamond 10$ and switched to a trump, Ono changed her plan and rose with the ace, thus guaranteeing her side a plus. The double could have gotten even more costly had she also guessed the clubs but she crossed to dummy in spades and led a club to the ten and queen. Still, +590 was 4 more imps to the Women, leading now 37-11.

The merry-go-round continued in our second match when Morrison overcalled Milner's heavy $2\spadesuit$ opening with a double and Hinge bid $4NT$ over $4\spadesuit$ to get Morrison to $5\diamond$. Milner won his $\spadesuit A$ at trick one and shifted to...a heart. That meant +400 for Morrison, and 11 imps when $5\heartsuit$ was two down in the other room. 26-22 for Mixed now.

Datum on this deal was 22 to E/W; in total six N/S pairs brought home a red-suit game at the five-level, often doubled, while half the field made $4\spadesuit$ on the E/W cards.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North $\spadesuit 986$
 Vul: E/W $\heartsuit 10982$
 $\diamond 832$
 $\clubsuit A103$

West
 $\spadesuit 53$
 $\heartsuit AKQ54$
 $\diamond A$
 $\clubsuit KQ982$

East
 $\spadesuit KQ10$
 $\heartsuit 73$
 $\diamond KQ754$
 $\clubsuit 754$

South
 $\spadesuit AJ742$
 $\heartsuit J6$
 $\diamond J1096$
 $\clubsuit J6$

Open Room
 West North East South
Fujimoto Shi'mura Miura Sato
 $1\heartsuit$ Pass Pass Pass
 $3\clubsuit$ Pass $1NT$ Pass
 $3\clubsuit$ Pass $3NT$ All Pass

Closed Room
 West North East South
Ono Abe Nishida Sugino
 Pass Pass $2\spadesuit$
 $4\clubsuit(1)$ Pass $4NT$ Pass
 $5\diamond$ Pass $5NT$ All Pass
 (1) Leaping Michaels (clubs and hearts)

$3NT$ seems reasonable looking only at the E/W cards, but uncover the N/S hands and it becomes clear that the defense has resources as well. Sato started with a low spade, giving up a trick in the suit in exchange for cutting declarer off from his $\diamond KQ$. Miura won the $\spadesuit 10$, unblocked the $\diamond A$, then got off dummy with the $\clubsuit K$ to the ace. Shimamura led back a spade and Sato ducked declarer's king to preserve the defense's communications. But now declarer had nine tricks (two spades, three hearts, three diamonds and a club) for +600.

If making $3NT$ can be difficult, then making $5NT$ should be even more so, which was surely the case

here. Sugino started the \diamond J. Nishida won perforce and called for the \clubsuit K, which held. Next a spade was led to the king and ace and Sugino switched to a heart to dummy's ace. Nishida continued with the \heartsuit KQ, pitching a club from hand on the third round as Sugino pitched a spade. With one spade, three diamonds, three hearts and a club in the club house declarer still had to find three more tricks. If the \spadesuit J was outside the club suit could have provided the other two but her club pitch on the third heart made that impossible since dummy's side entries were gone and with just one club left in hand she could not duck a round of that suit either. So she simply played a spade to the queen, cashed the \diamond KQ, then played a club to the queen conceding down three, -300, for E/W. That was 14 imps back to the Bull for just their second gain of the match; Women by 12 at 37-25.

Our fourth consecutive swing of 11 imps or greater came when Hemant Lall brought home 3NT as West while $4\heartsuit$ proved unmanageable on a passive diamond lead. Declarer could not avoid losing two clubs, a spade and a trump; 38-22 now for Mixed.

For the record, just over half the field found their way to 3NT and made it.

Bd: 26
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

North
 \spadesuit Q63
 \heartsuit J853
 \diamond Q9
 \clubsuit KQ86

West
 \spadesuit 4
 \heartsuit K72
 \diamond AKJ874
 \clubsuit 1097

East
 \spadesuit A9752
 \heartsuit A10
 \diamond 103
 \clubsuit J532

South
 \spadesuit KJ108
 \heartsuit Q964
 \diamond 652
 \clubsuit A4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
$1\diamond$	Pass	$1\spadesuit$	Pass
$2\diamond$	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
		Pass	Pass
$1\diamond$	Pass	$1\spadesuit$	Pass
$2\diamond$	All Pass		

Where Nishida was content to play in her side's presumed six-two diamond fit, Miura went for the higher-scoring notrump contract, with a chance to reach game. No dice. Sato led the \heartsuit 4 against Miura's 2NT: 2, J, A. Next Miura passed the \diamond 10 to the queen at which point Miura claimed eight tricks (five diamonds, two hearts and one spade) for +120.

Abe led the \clubsuit K against $2\diamond$ and continued with a low club at trick two. Sugino won perforce, switched to a low diamond, ducked to the queen, and Abe returned

a diamond. Ono won, drew the last trump and claimed nine tricks (one spade, two hearts, and five diamonds) for +110. No swing. Still 37-25, Women.

Bd: 27
 Dlr: South
 Vul: None

North
 \spadesuit 85
 \heartsuit 10952
 \diamond 985
 \clubsuit KQ97

West
 \spadesuit AJ92
 \heartsuit K743
 \diamond 1074
 \clubsuit 106

East
 \spadesuit 104
 \heartsuit AQJ6
 \diamond K6
 \clubsuit AJ854

South
 \spadesuit KQ763
 \heartsuit 8
 \diamond AQJ32
 \clubsuit 32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
	Pass	Dbl	$1\spadesuit$
	Pass	All Pass	$2\diamond$

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
			$1\spadesuit$
	Pass	$2\clubsuit$	$2\diamond$
	Pass	$2\heartsuit$	$3\diamond$
	Pass	$3\heartsuit$	All Pass

$2\spadesuit$ by South is unmakeable on any lead other than a diamond or the \spadesuit A. Fujimoto led a heart to the ace and Miura inexplicably switched to... a low diamond!? Unfazed, Sato put in the jack and now the contract was cold. She led a club to the king, ducked, followed by a spade to the king and ace. Not realizing that Miura's diamond switch was a bluff Fujimoto continued the suit as Sato won the king with the ace, cashed the \spadesuit Q, and played on diamonds, conceding two more trump tricks to the defense but insuring her contract; +110.

In the Closed Room Ono-Nishida accurately competed to $3\heartsuit$ over $3\diamond$ when both contracts were cold. Now the play just had to match their good bidding. Sugino led the \spadesuit K. Nishida won, played a heart to the queen, a heart back to the king (a spade from South), then got out with a spade to the ten and queen. Looking at two good spades in dummy to pitch losers Sugino decided that the defense had to cash their diamonds now or they would go away on the spades. Had she cashed the \diamond A first the contract could have been beaten with a diamond continuation (as it could have had she played either black suit the trick before). But she decided her partner needed to have the \diamond K to beat the hand, switched to a low diamond, and now $3\heartsuit$ was cold. But declarer misplayed. (The only winning line now is for declarer to win the \diamond K and play a second diamond.) Declarer won, cashed the \clubsuit A, played a second club to the queen, won the heart return and ruffed a club with dummy's last trump, but could only score one more trump trick for down one, -50. 2 imps to the Women,

ahead now 39-25.

Pride of place in our "random results" corner goes to Ben Thompson, who brought home 2♠x on the N/S cards, the only player to score more than +180 in either direction here.

Bd: 28 North
 Dlr: West ♠ K87
 Vul: N/S ♥ J65
 ♦ Q754
 ♣ J83

West East
 ♠ Q1065 ♠ J
 ♥ Q98 ♥ A107432
 ♦ A2 ♦ J96
 ♣ AK107 ♣ 964

South
 ♠ A9432
 ♥ K
 ♦ K1083
 ♣ Q52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
1NT	Pass	4♦(♥)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

4♥ has no chance against most normal leads and in the Open Room Shimamura led a passive ♥5, ducked to the king. Sato returned a club, ducked to the jack, and Shimamura led back to a low trump to dummy's nine. The rest of the play is immaterial since declarer must either lose one trick in each suit or, if he draws the last trump and pitches his spade loser on the fourth club, a second diamond trick in place of the spade. Down one, -50.

Against Ono's 4♥ Abe led a low diamond: 9, 10, A. Ono led a spade toward the jack and Abe sleepily ducked, needlessly exposing his king to a later ruffing finesse. Now declarer was cold. Sugino won the ♠A, underled the ♦K to the queen, and covered the jack with the king on the third round. Nishida ruffed, led the ♠10 and passed it (pitching her losing club) when Abe ducked, and now ruffed a spade back to hand to lead a heart up. That was +420 and 10 more imps to the Women, leading now 49-25 with just two boards to go.

Did you know? The basic unit of laryngitis = 1 horsepower.

The normal contract here was a partscore; just a handful of pairs attempted game and made it.

Bd: 29 North
 Dlr: North ♠ AJ3
 Vul: Both ♥ 10986
 ♦ J1065
 ♣ AQ

West East
 ♠ 1072 ♠ KQ985
 ♥ J3 ♥ K42
 ♦ A9742 ♦ K
 ♣ 932 ♣ K765

South
 ♠ 64
 ♥ AQ75
 ♦ Q83
 ♣ J1084

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fujimoto</i>	<i>Shi'mura</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Sato</i>
	1♦	1♠	Dbl
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ono</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Nishida</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
	1♦	1♠	Dbl
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Against Miura's 2♠ Sato led the ♦3, ducked to the king. Miura got out with a low club to the queen and Shimamura switched to the ♥10, ducked to the queen. Back came the ♣J to the ace followed by a heart to the ace and a third club for a ruff. Declarer still had to lose the ♠A for down one, -100.

Against Abe's 4♥ Nishida led the ♠K. Abe won, led a heart to the queen, cashed the ♥A, then played a diamond to the ten and king. Nishida cashed the ♥K and ♠Q, but instead of now sitting back and waiting to score her ♣K, she led a club and Abe escaped for down one instead of two; -100 for N/S. Still, 5 more imps to the Women, ahead by 29 at 54-25.

Mixed beat partscores in both rooms for a further 5 imps, making the running score 46-23.

Well done Kyoko Ohno for making (or should we say being allowed to make?) 4♥ on the N/S cards. Yes, the lead of the ♦A probably didn't hurt.

Bd: 30 North
 Dlr: East ♠ Q6
 Vul: None ♥ AK1075
 ♦ 743
 ♣ AQ4

West East
 ♠ K3 ♠ A7542
 ♥ J32 ♥ Q8
 ♦ AJ1062 ♦ KQ95
 ♣ 1087 ♣ 32

South
 ♠ J1098
 ♥ 964
 ♦ 8
 ♣ KJ965

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Fujimoto	Shi'mura	Miura	Sato
		1♠	Pass
1NT	2♥	Pass	3♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Ono	Abe	Nishida	Sugino
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Both tables stopped in partscores and brought them home with overtricks. Against 3♥ in the Open Room Miura led a low (!) spade. Fujimoto resignedly put up the king and when that held he must have looked around for Allen Funt, assuming he was on Candid Camera. Eventually he returned a spade to the ace and Miura got off lead with a club. Shimamura won the ace in hand, cashed the ♥AK and ♣Q, crossed to dummy with her last club, pitched a diamond on the ♠10 as Fujimoto also pitched a diamond, did the same on the ♠J, and discarded her last diamond on the ♣J as Fujimoto finally ruffed in. Just a little bit late on that one, Charlie; +170.

Against Abe's 1NT in the Closed Room Nishida also led a low spade. Ono won the king and switched to a low heart, unaware of declarer's hidden five-bagger there. Abe won, cashed his five clubs, pitching a heart and a spade, then called for the ♥9. When Ono fell from grace and covered with the jack, crashing her partner's now singleton queen, Abe escaped with two more heart tricks for +150, to hold his team's loss to 1 imp.

The Women finished strong, scoringimps on the each of the last four boards and holding the Bulls to gains (albeit double-digit ones) on only two of 14 boards. When the smoke cleared the Women had won by 30imps, 55-25, 17.04-2.96 in VPs.

Meanwhile, Mixed went plus in diamonds in one room and hearts in the other, increasing their winning margin to 28imps, 16.72-3.28 in VPs.

Did you know? 1000 ccs of wet socks = 1 literhosen

Yeh Bros Cup フローターペア募集

4月25日、26日開催のYeh Bros Cup オープンペアのフローターペアを以下とおりに募集します。

記

1. 募集ペア数：8ペア

☆参加料無料

☆予選で敗退すると26日は参加できません

☆準決勝で敗退してもコンソレーションに参加できます

☆入賞した場合は、賞金を授与します

1. 日時：4月25日 午後4時20分 予選
 26日 午前9時30分 準決勝
 午後2時 決勝/コンソレーション

1. 申込：4月23日(火)正午までに、

Yeh Bros Cup 大会事務局へ(045-228-6466)

☆出場をお願いする場合は4月24日(水)正午までにご連絡します

以上

Match Three: NEDUK vs Australia Youth

by Barry Rigal



Milne



Gold



Whibley



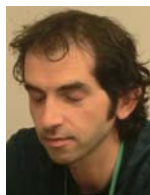
Jansma



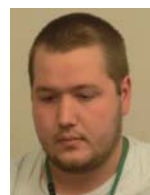
Howard



van Prooijen



Bakhshi



Hollands

We will be focusing mainly on NEDUK vs Australia Youth, with our second match featuring team Hackett (under their sponsor name Pharon) taking on JAPAN Aces & Deuces.

Sometimes the play records seem so bizarre that one wonders whom to trust, the evidence of one's own eyes or bridge logic. It felt like this here, when the deal unfolded in front of us.

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ 643
 ♦ AQ942
 ♣ 932

West
 ♠ A10542
 ♥ J7
 ♦ K10
 ♣ 10654

East
 ♠ J876
 ♥ KQ10
 ♦ 875
 ♣ KJ8

South
 ♠ K9
 ♥ A9852
 ♦ J63
 ♣ AQ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milne	Gold	Whibley	Bakhshi
	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Howard	van Pr'jen	Hollands
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After the normal spade lead against 3NT declarer needs the minor miracle of no club loser, the ♦K10 onside and diamonds 3-2 (entries do not permit him to lead a diamond to the queen). Lo and behold, the cards cooperate in a way that seems positively uncanny. Hollands won the spade lead in hand, led a diamond to the king and ace, and had no option but to lead back to the jack. Next he ran diamonds,

then played ace and another heart, letting East pitch his clubs and then run the spades. 5 imps to NEDUK where the fates had intended a larger number to flow in the other direction.

Talk about lucky contracts, here Hanlon-Hackett bid themselves to 4♥ and with the club finesse working and diamonds and hearts as friendly as could be, Aces & Deuces could not touch it. With 2♠ making for E/W that was an 11-0 start for Pharon. Only one other pair bid game here and made it, but for Australia/India the Chakradeos were doubled into game in 3♥.

Bd: 2
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ Q1082
 ♥ A106
 ♦ Q
 ♣ KQ1087

West
 ♠ AK974
 ♥ 84
 ♦ K94
 ♣ 643

East
 ♠ 65
 ♥ J92
 ♦ A108762
 ♣ J2

South
 ♠ J3
 ♥ KQ753
 ♦ J53
 ♣ A95

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Milne	Gold	Whibley	Bakhshi
		3♦	Pass
		4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jansma	Howard	van Pr'jen	Hollands
		Pass	1♥
1♠	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The vulnerability persuaded Milne to go out stealing after Whibley's aggressive preempt. Gold might have doubled 4♠, I suppose, but there was technically no reason (except for the vulnerability altering the

chance of West not having his values) why South should have had any high cards. 4♠ undoubled went down 200, while 4♥ was allowed to make 650 when the ♦A got away. So Australia Youth led 10-5.

The Hacketts mounted the same smash-and-grab raid against Aces; it was 20-0 after two deals.

Stealing from the opponents was such a good idea at favorable vulnerability, thought Bakhshi, that he ought to try it himself.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ AQ102
 Vul: E/W ♥ 72
 ♦ AQ85
 ♣ 1062

West
 ♠ 765
 ♥ K9863
 ♦ KJ72
 ♣ 5

East
 ♠ K8
 ♥ J4
 ♦ 964
 ♣ AQJ973

South
 ♠ J943
 ♥ AQ105
 ♦ 103
 ♣ K84

Open Room

West <i>Milne</i>	North <i>Gold</i>	East <i>Whibley</i>	South <i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♣
All Pass			3♣

Closed Room

West <i>Jansma</i>	North <i>Howard</i>	East <i>van Pr'jen</i>	South <i>Hollands</i>
Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	Dbl

In 3♣ Gold received a diamond lead to the king and ace and took an immediate heart finesse. Milne won, played a club to his partner's ace, and received the club ruff. Now Milne played a low diamond. Gold went up with the queen, ruffed a diamond, and took the losing spade finesse to let Whibley cash out in clubs for down one.

In 2♣ after the lead of ♥J the defenders took their club ruff and were threatening to follow the same line as in the Open Room, Howard cashed the ♠A early and made the overtrick since he could pitch his club on dummy's master heart. That made it 15-5, Australia Youth.

For the record, half the field overreached with the N/S cards and played 3♣ down a trick or so (quite a few went down in 2♣). Pharon put on another 9imps by collecting 200 in each room; 29-0, now.

We've waited over 30 deals for our first redoubled contract on VuGraph. Here it is, and it's a doozy.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ 72
 Vul: N/S ♥ 8
 ♦ 87432
 ♣ K8752

West
 ♠ KQ94
 ♥ A109753
 ♦ 1095
 ♣ ---

East
 ♠ 63
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ AKQ6
 ♣ J10943

South
 ♠ AJ1085
 ♥ Q642
 ♦ J
 ♣ AQ6

Open Room

West <i>Milne</i>	North <i>Gold</i>	East <i>Whibley</i>	South <i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♣(1)
All Pass	2♠	Dbl	Rdbl

Closed Room

West <i>Jansma</i>	North <i>Howard</i>	East <i>van Pr'jen</i>	South <i>Hollands</i>
2♦(♥)	Pass	1♣	1♠
	Pass	2♥	All Pass

The fact that the Dutch had missed their excellent game was perhaps not critical, given the result from the other room. Whibley found the trump lead against 2♠xx. Milne won and after some thought shifted to the ♦10 to Whibley's queen for a second spade. Gold rose with the ace, played a third spade, and Milne cashed his trumps and played a heart to his partner, leaving declarer with just two trump tricks and three clubs. Down 1600; 31-5, Australia Youth.

NEDUK recaptured an overtrick on an unremarkable partscore, then gave it back on a deal where if you were in game you could make it.

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ QJ64
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ
 ♦ 643
 ♣ 9862

West
 ♠ 9852
 ♥ 108
 ♦ J102
 ♣ AQ53

East
 ♠ K
 ♥ AJ9752
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ KJ104

South
 ♠ A1073
 ♥ 643
 ♦ AK975
 ♣ 7

Open Room

West <i>Milne</i>	North <i>Gold</i>	East <i>Whibley</i>	South <i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	1♠	2♥	1♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♣
All Pass			3♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>van Pr'jen</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♣
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♣
All Pass			

In 3♣ Gold received a club lead to West for a heart shift and ended up leading a trump honor from hand. Howard, after a heart lead and continuation, led diamonds toward the board twice. He eventually laid down the ♠A and was gratified with the result. It was 32-6 at the halfway point of the set.

Pharon moved in front 37-1 by stealing the hand in partscores in both rooms for +170. But Isporski for the Bulgarians and Joe Grue for USA both brought home 4♣, tackling trumps by leading low to the ace after the defenders started with two rounds of hearts.

The next overtrick in a quiet game went back to NEDUK but a good guess by Howard on an equally dull game returned the imp to Australia Youth; 33-7 with five deals to go.

Next came a rather good deal to be playing upside down carding — but not for any of the usual reasons.

Bd: 10	North
Dlr: East	♠ A97
Vul: Both	♥ Q86
	♦ J64
	♣ AJ43

West
♠ 10653
♥ 4
♦ KQ932
♣ KQ8

East
♠ QJ42
♥ A52
♦ 108
♣ 9765

South
♠ K8
♥ KJ10973
♦ A75
♣ 102

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
		Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>van Pr'jen</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	3♦(1)	Pass	4♥
(1) three-card limit-plus			

After a top diamond lead from West would you work out to duck against a normal count signal of the ♦10? We think you should. Then only a trump shift for a second diamond beats you. But the ♦8 is impossible to read today. If that is upside-down count, you can simply win and play trumps, letting the defenders take their ruff. Both E/W pairs were playing reverse signals so neither declarer ducked the ♦K and both went down in flames at once.

Aces & Deuces got on the board when Tina Cho received the lead of the ♦K against 4♠. Jason

Hackett contributed a "Standard" ♦8 and Cho did indeed duck and win the next diamond, after which as the cards lay she was home. Well done for 12 imps, making it 13-37.

Just over one-third of the field made game here but few managed to bid to 3NT, probably the best spot?.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ AQ86
Vul: None	♥ J7
	♦ J98
	♣ Q1082

West
♠ J10
♥ 10643
♦ Q10642
♣ J5

East
♠ K7
♥ A852
♦ A3
♣ K9763

South
♠ 95432
♥ KQ9
♦ K75
♣ A4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
			1♣(2+)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>van Pr'jen</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
			1♠
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	All Pass	
(1) limit with four trumps			

Holland made ten tricks in his spade partscore when the defenders opened up clubs, but the tenth trick was going to be far harder for Gold to come by. Whibley led the ♦A, received an encouraging signal, and after much thought shifted to...a club. Hrumph. (Yes, on a diamond continuation declarer can win, dislodge the ♥A, then strip off the hearts and play ace and another spade — but I don't think he would have done that.) Those 6 imps made it 33-13.

When Jason Hackett on a blind lead picked out the ♣J against 4♠, Aces & Deuces had their second big pick-up in a row; 37-20 now to Pharon. Four pairs bid and made 4♠ here, four went down. Almost all the rest played partscores.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ A108752
Vul: N/S	♥ ---
	♦ QJ1074
	♣ 98

West
♠ Q9
♥ AKQJ1087
♦ 63
♣ J4

East
♠ KJ6
♥ 6543
♦ A985
♣ 107

South
♠ 43
♥ 92
♦ K2
♣ AKQ6532

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1♥	2♥	3♦(♥)	5♣
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>van Pr'jen</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
1♥	2♥	2NT(♥)	Dbl
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
5♥	5♠	Dbl	All Pass

It helps if you play specific two-suiters here so that a jump to 5♣ is unequivocally to play. Hollands followed a route that persuaded his partner to act unilaterally over 5♥ (one can apportion blame for that based on how much one believes South's route of starting with a double should imply defense, not fit). 5♠x lost the obvious three tricks. Meanwhile, against 5♥x the defense started with two top clubs. Bakhshi then shifted to spades and declarer claimed down one. Yes, Bakhshi might have got this right, but there were surprisingly few imps riding on the decision: 2, in fact. It was 7 imps to NEDUK, down 20-33 with two to play.

As you might have expected, there were numbers all over the place here. The Hacketts sacrificed in 5♥ down 100 while Tom Hanlon played 5♣x on a top heart lead (a trump or even a spade might set it) and ruffed to play a diamond to his king for a second ruff. He collected +950 to pad the lead to 51-20.

Pride of place goes to Lee Bok Hee of Verdure who bid and made 6♣ on the lead of a top heart. Easy game! There were quite a few 950s and 750s here. I don't think anyone beat 5♣, though. Notice that even after the heart lead, if East wins the ♦A at trick two and plays back a spade declarer is doomed in 6♦.

Bd: 13
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
♠ J10
♥ Q
♦ J10965
♣ Q9654

West
♠ 8
♥ K96432
♦ AK832
♣ J

East
♠ AK754
♥ AJ5
♦ 74
♣ A102

South
♠ Q9632
♥ 1087
♦ Q
♣ K873

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠(1)	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) No shortage 15+			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Howard</i>	<i>van Pr'jen</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Against 6♥ Hollands led a spade. Declarer won, ruffed a spade and drew two rounds of trumps with the king and ace. This relied on spades splitting or diamonds being 3-3, which did not work. The winning line (admittedly one that might smack of double-dummy) is to lead diamonds up to dummy twice using the ♥A as the re-entry to the East hand. Now you might well ruff a diamond with the ♥J, cash the top spades, cross back to hand with a club ruff and ruff the last diamond with the ♥5. This line only fails when North has false-carded from ♥Q10 and can overruff the third spade.

Since Milne found this line in 4♥ you might argue that he would have done the same in slam. I couldn't possibly comment and I'm sure Milne would just take his 13 imps. With a final overtrick imp pick-up Youth won 47-20, 16.55-3.45 in VPs.

The twins bid slam for Pharon and Jason played it carefully to bring home 12 tricks by leading diamonds up to his hand twice. That gave his team a 65-20 win, 18.98-1.02 in VPs.

Just for the record, half the field reached slam and more went down in slam than made it.

Did you know? 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 Fig Newton

Match Four: Australia/India vs Bulgarian All Stars

by Barry Rigal



Moren



Isporski



Kovachev



Francis



Iliev



P Chakradeo



A Chakradeo



Hristov

For Australia/India Moren-Francis play an aggressive strong club with transfer openings and some canapé while the Chakradeos, father and son, Pranjal and Ajit, play a strong club. For the Bulgarians Isporski-Kovachev play a natural system with transfer responses to 1♣, with Iliev-Hristov playing Precision in the other room.

Bd: 17
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ A2
♥ J86
♦ KQ8
♣ K9432

West
♠ J95
♥ AK943
♦ 74
♣ 876

East
♠ 1043
♥ 105
♦ AJ52
♣ QJ105

South
♠ KQ876
♥ Q72
♦ 10963
♣ A

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moren	Isporski	Francis	Kovachev
	1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Iliev	P Chak'o	Hristov	A Chak'o
	1NT	Pass	2♥(♠)
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

With spades three-three the only issue here was overtricks (though 1♥xx could have been the best possible result for N/S). Since Iliev refused to give his partner the heart ruff Ajit emerged with +140 and 1 imp.

In our other match Paul Hackett as North heard the auction start: 1♣-1♠; 1NT-2♦. He judged to pass and Hanlon collected +90, with the twins defeating 3NT

in the other room. Pharon led Yeh Bros 4-0.

Bd: 18
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ J10
♥ 952
♦ 8653
♣ KJ108

West
♠ KQ874
♥ AQ64
♦ 9
♣ Q97

East
♠ 96
♥ KJ87
♦ J1072
♣ 643

South
♠ A532
♥ 103
♦ AKQ4
♣ A52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moren	Isporski	Francis	Kovachev
		Pass	1NT
2♦(♠+♥)	Pass	2♥	Dbl
Pass	2NT(1)	3♥	All Pass

(1) Minors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Iliev	P Chak'o	Hristov	A Chak'o
		Pass	1♣ (STR)
1♦(1)	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

(1) Majors

The Chakradeos went very quietly here. It is certainly not clear, though, who should act and when. In the other room Kovachev felt compelled to compete over 2♥ and that certainly worked well enough to push his opponents up that one vital level. With the spade intermediates falling both tables wrapped up eight tricks painlessly enough, but the All Stars had fourimps to lead 4-1.

Pharon went plus in both rooms, making 2♥ and 2NT to pick up 6imps to lead 10-0.

Bd: 19
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ K10986
 ♥ KJ4
 ♦ 65
 ♣ 976

West
 ♠ AJ4
 ♥ A875
 ♦ KJ10984
 ♣ ---

East
 ♠ 72
 ♥ Q1062
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ KQ1032

South
 ♠ Q53
 ♥ 93
 ♦ 732
 ♣ AJ854

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moren</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Francis</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♦(1)	1♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

(1) 4+ hearts may be canape

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>P Chak'ov</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>A Chak'ov</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣(SPL)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

4♥ was painless enough on a trump lead; 5♥ was anything but after South's spade lead. I would have expected Francis to win the second spade and play ace and another heart, but he chose to ruff a spade first. Now he would have gone down had North been able to lead the fourth spade through for the trump promotion. But today was his lucky day, and all the All Stars could get was their overtrick imp. Elsewhere some E/W pairs were more ambitious. Hans-Nunn bid 6♥ against Madala-Ferraro and Ferraro led a trump, after which declarer claimed +1430 a moment later. For Aces & Deuces the slam attempted was 6♦. Now with no discards the defenders did not have to try hard to set the slam.

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ A107
 ♥ 102
 ♦ AKQ763
 ♣ Q3

West
 ♠ K9632
 ♥ KJ863
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 74

East
 ♠ J84
 ♥ 95
 ♦ 982
 ♣ 98652

South
 ♠ Q5
 ♥ AQ74
 ♦ J105
 ♣ AKJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moren</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Francis</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
2♣(1)	2♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>P Chak'ov</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>A Chak'ov</i>
	1♦	Pass	2NT(FG)
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT(1)	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦

(1) 3 key cards

Both tables decided against looking for a grand slam, where the straightforward squeeze on West doesn't work (South gets squeezed first) but cashing the ♥A, then running diamonds followed by clubs, catches West between sole control of the hearts and the ♠K. 2 overtrick imps for All Stars, up 7-1.

I was expecting to see a few pairs in the grand slam but only Katsumi Takahashi and Lee Bok Hee for Verdure reached the grand and made it. On the ♥9 lead, the right way to play the squeeze was rather telegraphed. Meanwhile, the N/S pairs for NEDUK and River Side got to 4♦, which is somehow less embarrassing than playing game, don't you think?

Bd: 21
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AQ3
 ♥ K982
 ♦ KQ98
 ♣ 109

West
 ♠ 754
 ♥ 7643
 ♦ A1043
 ♣ J6

East
 ♠ J
 ♥ J
 ♦ 765
 ♣ AKQ85432

South
 ♠ K109862
 ♥ AQ105
 ♦ J2
 ♣ 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moren</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Francis</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♦	5♣	Dbl

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>P Chak'ov</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>A Chak'ov</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦(1)	3♣	4♣
Dbl	4♥	5♣	5♥

All Pass

Hristov took a long time to let 5♥ go, perhaps worried that he would not know what to do over 6♥. He led a top club against 5♥ and again took an age...but eventually played the ♠J. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a club, then drew trumps and claimed 650. Since 5♣ had gone down the obvious 300 in the other room that was 8 imps to Australia/India and the lead at 9-7.

Pharon produced exactly the same pair of contracts to give themselves 5 more imps and an 18-0 lead. Meanwhile, Madala-Ferraro took revenge for the result on Board 19. They bid on power to 6♠ after East had shown long clubs. Nunn led the ♦A and

tried to give his partner a ruff by continuing the suit.
Nice try, no cigar!

Bd: 22 North
Dir: East ♠ K1065
Vul: E/W ♥ 962
♦ 9
♣ 108642

West
♠ AQ3
♥ 53
♦ AKQ1053
♣ AQ

East
♠ J74
♥ K107
♦ J8764
♣ 75

South
♠ 982
♥ AQJ84
♦ 2
♣ KJ93

Open Room

West North East South
Moren Isporski Francis Kovachev

Dbl 2♥ Pass Pass
3♥ Dbl 3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West North East South
Iliev P Chak'ov Hristov A Chak'ov

3♥ 4♥ Pass Pass
Dbl All Pass

Pranjal's decision to save in 4♥ here looks wild idiosyncratic in the extreme (let's be charitable) but with +600 coming from the other room Ajit had plenty of leeway. The defenders started with two rounds of diamonds so one of the spade losers went away, and when declarer used his two entries to dummy to take trump finesses he escaped for one diamond, one spade and two club losers — a remarkable -100. It was 20-7 to Australia/India now.

In our second match Dawei Chen managed to wrongside 3NT, playing it as West. On the ♥9 lead he put in the ten and Hanlon won the jack to shift to an ingenuous ♠8. Chen studied this for a while but eventually decided to take it at face value and went up with the ace to take the club finesse. I wonder how he would have played had Hanlon shifted to the ♣9.

Bd: 23 North
Dir: South ♠ 952
Vul: Both ♥ 106
♦ J102
♣ KJ983

West
♠ AJ10843
♥ J9
♦ KQ74
♣ A

East
♠ Q
♥ AQ87532
♦ 853
♣ 64

South
♠ K76
♥ K4
♦ A96
♣ Q10752

Open Room

West North East South
Moren Isporski Francis Kovachev

Dbl 2♣ 4♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West North East South
Iliev P Chak'ov Hristov A Chak'ov

1♠ Pass 2♥ Pass
3♠ Pass 4♥ All Pass

Neither E/W pair could have been entirely happy with their auction here but the net result was entirely satisfactory in 4♥. After a club lead it was easy enough to ruff a spade to hand, a club to dummy, then give up a trick to the ♥K and lose just one diamond more. No swing at +650.

Bd: 24

North
Dir: West ♠ QJ8
Vul: None ♥ K9652
♦ A64
♣ 74

West
♠ K10652
♥ ---
♦ 875
♣ AKJ53

East
♠ A4
♥ A843
♦ Q932
♣ Q109

South
♠ 973
♥ QJ107
♦ KJ10
♣ 862

Open Room

West North East South
Moren Isporski Francis Kovachev

1♥(♠) Pass 1♠(1) Pass
2NT Pass 3♣ Pass
3♠ Pass 3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West North East South
Iliev P Chak'ov Hristov A Chak'ov

1♠ Pass 1NT Pass
2♣ Pass 3NT All Pass

Francis won the first heart to play off his clubs, but the defenders were really under no pressure. Hristov ducked two hearts, won the third, then ran the clubs; South pitched spades, North two diamonds then a heart. Declarer cashed his two top spades and conceded the rest for no swing. Of course 5♣ will make if the defenders do not take their diamond tricks on the go, but that looks very hard to do (both reaching the best game and defeating it).

Justin and Jason Hackett bid it 1♠-2♦; 2♠-2NT; 3♣-3♠; 4♣-4♥; 5♣-Pass. Shih might reasonably have underled his ♦A here, I think, but he led a heart and declarer claimed +400. Very nice and especially satisfying when in the other room Furuta-Chen had done well to stop in a spade partscore. Elsewhere, quite a few pairs bid to 4♠ and were allowed to make it on a non-diamond lead.

An unremarkable 3NT contract saw both E/W pairs

record an overtrick, leaving the match score at 20-7 while Pharon led 25-1.

Bd: 26
Dir: East
Vul: Both

North
♠ 742
♥ K9
♦ Q983
♣ 10852

West
♠ 98
♥ J62
♦ 7642
♣ AKJ4

East
♠ J103
♥ A10743
♦ KJ
♣ 973

South
♠ AKQ65
♥ Q85
♦ A105
♣ Q6

Open Room

West <i>Moren</i>	North <i>Isporski</i>	East <i>Francis</i> Pass	South <i>Kovachev</i> 1NT
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All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Iliev</i>	North <i>P Chak'o</i>	East <i>Hristov</i> Pass	South <i>A Chak'o</i> 1♣(STR) 1♠
Pass 2♥	1♦(Weak) 2♠	1♥ All Pass	

2♠ lost the four obvious tricks when declarer took a heart ruff in dummy and led a diamond up to his ace. Meanwhile, 1NT doesn't look all that comfortable but the defenders got their wires crossed, letting declarer score his ♣Q at trick two and then giving up their diamond trick as well. Kovachev emerged with a remarkable +180 for an imp.

Bd: 27
Dir: South
Vul: None

North
♠ QJ7
♥ J75
♦ Q1042
♣ 1062

West
♠ K954
♥ A1093
♦ J5
♣ A84

East
♠ A6
♥ KQ864
♦ 86
♣ 9753

South
♠ 10832
♥ 2
♦ AK973
♣ KQJ

Open Room

West <i>Moren</i>	North <i>Isporski</i>	East <i>Francis</i>	South <i>Kovachev</i>
			1♦
1NT(1) 3♥	2♦ Pass	2♥ 4♥	3♦ All Pass

(1) 13-15

Closed Room

West <i>Iliev</i>	North <i>P Chak'o</i>	East <i>Hristov</i>	South <i>A Chak'o</i>
			2♦(1)
Pass 4♥	Pass All Pass	2♥	Pass

(1) Diamonds, no major 11-15

Both E/W pairs found it impossible to stay out of 4♥ here, though each had very good chances to do so; no swing. The datum was E/W +60 here, so slightly more than half the field avoided big trouble with the E/W cards.

Bd: 29
Dir: North
Vul: Both

North
♠ J86543
♥ 32
♦ 7532
♣ A

West
♠ 1097
♥ Q
♦ A1096
♣ QJ983

East
♠ KQ
♥ AJ1065
♦ ---
♣ K107652

South
♠ A2
♥ K9874
♦ KQJ84
♣ 4

Open Room

West <i>Moren</i>	North <i>Isporski</i>	East <i>Francis</i>	South <i>Kovachev</i>
	Pass	1♦(♥)	2♦
Pass 5♣	2♠ 5♦	3♣ Pass	Pass Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Iliev</i>	North <i>P Chak'o</i>	East <i>Hristov</i>	South <i>A Chak'o</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT 4♣	Pass Pass	3♣(NF) 4♦	Pass Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Both tables did well here, getting to clubs at the right level, but the All Stars took the 500 save and a hard-earned 3 imps in the process. 20-11, Australia/India.

In Pharon-Yeh Bros Justin and Jason bid: 1♣-(1♥)-3♣-(P); 4♦-(P)-4♥-(P); 4♠-(P)-4NT-(P); 6♣. 3♣ was mixed, 4♦ shortage, and thereafter Justin expected a different ace than the one he bought in dummy. In total eight E/W pairs missed clubs altogether, or found them and aimed too high.

Bd: 30
Dir: East
Vul: None

North
♠ ---
♥ K10742
♦ Q10865
♣ J83

West
♠ 97653
♥ A53
♦ K3
♣ 942

East
♠ KQJ82
♥ 6
♦ 742
♣ K1076

South
♠ A104
♥ QJ98
♦ AJ9
♣ AQ5

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Moren</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Francis</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT(1)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3NT
(1) 4 trumps max			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>P Chak'o</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>A Chak'o</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

The strong notrump kept the opponents out far better than the strong club. The All Stars had no problem reaching the heart game but in the other room North's 3NT bid, intended as unusual, got past South and gifted the All Stars 11 imps to let them snatch the match on the very last deal.

Pharon added 9 imps by saving in 4♠ for a paltry -100 while collecting +480 in 4♥. That was a win by 15 imps, converting to 14.19 - 5.81 in VPs.

18th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday (Apr. 17)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (5)	414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (6)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (7)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (8)	
Thursday (Apr. 18)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (9)	414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (10)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (11)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (12)	
Friday (Apr. 19)	09:00-11:15	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)	513, 514
	11:35-13:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)	
	13:50-15:00	Lunch Break	513, 514
	15:00-17:15	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	
	17:35-19:50	NEC Cup Semi-Final (2)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama IMP Pairs	503
Saturday (Apr. 20)	09:00-11:15	NEC Cup Final (1)	513, 514
	11:35-13:50	NEC Cup Final (2)	
	13:50-15:00	Lunch Break	
	15:00-17:15	NEC Cup Final (3)	
	17:35-19:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams	501, 502
Sunday (Apr. 21)	10:00-17:30	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	501, 502
	18:00-20:00	Closing Ceremony	503

NEC Cup Qualifying Swiss: 12 rounds of 14-board matches
 NEC Cup Quarter- & Semi-finals: two 16-board segments
 NEC Cup Final: four 16-board segments

A Blast From the Past

Frank van Wezel and Hans van de Konijnenberg live in the Netherlands. They both collect books, magazines and daily bulletins about bridge. They especially enjoy reading daily bulletins from the pre-internet era because these bulletins contain a lot of wonderful photographs, marvellous sketches, splendid deals and tremendous stories and anecdotes. If you enjoy this type of material (as we do) surf right over to their web site (www.bridgedailybulletins.nl) — and enjoy!