



NEC Bridge Festival

Thursday, April 18, 2013
Bulletin Number 3

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Day Two of the 2013 NEC Cup is Mixed

At the end of Day Two, the top qualifiers are still all foreign teams led by Mixed (Milner, H Lall, Auken, Welland, Kwiecien, Pszczola) with 115.56 VPs. (At least the scores are starting to look more normal.) About 9 VPs back is perennial NEC contender NEDUK (Bakhshi, Gold, Jansma, van Prooijen) followed about 2 VPs back by USA (Cheek, Grue, J Lall, Del'Monte) and a fraction behind them by Pharon (the Hacketts+Hanlon), yesterday's leader. Rounding out the top eight are England, NAITO (the only Japanese squad among the present teams in qualifying position), Italy Lavazza and PolUS. Though Day Two has more going for it as a predictor than Day One, we still choose to leave the prognostications to our readers. Just remember, there are some powerful teams sitting in the on-deck circle and just beyond. The complete Day Two rankings are shown below; individual results for Matches 5-8 are on page 5.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day Two (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Mixed..	115.56	17	Yamada..	87.41	33	Seoul..	72.32
2	NEDUK.	106.77	18	India.	85.64	34	Etsuko Naito.	71.10
3	USA..	104.80	19	Golden Bull.	84.09	35	sawa sawa..	70.70
4	Pharon..	104.68	20	Verdure.	83.95	36	Otvosi.	67.33
5	England..	100.88	21	Kacho Fugetsu.	82.98	37	Aces & Deuces.	66.55
6	NAITO..	99.41	22	Sakurai.	81.13	38	AYB 56.	65.20
7	Italy Lavazza.	98.92	23	Australia/India.	80.84	39	KinKi.	63.71
8	PolUS.	95.84	24	River Side.	79.70	40	Setsu Gekka.	63.48
9	Russia.	95.06	25	NANIWADA..	77.41	41	Hammer.	62.41
10	Bulgarian All Stars.	93.15	26	Morimura.	76.77	42	akage.	57.59
11	Beauchamp.	92.79	27	Thailand/Japan.	76.48	43	Friends.	56.19
12	Australia Youth.	92.65	28	JAPAN Women.	76.37	44	LANDOLT.	55.62
13	Down Under.	92.57	29	Surfrider.	75.57	45	Korea/Japan.	53.66
14	Oz Players..	89.61	30	ESPERANZA..	75.54	46	Iza Yokohama IV..	52.71
15	SARA.	89.34	31	LAS FLORES.	75.29	47	JAPAN Youth.	52.14
16	Yeh Bros.	87.64	32	Kitty's..	73.15			

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: Bridgmate 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 Piafsky
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 Iwashashi, 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 Surf rider:	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

Yeh Bros Cup フローターチーム/ペア募集

Yeh Bros Cup スイスチーム/オープンペアのフローターを以下の通り募集します。

記

1. 募集数・日時

スイスチーム：1チーム

4月24日・25日 午前9時30分-午後6時40分

オープンペア：8ペア

4月25日 午後4時20分-午後7時50分 オープンペア予選

26日 午前9時30分-午後5時30分 オープンペア準決勝・決勝

2. 申込：4月23日（火）正午までに、Yeh Bros Cup 大会事務局へ（045-228-6466）

☆フローターをお願いするチーム・ペアを前日までに決定して連絡します。

☆開始時の状況により、ご参加いただけないことがありますのでご了承ください。

☆フローターは参加料無料で、入賞した場合は賞金を授与します。

以上

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

Wednesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 5				Match 6				Match 7				Match 8			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	14	53	13.23	68.00	4	39	15.66	83.66	12	14	3.97	87.63	18	13	4.94	92.57
2	27	77	20.00	63.91	12	23	6.04	69.95	17	63	20.00	89.95	3	50	14.85	104.80
3	11	61	15.85	71.28	8	4	4.94	76.22	6	53	11.28	87.50	2	32	5.15	92.65
4	37	44	17.04	63.62	1	17	4.34	67.96	13	37	11.87	79.83	9	37	5.81	85.64
5	12	47	15.06	78.47	6	18	14.64	93.11	8	36	7.03	100.14	7	22	4.54	104.68
6	16	47	18.17	71.36	5	1	5.36	76.72	3	49	8.72	85.44	19	33	13.48	98.92
7	32	64	19.56	59.42	11	27	12.71	72.13	20	52	19.18	91.31	5	43	15.46	106.77
8	10	46	18.98	69.12	3	23	15.06	84.18	5	46	12.97	97.15	12	62	18.41	115.56
9	20	35	10.97	59.51	13	18	10.97	70.48	18	21	4.94	75.42	4	52	14.19	89.61
10	8	1	1.02	49.90	37	20	13.23	63.13	14	88	20.00	83.13	16	35	12.71	95.84
11	3	38	4.15	59.34	7	18	7.29	66.63	27	17	3.97	70.60	25	50	17.04	87.64
12	5	28	4.94	63.48	2	37	13.96	77.44	1	38	16.03	93.47	8	22	1.59	95.06
13	24	32	10.00	59.60	9	15	9.03	68.63	4	31	8.13	76.76	21	51	16.03	92.79
14	1	42	6.77	57.22	18	14	4.54	61.76	10	6	0.00	61.76	15	69	19.08	80.84
15	22	32	14.19	42.37	45	35	11.28	53.65	26	25	7.84	61.49	14	23	0.92	62.41
16	6	9	1.83	56.79	25	41	18.41	75.20	19	40	10.66	85.86	10	26	7.29	93.15
17	28	49	16.03	51.92	40	42	18.04	69.96	2	6	0.00	69.96	35	28	6.52	76.48
18	21	36	15.06	55.30	14	35	15.46	70.76	9	40	15.06	85.82	1	32	15.06	100.88
19	26	60	16.55	59.29	24	35	14.19	73.48	16	38	9.34	82.82	6	21	6.52	76.48
20	9	32	9.03	57.53	38	35	14.42	71.95	7	5	0.82	72.77	22	38	14.64	87.41
21	18	17	4.94	46.73	35	29	13.23	59.96	32	35	12.44	72.40	13	27	3.97	76.37
22	15	17	5.81	35.20	43	37	16.21	51.41	45	84	20.00	71.41	20	21	5.36	76.77
23	30	6	5.15	31.01	3w	36	16.88	47.89	28	29	13.23	61.12	37	23	14.42	75.54
24	13	32	10.00	58.79	19	20	5.81	64.60	38	58	17.77	82.37	27	48	17.04	99.41
25	45	38	15.26	54.64	16	1	1.59	56.23	39	31	13.96	70.19	11	20	2.96	73.15
26	19	33	3.45	46.36	39	18	7.03	53.39	15	32	12.16	65.55	38	13	5.15	70.70
27	2	0	0	45.36	42	54	19.74	65.10	11	41	16.03	81.13	24	18	2.96	84.09
28	17	25	3.97	38.66	29	8	5.81	44.74	23	18	6.77	51.24	33	29	13.96	65.20
29	47	41	12.97	37.50	28	23	14.19	51.69	46	27	10.97	62.66	32	12	0.82	63.48
30	23	24	14.85	42.67	34	17	9.03	51.70	36	8	4.34	56.04	42	31	15.06	71.10
31	3w	28	13.72	33.40	47	52	16.38	49.78	42	42	15.46	65.24	39	43	10.33	75.57
32	7	13	0.44	40.49	33	35	16.72	57.21	21	27	7.56	64.77	29	59	19.18	83.95
33	34	17	7.84	39.94	32	7	3.28	43.22	3w	23	3.45	46.67	28	15	6.04	52.71
34	33	24	12.16	43.60	30	20	10.97	54.57	35	18	3.79	58.36	46	45	13.96	72.32
35	46	35	13.23	46.52	21	18	6.77	53.29	34	43	16.21	69.50	17	40	13.48	82.98
36	44	51	18.65	41.88	46	34	10.00	51.88	30	30	15.66	67.54	40	21	12.16	79.70
37	4	14	2.96	49.17	10	9	6.77	55.94	40	27	5.81	61.75	23	7	5.58	67.33
38	40	38	12.44	58.47	20	19	5.58	64.05	24	23	2.23	66.28	26	31	14.85	81.13
39	42	23	10.33	46.61	26	28	12.97	59.58	25	17	6.04	65.62	31	42	9.67	75.29
40	38	30	7.56	53.42	17	5	1.96	55.38	37	42	14.19	69.57	36	14	7.84	77.41
41	3w	16	3.62	20.33	3w	15	3.97	24.30	3w	44	15.66	39.96	3w	44	15.66	55.62
42	39	22	9.67	46.45	27	1	0.26	46.71	31	21	4.54	51.25	30	12	4.94	56.19
43	3w	37	13.72	36.57	22	12	3.79	40.36	44	22	2.81	43.17	47	33	14.42	57.59
44	36	9	1.35	25.13	3w	20	8.42	33.55	43	53	17.19	50.74	3w	36	12.97	63.71
45	25	18	4.74	42.28	15	31	8.72	51.00	22	16	0.00	51.00	3w	26	2.66	53.66
46	35	24	6.77	41.48	36	34	10.00	51.48	29	24	9.03	60.51	34	31	6.04	66.55
47	29	31	7.03	31.36	31	26	3.62	34.98	3w	19	11.58	46.56	43	17	5.58	52.14

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

Match Five: Oz Players vs JAPAN Yamada

by Barry Rigal



Yoshida



Klinger



Mullamphy



Hirata



Thompson



Yamada



Ohno



Jacobs

The two Japanese pairs play standard systems. Klinger-Mullamphy also play a standard system but with a fair number of gadgets, including transfers over 1♣. Thompson-Jacobs play Fantunes (weak notrump, forcing one-level actions and intermediate two-bids).

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ 10653
♥ 10432
♦ 102
♣ K43

West
♠ 84
♥ A976
♦ A853
♣ AJ10

East
♠ KJ9
♥ KQ5
♦ 764
♣ 9862

South
♠ AQ72
♥ J8
♦ KQJ9
♣ Q75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yoshida	Klinger	Hirata	Mullamphy
	Pass	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Yamada	Jacobs	Ohno
	Pass	Pass	1♦

All Pass

Even playing a strong notrump there is certainly a case for a 1♦ opening bid, I suppose. Ohno played 1♦ on a helpful spade lead and took it cheaply to go after trumps. Ben Thompson as West won the second diamond to shift to the ♣J, which ran around to the queen. Ohno drew trumps and had only to clear spades to set up her seventh winner, but when she played hearts she left the defenders a tempo ahead in the race for the seventh trick.

1NT was not a beautiful spot, but after the heart lead to the queen East returned a low heart. The winning defense is to shift to clubs and use the second heart

entry to play another club. At the table West won the second heart and shifted to diamonds. Mullamphy put up the ten, finessed in spades, then knocked out the ♦A, leaving the defenders helpless.

Both tables in Beauchamp-NAITO played 1NT on a low heart lead. Kenji Miyakuni found the club shift at trick two while Kim Morrison played the "expert" ♠J. Who do you think did better? Kenji shifted to a low club so his partner tried to cash out the suit and gave up the seventh trick; Naito cut himself off from his hand by blocking the spades and leaving the high spade in dummy, so Beauchamp broke on top by 4.

There were more imps to come for Oz Players on the next deal.

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 10653
♥ K7
♦ K10875
♣ K7

West
♠ ---
♥ 10985
♦ QJ93
♣ AJ1094

East
♠ A984
♥ A432
♦ 4
♣ Q853

South
♠ KQJ72
♥ QJ6
♦ A62
♣ 62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yoshida	Klinger	Hirata	Mullamphy
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT(♠)	Pass	3♣ (R)
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Yamada	Jacobs	Ohno
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	4♠	Dbl	Pass
4NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
5♣	Dbl	All Pass	

After Jacobs passed, Thompson took two shots on the deal (Were these the shots heard round the world? Maybe, BBO does get everywhere), first when he doubled 1♠, second when (sensibly in my opinion) he pulled the card-showing double to 4NT. Had partner's ♠A been a red-suit honor his decision might have looked even better. As it was, though, the defense to 5♣x was painless enough with an inevitable loser in each minor and no obvious way to avoid two heart losers.

So how would 4♠ play? Yoshida did well to lead a heart to the king and ace for the diamond shift. Mullamphy ran this to dummy, led a spade to his hand, and then an innocent-looking club up. It was still early in the morning. Yoshida ducked and declarer promptly won the ♣K, pitched his club loser on the master hearts, and gave up a diamond and a spade for ten tricks; +8 to Oz Players, leading 12-0.

In theory it is much easier to get the diamond ruff on a heart lead (for East to shift to diamonds when he wins the ♥A, as Kenji Miyakuni did in Beauchamp-NAITO) than on a diamond lead. Morrison could still have persuaded his partner to give him that ruff but he didn't try for that; 12-4 now for NAITO.

Only four declarers brought home 4♠ here, the two not in our featured matches did so on a top diamond lead.

On the next deal (below) both N/S pairs played 3♥ when game was makeable, though certainly no better than 50%. Klinger found a line for an overtrick in the partscore to make it 13-0.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ AK4
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQ9862
 ♦ A64
 ♣ 10

West	East
♠ 985	♠ QJ32
♥ 105	♥ K74
♦ Q87	♦ K53
♣ KQ963	♣ 742

South

♠ 1076
 ♥ J3
 ♦ J1092
 ♣ AJ85

It is worth noting that David Gold and David Bakhshi did very nicely to bid to 3NT here on the auction: 1♥-1NT; 2♦(♥)-2♥; 3♣-3NT; Pass. 3♣ showed shortage and of course 3NT has nine tricks when hearts behave normally. (Well done Niyomchoke-Rotsruga for duplicating that feat, the only other pair to bid to 3NT.)

Joe Grue played 4♥ and tried for his newspaper entry. He won the top spade lead and crossed to the ♥J to run the ♦J to East. Back came a club. He won, repeated the diamond finesse, ruffed a club, then backed his judgment on diamonds being 3-3 to cash the ♦A and exit with the ♥Q. Had hearts been 4-1 East would have won but then been forced to exit

with a club, letting declarer ruff and play ace and another heart to endplay East to lead spades at the death. Of course, as the cards lay the contract was not in jeopardy, but this was still a nice play.

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ AJ10975
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ3
 ♦ J
 ♣ KQJ

West	East
♠ Q3	♠ K842
♥ 10652	♥ AJ74
♦ 74	♦ 10862
♣ A9843	♣ 7

South

♠ 6
 ♥ 98
 ♦ AKQ953
 ♣ 10652

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣(♦)
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables played 3NT from the North seat (a perfectly reasonable spot but one where the lie of the rounded aces meant that declarer was dependent on the ♦10 to behave). 4♠ might seem to offer more play, given the lie of the spades, but the combination of club ruffs and promotions available in the diamond suit make that contract equally impractical today. Both defenses led hearts and forced declarer to play on diamonds unsuccessfully in due course. No swing at -200, still 13-0 for Oz Players.

For the record, 13 pairs bid and made game here. All but three of them played 3NT. Most of them reached game from the South seat, perhaps after a forcing notrump, on a club lead. Now declarer can exploit the favorable lie of the spades by testing diamonds, then playing on spades.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ K96
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ954
 ♦ 42
 ♣ K74

West	East
♠ 1082	♠ Q7543
♥ Q7	♥ 10862
♦ AK1075	♦ 9
♣ 1062	♣ AJ8

South

♠ AJ
 ♥ A3
 ♦ QJ863
 ♣ Q953

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	2♠	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♦(♥+♠)	Dbl
2♠	All Pass		

Had Yamada doubled 2♠ and led a low trump declarer might have been in -300 territory, but he passed out 2♠ and led a diamond. Thompson cashed his diamonds and led a low heart. South won to return a heart (yes, playing ace and another trump is also feasible, I suppose). Yamada scored the second heart trick and shifted to a low trump, and Ohno played her ♠A to return the suit and kill the ruff. That was a quiet -50, and when 3NT went down on a spade lead to Mullamphy's jack Yamada had 4imps. Declarer won cheaply, unblocked the ♠A and tried to set up hearts, eventually using the ♣K as the late entry. The defenders had time to develop clubs for their fifth winner.

By contrast, Valio Kovachev opened the South cards a strong notrump (like beauty, these things appear to be in the eye of the beholder) and was raised to 3NT via a transfer. On the low diamond lead he took the nine with the queen and played the ♥A. West dropped the queen so Kovachev played a club to the king and ace. Now whatever the defenders did he could set up both of the side-suits for the extra tricks he needed. In fact, a spade came through so he finessed, unblocked in spades, ducked a club, and eventually scored the 13th club for his ninth winner.

Around the room 3NT came home nine times in all. If declarer wins the spade lead to play a club the defenders have to lead diamonds sooner or later to avoid West getting endplayed at the death.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ J10
Vul: E/W	♥ A
	♦ 109542
	♣ AQ974
West	East
♠ 8542	♠ AK973
♥ KQ107	♥ J8652
♦ ---	♦ AQ
♣ 108632	♣ J
South	
♠ Q6	
♥ 943	
♦ KJ8763	
♣ K5	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Dbl	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
		1♠	Pass
4♠	4NT	Dbl	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Both Souths got to play 5♦ but one West led his heart sequence while the other led a spade. On the spade lead the defenders cashed out for +100, but on the heart lead Mullamphy had what appeared to be a cost-nothing line for the hand by going after clubs for the spade discard. Alas for him, East could ruff in prematurely and take the spade winners for +300. 5 not unfortunateimps to Yamada, down 13-9.

In NAITO-Beauchamp Tanaka did not come in after 1♠-4♠, an 11-imp pick-up for Beauchamp when 5♦ escaped for 100 after the spade lead.

Amongst the myriad results of game making and sacrifices going down, all resulting in plus scores for E/W, two results caught our eye (not surprisingly, you might say, since they were the only two plus scores for N/S).

Against Golden Bull Justin Lall played 5♦x on a spade lead. How would the defenders concede 550 after that start? Barring a revoke we postulate a spade to the king, a shift to the ♣J for a trump play, and an underlead in spades by East for the club ruff. So far, so just-about-plausible (and indeed if West has raised spades and leads a 3/5th ♠4 East's defense is hardly absurd). But what about the result achieved by Michiko Iwahashi and Etsuko Takano? (This time we won't specify the opponents.) You could say that it was unwise to sacrifice in 6♦. Technically, though, 5♥ by E/W cannot be beaten and 5♠ rates to make. But since that contract was allowed to bring home +1090 after a top heart lead maybe it was a well-judged sacrifice after all.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ A95
Vul: Both	♥ 3
	♦ J854
	♣ KQJ42
West	East
♠ 10642	♠ KJ87
♥ 9872	♥ QJ1065
♦ AK2	♦ 9
♣ 103	♣ A76
South	
♠ Q3	
♥ AK4	
♦ Q10763	
♣ 985	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
Pass	2♣	Dbl	Pass
2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	4♦	4♥	Dbl

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	2NT
3♥	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs got to hearts, but Hirata took a pretty wild shot to bid on after his initial double given that he was surely minimum in both high cards and hand pattern and his partner had not really invited game. Punishment was both swift and severe, and when Klinger got in with his club winners he put declarer to the test by underleading in spades. Yoshida should perhaps have got this right, but when he ducked he ran into a spade ruff for -800. That was 12 imps away against 3♥ down one, where Jacobs guessed hearts when put to the test. 25-9 now for Oz Players.

Team NAITO lived a little dangerously here when Naito doubled 3♥, but they were amply rewarded when declarer misguessed spades and went for 500. In the other room van Jole played 3NT after Beauchamp had shown a singleton heart. The defenders led spades but shifted to hearts and declarer had no play for more than eight tricks now. The running score here was 25-18 now.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ 9732
Vul: None	♥ 107
	♦ Q643
	♣ A96

West	East
♠ AQJ6	♠ K4
♥ 5432	♥ AKJ98
♦ 92	♦ 1085
♣ Q52	♣ 1084
South	
♠ 1085	
♥ Q6	
♦ AKJ7	
♣ KJ73	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl
2♥	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass

The 2♥ opening (wide-ranging 5+ cards) bought the pot, and the defenders scored four of their minor-suit winners (South shifted early to the ♣J but declarer guessed the suit). Plus 140 looks nice enough but Klinger's 2♠ contract was no fun at all. Declarer went

after trumps early and West completed the task of drawing trumps, then ran hearts. Down four, 2 imps to Yamada, trailing 25-11. Chen-Furuta did double 2♠ and of course after a top heart lead, if West has doubled for penalties, you can see how East might well find the trump shift and collect his 800 without allowing declarer a chance to do any better. Nicely done, gentlemen.

In Beauchamp-NAITO Hinge, as West, took a ("find an apt synonym for madly eccentric") leap to 4♥ after his partner opened 1♥ and Naito doubled. Naito led a top diamond: 2, 6, 5, then played a second top diamond: 9, 3, 8. Playing standard signals she read this as encouragement. (Maybe North is partly to blame for not discouraging initially or at least not giving such positive encouragement.) At any rate, after a third diamond declarer drew trumps from the top and claimed +420. Easy game bridge. That made it 25-25.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ 98
Vul: E/W	♥ Q752
	♦ 1087
	♣ Q765

West	East
♠ AQJ10632	♠ 4
♥ J	♥ AK984
♦ 3	♦ AK654
♣ 9432	♣ AJ
South	
♠ K75	
♥ 1063	
♦ QJ92	
♣ K108	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yoshida</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♣(1)	Pass	4NT	Pass
		5♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
2♠(10+)	Pass	1♥(F1)	Pass
4♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass	5♥	Pass

Thompson's 2♠ bid, showing 10+HCP, was critical. Had he held any queen in addition to his spades life would have been far easier. After a club lead, is it double-dummy to find the winning line? I think not, given that the difference between one down and five down is just 2 imps.

Take the spade finesse and cash the ♠A, prepared to claim if the ♠K comes down. If not, run the ♥J, a line that succeeds whenever the ♠K is doubleton onside and when it is in a three-card (or even occasionally a four-card) holding with the ♥Q and ♥10 in the correct location. I make that somewhere close to a 40% line and, more importantly, it works

here. Thompson played simply to bring home spades, and when that didn't work he was out of gas. 13 imps to Yamada made it 25-24 for Oz Players.

There were just two pairs more prepared to admit that they had found the winning line in the play than to give the bidding sequence that got them to slam. The successful declarers were Curtis Cheek-Ishmael Del'Monte and Jan Jansma-Ricco van Prooijen. In total, ten pairs went down in slam (plus one pair playing clubs and another playing hearts).

A board later Yamada took the lead after bidding a rather poor game — a game that would have been considerably better if declared the right way up.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ A86
 Vul: None ♥ AJ65
 ♦ 62
 ♣ AQ65

West
 ♠ 32
 ♥ Q1083
 ♦ AQ94
 ♣ 1042

East
 ♠ K94
 ♥ 942
 ♦ K107
 ♣ KJ83

South
 ♠ QJ1075
 ♥ K7
 ♦ J853
 ♣ 97

Open Room
 West North East South
 Yoshida Klinger Hirata Mullamphy
 Pass 1♣ Pass 1♥(♠)
 Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠
 All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 Thompson Yamada Jacobs Ohno
 Pass 1♣ Pass 1♠
 Pass 1NT Pass 2♠
 Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠
 All Pass

4♠ by North will surely come home on a club or heart lead, but it is otherwise rather hard to make. Ohno received a heart lead as South (dummy was surely going to deliver a ruffing value, wasn't it?) and put in the jack. It held, but she was still not out of the woods. She unblocked in hearts, then led a diamond from her hand. Thompson won and had another chance to play a trump. No. He played a club and declarer could now arrange to cash the club and heart aces and lead a second diamond. Last chance for a trump. No. Back came a second club and now declarer could ruff a diamond low and a diamond high and take +420 for 6 imps and a 31-25 lead. (Just three pairs bid and made game here, by the way.)

Oz Players recaptured 3 imps for saving an undertrick in an unlucky 3NT contract where three (or four) finesses lost and a key suit didn't split (Beauchamp gaining 5 imps in undertricks to tie up the match at 32-32). On to the final deal.

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ Q10874
 Vul: None ♥ 102
 ♦ AK65
 ♣ 93

West
 ♠ K962
 ♥ Q86
 ♦ 1082
 ♣ K87

East
 ♠ J
 ♥ AJ974
 ♦ J43
 ♣ AJ52

South
 ♠ A53
 ♥ K53
 ♦ Q97
 ♣ Q1064

Open Room
 West North East South
 Yoshida Klinger Hirata Mullamphy
 2♥ Pass 1♥ Pass 3♥
 Pass 3♠ All Pass
 Closed Room
 West North East South
 Thompson Yamada Jacobs Ohno
 3♥ All Pass
 (1) 10-13 5+ hearts unbalanced

3♥ was hardly a thing of beauty, but Ohno led a normal but unfortunate low club at trick one and ducked the ♠J at trick two. Jacobs hopped up with the ♠K and finessed in hearts. When the defense won to play a second spade Jacobs ruffed, cashed the ♥Q, and played to ruff a club in dummy as North was unable to ruff in. That meant 7 imps for Oz Players when Klinger held his losses in 3♠ to a trump, a heart and two clubs. That meant a win by 3 imps, 10.97-9.03 in VPs, for Oz Players.



"What have I done?"

Match Six: USA vs Russia

by Rich Colker



Gladyshev



Grue



Lall



Brink



Cheek



Gromov



Dubinin



Del'Monte

Our coverage of Match 6 features USA vs Russia. In the Open Room the U.S. youngsters, Joe Grue and Justin Lall, face the partnership (formed specifically for this event) of Evgeny Gladyshev and Sjoert Brink. In the Closed Room Curtis Cheek and Ishmael "Ish" Del'Monte for USA will face the long-time Russian partners Andrey Gromov and Alexander Dubinin.

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K432
 ♥ KQJ103
 ♦ A94
 ♣ 3

West
 ♠ J1085
 ♥ 962
 ♦ 53
 ♣ QJ92

East
 ♠ 96
 ♥ A875
 ♦ KQ1062
 ♣ A6

South
 ♠ AQ7
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J87
 ♣ K108754

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladyshev</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
	1♥	2♦	Dbl
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	1♥	2♦	2NT(1)
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

(1) Lebensohl-like relay to 3♣

Your editors differ on the advisability of Grue's 3♠ bid. BR thinks it's normal while RC doesn't like the club shortness opposite what may well be South's best/longest suit combined with a minimum in high cards. In any case, Brink led the ♦K (dummy's jack being a very welcome surprise to declarer, if not to East). Grue won and advanced a slightly deceptive ♥J. Brink rose ace, cashed the ♦Q and led a third diamond. Gladyshev ruffed with a natural trump trick and switched back to hearts. Grue ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♠AQ as everyone followed, and got out

with the ♣K to the ace, claiming nine tricks; +140.

Dubinin's 2NT was a relay to 3♣ and Gromov played it there (did someone hear Dubinin say "Better him than me"?). Again the ♦K was led to the ace (Cheek encouraging with the three) and Gromov led his club up. Ish rose ace, cashed the ♦Q, and led a third diamond for Cheek to ruff with a natural trump trick (from East's perspective North could have been the one with the club length). Cheek got out with a heart to the king and ace and a fourth diamond saw Cheek ruff with a second natural trump trick, at which point Gromov claimed down one, -50; 5 imps to USA.

You wouldn't expect many pairs to find it, but 3NT is cold from the North seat and four pairs reached it. Conversely, a couple of N/S pairs did not achieve par here, finishing in 6♣ and 5♦, doubled and down 1400 and 800, respectively. Since you'd never sleep again if we told you the auctions, we won't.

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AQ94
 ♥ J1032
 ♦ 83
 ♣ J106

West
 ♠ 753
 ♥ Q76
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q9832

East
 ♠ KJ86
 ♥ 98
 ♦ QJ106
 ♣ AK4

South
 ♠ 102
 ♥ AK54
 ♦ K9752
 ♣ 75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladyshev</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
		1NT	2♦(1)

3NT Dbl All Pass
 (1) Meckwell (diamonds plus a major)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
		1NT	All Pass

Perhaps Grue intended his double as takeout, asking Lall to bid his major, while Lall took it as penalty. In any case, 3NTx was not a happy contract for N/S. Lall led the ♥A, Grue following with the jack, and Lall switched to the ♦5: 4, 8, J. Next Brink cashed the ♣AK, happy to see the suit break favorably, crossed to dummy with the ♣4, and led a spade up. Grue rose ace and played back a diamond but Brink had things under control. He won dummy's ace, cashed the two good clubs (pitching a heart and a spade from hand, Grue pitching the ♥102, and Lall pitching a heart and a diamond) and exited with the ♥7 to Grue's king. Grue could cash the ♦K but then had to concede the last two tricks to the ♠K and either dummy's ♥Q or declarer's ♦Q. Nine tricks; +550. Only three teams reached 3NT here, maybe not entirely surprising.

Cheek made a reasonable pass of 1NT, which we suspect could have been this weak (14 hcp) by agreement and Ish played it there. Dubinin led a low diamond. Ish won in hand, cashed five clubs (pitching one of each major) and went for an eighth trick by leading a spade to the king when Gromov ducked, for +120 and 10 imps to Russia, who took over the lead 10-5.

Bd: 19	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AK74		
Vul: E/W	♥ 8532		
	♦ K72		
	♣ J5		
	West	East	
	♠ J1032	♠ 6	
	♥ ---	♥ KQJ1097	
	♦ A9643	♦ QJ	
	♣ 10643	♣ A972	
	South		
	♠ Q985		
	♥ A64		
	♦ 1085		
	♣ KQ8		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	2♥	Pass
4♠	Dbl	5♥	Dbl
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Lall opened a typically aggressive Precision 1♦. Brink's 2♥ bid was clearly intended as natural (common expert practice in this position). But as so often happens with new partnerships, Gladys misunderstood the bid and took it to show a black two-suiter. Grue was only too happy to be on the receiving end of the accident this time and put the wood to 4♠. Brink, knowing 4♠ could not be "real" from Gladys's earlier pass, and realizing his side

was in trouble, retreated to 5♥ and got to play it there with vigorish. Lall started the ♣Q (Rusinow) and Brink, not wanting to suffer through the play, soon claimed eight tricks (presumably five hearts, one diamond and two clubs) for -800.

Compared to the auction in the other room the Closed Room sequence was a cake walk and the Russians settled in a normal 2♠. Ish led the ♥Q (Rusinow) and Cheek ruffed out dummy's ace, then shifted to a deceptive ♦3. But Gromov was not to be taken lightly. He rose with the ♦K, drew trumps in three rounds ending in his hand, and claimed eight tricks (five trumps, two clubs and one diamond) for +110. That was 12 imps to USA, back in the lead at 17-10.

Just to prove that sometimes quality outranks quantity, two N/S pairs decided that they could afford to double 2♥ because they had more trumps than their opponents. Brian Senior for England, and Tadashi Teramoto for SARA, proved them wrong, making +670.

Bd: 20	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J765		
Vul: Both	♥ ---		
	♦ QJ762		
	♣ K972		
	West	East	
	♠ 42	♠ Q983	
	♥ AKJ2	♥ Q874	
	♦ 1054	♦ A8	
	♣ AJ105	♣ 864	
	South		
	♠ AK10		
	♥ 109653		
	♦ K93		
	♣ Q3		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
1♣	1♦	Dbl	1♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♦	All Pass	

Gladys could not have been unhappy to see 1♥ passed out knowing Lall would be playing his five-zero fit (Brink's double promised both majors). Grue's 1♦ bid would not have been either editor's choice over 1♣ (we're both Pass-engers) but passing 1♥ was not the choice of one of us (RC) either. Gladys led the ♠4: 5, 8, 10, and Lall set about using his trumps to best advantage — by leading them. Brink, in with the ♥4 (surely a near-record for winning an initial trump lead by declarer), played a second spade. A second trump went to the jack and a diamond to the ace was followed by a spade ruff with the king. Gladys got out with a second diamond to the king and now Lall led a third trump, preventing any more adverse ruffs. But he still had a club and a

trump to lose for -100.

Cheek must have misplaced an ace or two since in our experience not even the most conservative bidder would intentionally pass that West hand in any seat, let alone first chair. Ish led ace and another diamond against 2♦. Gromov won the second round in hand, led a club to the queen and ace, won the trump return in dummy (the ♥4 from Ish), and played ♠A, ♠K, ♠10. When Ish won the queen Gromov could now claim eight tricks (four trumps, three spades and a club) for +90; 5imps back to Mother Russia, trailing now by just 2 at 17-15.

Bd: 21 North
 Dlr: North ♠ Q1097
 Vul: N/S ♥ 965
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ 10874

West
 ♠ J8543
 ♥ Q107
 ♦ A82
 ♣ A3

East
 ♠ A
 ♥ J32
 ♦ K97543
 ♣ K52

South
 ♠ K62
 ♥ AK84
 ♦ 106
 ♣ QJ96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
1♠	Pass	1♦	Dbl
2NT	All Pass	2♦	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
1♥(♠)	Pass	1♦	Dbl
2NT	All Pass	2♦	Pass

The two auctions were functionally the same and both West declared 2NT and made nine tricks when diamonds were two-two. We think the West hand worth a jump to 3NT, but less than a fifth of the field agreed with us (so what's new?). A push at +150; still 17-15 USA.

Bd: 22 North
 Dlr: East ♠ KJ10
 Vul: E/W ♥ A953
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ J92

West
 ♠ A86532
 ♥ K106
 ♦ Q
 ♣ AKQ

East
 ♠ 9
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ K986532
 ♣ 1073

South
 ♠ Q74
 ♥ J874
 ♦ 107
 ♣ 8654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♥
2♠	All Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
1♣(STR)	Dbl	Rdbl	2♥
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

His poor spade spots convinced Gladys to take the low road and settle for a spade partial. Grue, not on anyone's all-timid team, led a heart to the jack and king and Gladys got busy with trumps by playing the ace and another. Lall won and switched to a club, but nothing could prevent Gladys from scoring nine tricks (losing two spades and two aces) for +140.

Cheek's strong club and especially his 2NT follow-up convinced Ish to upgrade his seven-bagger and go for the gusto by raising to game. Unfortunately, the diamond fit was not all it was cracked-up to be. Gromov got off to his side's best lead of ace and a second heart. Cheek won with dummy queen and tried to sneak a diamond through but Gromov won and continued the heart attack. Cheek won, ducked a spade, and the defense now cashed their last heart and Dubin exited with a spade. Cheek ducked this too and when Gromov exited with a spade Cheek claimed down one, -100. That was 6 moreimps to Russia, who reassumed the lead at 21-17.

Japan Youth were the sole team to get a game on their score sheet here, bidding and making 3NT even against the best lead of a heart.

Bd: 23 North
 Dlr: South ♠ J109832
 Vul: Both ♥ 106
 ♦ 72
 ♣ A106

West
 ♠ AQ764
 ♥ AK7
 ♦ K63
 ♣ 85

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q9853
 ♦ AQJ1095
 ♣ 73

South
 ♠ K5
 ♥ J42
 ♦ 84
 ♣ KQJ942

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
2♠	3♣	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
1♣	1NT	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Neither E/W pair could find their eight-card heart fit and both settled in 5♦. When the defenses cashed their two club tricks on the go there was nothing to do but move on to the next deal. A pair of 600s; still 21-17 Russia.

This deal was a partscore push in one match (no, we won't tell you which) but equally five pairs tried slam. Two Wests reached 6♥ and were not too distressed to receive a spade lead; three N/S pairs did rather better on a club lead. The lucky teams were Yamada (defending a partscore in the other room) and Hammer (who got lucky in the internecine contest against Korea/Japan).

Bd: 24
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North	♠ AK4	♥ A65	♦ J52	♣ 7643
West	♠ Q72	♥ QJ4	♦ AK94	♣ J92
East	♠ J8653	♥ K10732	♦ Q	♣ KQ
South	♠ 109	♥ 98	♦ 108763	♣ A1085

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladysch</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubinina</i>
1♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Grue's entry into the auction seems to have spurred Gladysch to overvalue his hand and push to the heart game when even 3♥ was in jeopardy (if the defense finds their spade ruff). Not so in 4♥, where Lall led the ♠10 and Grue ducked this around to declarer's jack (not playing declarer to have an unbid side five-card major). Now the defense could only collect their ♠AK, ♥A and ♣A but that was still -50 for E/W.

Ish's 2♥ bid showed a hand with at least five-four in the majors and non-invitational values. (He clearly did not like his minor-suit honors as much as Brink did.) Playing in spades rather than hearts simply had the effect of switching the spade ruff for a heart ruff — if the suit could be led early enough. Gromov led a club. When Dubinin won and switched to a diamond any hope of a heart ruff disappeared. No matter, since even with the ruff declarer was safe at the two level. Cheek won the diamond switch with the queen and led a spade to the queen and king. Gromov exited with a club and Cheek played a heart to the queen and ace. Now, when Gromov tabled a low spade (having seen Dubinin follow to the first

spade with the nine), Cheek decided to play Dubinin for the ace-nine doubleton and ducked, losing a third spade. But that was all. Soon Cheek was claiming eight tricks for +110; 4imps back to USA to tie the match at 21-21.

Note that 3NT by E/W is hard to beat but with two eight-card major fits it is impossible (or maybe just very hard) to get there. Let's look at the record: only the E/W pair for Verdure managed it. *Bien joue!*

Bd: 27
 Dlr: South
 Vul: None

North	♠ AKJ74	♥ A74	♦ K95	♣ AJ
West	♠ 52	♥ 9865	♦ 74	♣ K10742
East	♠ Q3	♥ K1032	♦ QJ1063	♣ Q8
South	♠ 10986	♥ QJ	♦ A82	♣ 9653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladysch</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubinina</i>
Pass	1♣(STR)	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

With West having no side entry to his clubs 3NT was cold, even with a double-dummy club lead. But Brink led a more normal ♦Q. Grue won the ace and tried the heart finesse. Brink won and continued the diamond attack and now, if Brink had started with ♠Qxx or Grue misguessed the suit, he was going down. In fact, he gave the VuGraph spectators a thrill by cashing the ♠K, crossing to the ♥J, and leading a spade toward his hand. But he eventually just rose with the king and claimed ten tricks; +430.

4♠ in the Closed Room was cold since declarer could always just concede a heart trick and get rid of his diamond loser on the ♥A. Cheek led a diamond and Gromov won in hand, cashed the ♠AK, and claimed an overtrick when the queen fell doubleton; +450. That was 1 imp to Russia, back in the lead at 22-21.

To our knowledge this is the closest thing to a flat board we've seen in the event. Five pairs made "only" 420 for the loss of an imp.

Bd: 28
 Dlr: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AKJ5
 ♥ AJ964
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 1082

West
 ♠ 10
 ♥ KQ103
 ♦ K74
 ♣ K9643

East
 ♠ Q86432
 ♥ 2
 ♦ QJ63
 ♣ AJ

South
 ♠ 97
 ♥ 875
 ♦ A10985
 ♣ Q75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
1♦	1♥	2♥(♠)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♠ had the virtue of only being at the two level, but the trump suit was threadbare and the misfit did not help either. Lall led the ♥8 to the king and ace and Grue returned a diamond for a ruff. But Lall fell from grace and switched to the ♣Q (really?) and Brink now had only trump losers to worry about. He won the ♣K, led a spade to Grue's king, won the club return, and had reached the crossroads. If he led the ♠Q he would smother the nine and emerge with only three trump losers while if he led any other trump the nine, jack and ace would all score separately. Brink advanced the ♠8 and finished down one; -50.

Someone sitting E/W in the Closed Room seems to have had a senior moment (difficult at their ages). The East hand, for all its spades, is surely not a game force opposite an aggressive Precision 1♦ opening and the West hand surely does not have another bid in it unless 3♦ was forcing. Gromov led a low heart against 3NT and Cheek was in with the ten. He tried the club finesse, losing to the queen, and back came a second heart, Gromov winning the king with the ace and clearing the suit with the suit-preference jack for spades. Cheek unblocked the ♣A and tried to return to his hand by leading the ♦Q. But Dubin rose with the ace, tabled a spade, and the defense could now cash an additional two hearts and two spades for down three, -150. That was 3imps to Russia, leading now 25-21.



"It's true, one is the loneliest number."

Bd: 29
 Dlr: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K1043
 ♥ 95
 ♦ 9863
 ♣ A83

West
 ♠ 5
 ♥ AK
 ♦ Q10752
 ♣ QJ975

East
 ♠ Q986
 ♥ 7642
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K1062

South
 ♠ AJ72
 ♥ QJ1083
 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣(STR)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
1NT(♣+♦)	Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)
Pass	Dbl	3♣	Dbl
All Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All roads led to 4♠ but all roads did not necessarily lead to ten tricks. When Gromov was declarer Ish led his diamond. Gromov rose with the ace, played a spade to the king, then the ♠10, covered by the jack and queen as Cheek pitched the ♣9. Next came a heart to the king, a club to the ace, a heart to the ace and a second club, ruffed in dummy, followed by the ♠J and a top heart. Ish could ruff in whenever he wished but Gromov had the rest; +620.

In the other room Brink got off to a club lead to the jack and ace and Grue played a heart to the king when only a low spade to the jack could guarantee the contract. He ruffed the club return, played a second heart to the ace, ruffed the next club return, and hoping trumps were three two played ♠A, ♠J. When West showed out he passed the trick to the queen but the ♣K return promoted East a second trump trick for down one, -100. That was 12 moreimps to Russia, whose lead was now 16 at 37-21.

The junior editor was taking confession from Jan Jansma who gave him his hand as West. When Dawei Chen was playing 4♠ as South he won the diamond lead and played a heart. Jansma won and shifted to a top club. Declarer took the ace, played the ♠A and a spade to the ten for a second heart, and all the defenders could score from there was one trump trick. Should West play to give his partner a diamond ruff at trick three? Then he can get in again for the second ruff to set the hand. There is certainly a good case for it — and not just that it works.

The distribution of results on this deal is somewhat strange. In the top ten matches, 12 pairs bid and made 4♠ while in the rest of the field only one pair

managed that result.

Bd: 30
Dir: East
Vul: None

North
♠ 9875
♥ 1083
♦ KJ3
♣ A54

West
♠ K
♥ 97
♦ Q10872
♣ J8632

South
♠ AJ432
♥ QJ2
♦ A54
♣ 109

East
♠ Q106
♥ AK654
♦ 96
♣ KQ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gladys</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Lall</i>
		1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass

1NT was no bargain and when Lall led a low spade declarer must have known he was in for it, especially if the ♣A was third. When the ♠K held Brink went after clubs and Grue inexplicably won the second round (why not hold up once more just in case?) and returned his ♠5, blocking the suit. Lall won the ten with the jack, cashed the ace, and led the ♠2 (suit preference for diamonds) to Grue, who dutifully led the ♦3 back to the ace. After cashing his last spade Lall played a diamond for down two, +100 for N/S.

We can't tell you what Cheek's 2NT bid meant but Ish's 3♣ bid coincided with his better minor, whether by design or not, and E/W reached their best spot. There may be only four top losers but winners matter here too, and there just aren't nine of them that one can point to with much certainty. Despite that, 3♣ is cold (but you still have to play the cards well to make it). Dubinin led the ♣10, ducked to the queen, and now declarer must play ♥A, ♥K, and ruff a heart to guarantee the contract. Instead, Ish led a diamond to the ten and jack and now the defense was in control. Gromov cashed the ♣A, led a club to Ish's king, and Ish got off lead with a spade. Dubinin took his ace and now the handwriting was on the wall. Ish claimed eight tricks (he still had to lose two more diamonds) for down one, -50, and 2 imps to USA when it might have been 5 imps had 3♣ made. The final score was 37-23, Russia, 13.96-6.04 in VPs.

Nunn-sense

by Barry Rigal

Thanks go to Peter Gill for reporting this deal, which features some nice card reading from Tony Nunn.

Bd: 28
Dir: West
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AKJ9
♥ Q875
♦ 854
♣ 74

West
♠ 3
♥ A42
♦ K1093
♣ AK1052

South
♠ 84
♥ K106
♦ AJ76
♣ Q983

East
♠ Q107652
♥ J93
♦ Q2
♣ J6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

The defenders led a top spade and shifted to trumps to the six, eight and ten. Declarer led a diamond to the queen and ace, won the return of the ♣Q in hand and played two more rounds of clubs to South. Back

came a spade to the king as Nunn pitched a heart and now North gave declarer a chance by exiting with the ♦8. Nunn won cheaply in hand in this position:

North
♠ J
♥ Q87
♦ 4
♣ ---

West
♠ ---
♥ A4
♦ K9
♣ 2

East
♠ Q10
♥ J93
♦ ---
♣ ---

South
♠ ---
♥ K106
♦ J7
♣ ---

When the last trump was led North and East discarded spades and South was forced to let go a heart. Now Nunn cashed the ♥A and South was damned if he didn't discard the ♥K (he would be endplayed to lead diamonds), and damned if he did (Nunn would cash the master diamond and exit in hearts to force North to give dummy two tricks).

Match Seven: Bulgarian All Stars vs SARA

by Barry Rigal



Iliev



Ino



Teramoto



Hristov



Tanaka



Isporski



Kovachev



Takano

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ A92
♥ Q5
♦ Q62
♣ 98742

West
♠ 76
♥ 1076
♦ AK43
♣ QJ103

South
♠ K3
♥ AKJ83
♦ J987
♣ 65

East
♠ QJ10854
♥ 942
♦ 105
♣ AK

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	Pass	1♠	2♥
Dbl.	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Takano</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	Pass	1♠	2♥
Dbl.	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♠	All Pass

In the jaundiced eyes of one of the two editors (the other is more forgiving; you can make up your own mind on the issue and the identities) North's passing out 2♠ is a serious bridge error. Not one that rates to cost a lot (4 imps is about par for the course), but the pass implies you don't expect partner to have his previous bid. Sure, 3♥ might go down 100 (even 300 on a really bad day) but what happens today is entirely typical. You bid 3♥, which is going down, and they bid 3♠ and go down instead. Both defenses cashed their three hearts at once and got their two spade tricks later.

While both E/W pairs in Yamada-NEDUK bought the hand in 2♠, there were extenuating circumstances. In one case Gold as North had redoubled West's negative double to show values and thus did not

need to bid again. At the other table Ohno did not overcall 2♥. Just for the record, most pairs who bid 3♥ were allowed to make it, on a spade lead.

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ J
♥ Q64
♦ KJ10842
♣ J97

West
♠ K98643
♥ 3
♦ Q76
♣ Q105

East
♠ Q1052
♥ 752
♦ A53
♣ A32

South
♠ A7
♥ AKJ1098
♦ 9
♣ K864

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Takano</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♠	3♥	4♠	5♥
All Pass			

I'm not sure if Hristov was laying a deeply subtle plan to play 4♠x or whether he just chickened out of defending 4♥, but the timing of the bidding made it easy for Teramoto to bid game and then double his opponents. Against 4♠x the defenders led hearts and shifted to diamonds. With no endplay available, declarer had to lose two diamonds and one trick in each of the other suits. Was this a good investment? I suppose so, but bearing in mind what happened in the other room it is hard to say. Defending 5♥ Tanaka led a spade, and when declarer won and guessed diamonds Takano got in to play a low club.

Even though Kovachev guessed to rise with the king, the trump spots in dummy would not let him ruff out the diamonds, and with trumps 3-1 he had no way to avoid the eventual loss of two club tricks for down one; 9 imps to SARA, leading 9-4 now.

In NEDUK-Yamada Bakhshi as South doubled East's 4♠ bid and scored up 300 while Ohno went on to 5♥ down a trick. That was 9 imps to NEDUK, leading by that number. The field defended 5♥ and on a spade lead managed to beat it most of the time (indeed it is hard to see what sequence of plays might let it through).

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KJ10975		
Vul: E/W	♥ K93		
	♦ AJ85		
	♣ ---		
	West	East	
	♠ A32	♠ Q8	
	♥ A762	♥ 8	
	♦ 92	♦ KQ743	
	♣ Q876	♣ KJ932	
	South		
	♠ 64		
	♥ QJ1054		
	♦ 106		
	♣ A1054		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Takano</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
			2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Once Kovachev opened a weak 2♥, Isporski was not going to stay out of game. Tanaka accurately led the ♦9 and declarer had to plan how to avoid losing two diamonds and how to set up spades. He ducked the first trick and Takano won to play a club back to tap dummy. After much thought Kovachev won his ace and played a spade. Tanaka cannot be criticized unduly for winning the ace to play a second diamond. Kovachev won dummy's ace and again took a long time to play to the next trick. Eventually he led a heart to hand, ducked, and a heart up. West ducked again and declarer could now cash the ♠K, then the ♠J, to pitch one club but then had to ruff a diamond high to ruff his last club. West still had two trumps left and they were going to be worth two tricks now.

In 2♠ Hristov did well to lead a top diamond to threaten a defensive cross-ruff. Ino won and played back the suit, letting Hristov win and switch to the ♥8. Iliev won his ace and found the ingenious shift to a trump. Declarer finessed and Hristov won his queen and led a diamond, ruff and overruff. Now Iliev only needed to play a second heart and the defenders would take their trumps separately. But he was still convinced that his partner had two hearts (though

why declarer would not unblock the king under the ace is a question the world is not yet ready to answer). He played another trump and declarer claimed. Whatever, the Bulgarian equivalent of 'Bozhe moi!' could be heard from the next room. SARA led 14-4 now.

Yamada picked up essentially the same swing, beating a heart game and making a spade partscore — but they had to work even harder. Yamada played 3♠ on a heart lead. He rose with the queen and Jansma ducked. He rose with the ♠A to give his partner a heart ruff, but East was now endplayed to open up diamonds or clubs, and the defenders could take only one trick now whatever they did.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ KQJ3		
Vul: Both	♥ K543		
	♦ KQ7		
	♣ A2		
	West	East	
	♠ A10975	♠ 8642	
	♥ 2	♥ 10987	
	♦ A43	♦ 1098	
	♣ 10985	♣ 43	
	South		
	♠ ---		
	♥ AQJ6		
	♦ J652		
	♣ KQJ76		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Takano</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	3♣(2)
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠(3)
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	7♥
Dbl	All Pass		
(1) 18-19			
(2) Stayman			
(3) transfer to 3NT			

When disasters like the one in the Closed Room happen it might seem a trifle persnickety to wonder what went wrong in the Open Room for N/S to miss the excellent slam. When played by South only a club lead seems to gum up communications. I suppose the combination of South's lack of a diamond control plus the fear of wasted values in spades coupled with North's bad trumps made each player hesitant. You would have thought that after the opening bid N/S in the Closed Room would know how to show values like South's. But as was clearly demonstrated, a little learning is a dangerous thing. We think South showed short spades with clubs and hearts and then took a flyer instead of consulting his

partner, but we've been wrong before. Isporski escaped for down one and SARA had another 13 imps to lead 27-4.

In our second featured match Bakhshi-Gold reached 6♥ after Gold systemically opened the North hand 1♣. Yoshida led a club and Bakhshi drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king, then impassively led a top diamond from dummy. Yoshida won to play a second club and declarer claimed his contract. In the other room nobody ever bid hearts. Jansma doubled 6NT and collected +200 for 17 imps and a 26-5 lead.

One-third of the field went down in slam here (6NT was defeated nine times); only Beauchamp- van Jole bid to the unbreakable 6♣ —and lost 2 imps for their pains. Only one pair of defenders beat 6♥ by South on the ♣10 lead plus subsequent accurate defense. Nicely done Akiko Miwa and Makoto Nomura.

Bd: 5
Dlr: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ KQ72
♥ J93
♦ K92
♣ K106

West
♠ 63
♥ Q62
♦ A108543
♣ QJ

East
♠ J94
♥ AK107
♦ J
♣ 87532

South
♠ A1085
♥ 854
♦ Q76
♣ A94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	1♣	1♥	Dbl
2♦	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Takano</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Both tables reached 2♠ here. Of interest is Iliev's failure to raise hearts before bidding diamonds and his decision not to compete at all over 2♠. I guess he has seen his partner's overcalls before. Of equal interest is East's decision not to lead a diamond, which would have let the defenders take the first six tricks on a (very) good day. After a club lead declarer drew trumps and held his diamond losers to one.

In the other room E/W were silent and Takano led his ♦J anyway. Declarer was allowed to win the ♦Q and draw trumps, then exit with a heart. With diamonds 6-1 declarer could arrange to exit in due course with clubs and wait for a trick on a ruff and discard. The fall of the club honors was a perfectly acceptable alternative. No swing. Still 27-4, SARA.

In NEDUK-Yamada Gold made 2♠ on a similar defense to that in the Open Room for 3 imps (since the deal was passed out in the other room).

Bd: 6
Dlr: East
Vul: E/W

North
♠ 5
♥ KQJ987
♦ 74
♣ A1064

West
♠ 9643
♥ 5
♦ Q8653
♣ Q97

East
♠ AK1082
♥ 1032
♦ AJ
♣ KJ2

South
♠ QJ7
♥ A64
♦ K1092
♣ 853

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

(1) One Major

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Takano</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
3♠	4♥	1♠	Pass
		All Pass	

The auction timed out better for Hristov than one might argue it should have, given how much his hand is about spades; playing a strong club and 15-17 notrump it is not easy to show these precise values. 3♠, reached via the slow route, handled perfectly for nine tricks. 4♥ on a top spade lead and club shift had no play. But with the ♦A onside and the ♦J coming down East had to shift to clubs at trick two to set the game, which he did. Nicely done, but 3 imps to the All Stars nonetheless.

NEDUK picked up precisely the same 3-imp swing to lead 32-5. Curiously, while nobody let through 4♥, 4♠ made on a diamond lead on two occasions.

Bd: 7
Dlr: South
Vul: Both

North
♠ A954
♥ K52
♦ 762
♣ 543

West
♠ 76
♥ 10963
♦ QJ853
♣ K8

East
♠ KQJ108
♥ A84
♦ A9
♣ A72

South
♠ 32
♥ QJ7
♦ K104
♣ QJ1096

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass
1♦(WK)	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Tanaka</i>	North <i>Isporski</i>	East <i>Takano</i>	South <i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣(!)
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

The purists amongst us might hate to see an action like the 2♣ bid gain imps. (OK, everybody ought to hate to see an action like 2♣ gain imps.) Arguably, though, E/W were not going to get to 3NT here anyway and it was the play in 3NT that determined which way the imps would go. Hristov won the top club lead against 3NT and might simply have played to take the diamond finesse; wouldn't you? But no, he played the ace and another diamond and when it held he shifted back to spades with nine tricks in the bag. You can pick the adjective you like to describe this line of play: (1) insulting (2) inspired (3) random (4) interesting.

Both tables in Yamada-NEDUK played 3NT by West on a heart lead. Yoshida flew ace and went after spades, while Jansma ducked the first trick to South who continued hearts instead of shifting to clubs. No swing. Slightly more than half the field bid and made game here, giving N/S a datum score of 310.

Our featured match had suddenly closed to 27-17, and the wind appeared to have changed direction, as evidenced by the next deal.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ 10985
Vul: None	♥ AKQJ10
	♦ A
	♣ AK4

West
♠ KJ2
♥ 86
♦ Q875
♣ 9652

East
♠ Q6
♥ 9542
♦ 643
♣ Q873

South
♠ A743
♥ 73
♦ KJ1092
♣ J10

Open Room

West <i>Iliev</i>	North <i>Ino</i>	East <i>Hristov</i>	South <i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣

All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Tanaka</i>	North <i>Isporski</i>	East <i>Takano</i>	South <i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT(1)	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) GF spade raise or various strong hands

Almost for the first time in living memory the editors do not agree on a point of bidding theory. (Yes, it's a

little late for April Fools Day.) One editor thinks that over 3NT, suggesting four spades only, 4♠ is in and of itself a slam try with four spades and that the knowledge of wasted diamonds opposite implies that you need good trumps to go past 4♠. Meanwhile, the other editor thinks 5♠ "clearly" asks for good trumps and denies the ability to keycard for spades, hence this hand is what South should have expected. The All Stars didn't care. They took their 11 imps and moved on with a lead of 28-27.

Both tables in Yamada-NEDUK avoided trouble. Gold opened 1♥, jumped to 4♦ in response to 1♠, and passed 4♠. Yamada jumped to 5♠ at his second turn, ending the auction. How many pairs would you imagine made slam here? Answer: two, both in 6NT by North on a club lead. Incidentally, 6♥ has real play: only a spade lead beats it as the cards lie.

It was almost time for another slam.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ 843
Vul: E/W	♥ KQJ843
	♦ A10
	♣ A2

West
♠ 105
♥ 765
♦ Q9753
♣ 853

East
♠ AQ9
♥ 102
♦ J862
♣ J1076

South
♠ KJ762
♥ A9
♦ K4
♣ KQ94

Open Room

West <i>Iliev</i>	North <i>Ino</i>	East <i>Hristov</i>	South <i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Tanaka</i>	North <i>Isporski</i>	East <i>Takano</i>	South <i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣(R)
Pass	2♠(1)	Pass	2NT(R)
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Six hearts

Slam is nothing special here. While you might bring the clubs in, you might lose to a spade ruff as well. Ino received the lead of the ♣J, drew trumps, then took the club finesse to shake his spade losers. He must have been disappointed to find where the spade honors were located. That was worth 11 imps when the relay responses elicited the fact that North had a single-suited heart hand but did not disclose the extras. Still, given that it is not much better than a 50% slam, we can hardly fault N/S for missing it. That was 11 imps to SARA, back up 38-28.

The field was split 50-50 into those who bid the slam and those who did not. Both N/S pairs in Yamada-NEDUK bid it, leaving the match score at 32-5.

It feels like time for another slam, doesn't it?

Bd: 10
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ ---
 ♥ AK3
 ♦ AJ976543
 ♣ A5

West
 ♠ AK108
 ♥ 64
 ♦ K8
 ♣ K9764

East
 ♠ 76532
 ♥ J9872
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 832

South
 ♠ QJ94
 ♥ Q105
 ♦ Q102
 ♣ QJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
2♣	Db1	3♣	3♠
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Takano</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♣	Db1	1♠	1NT
2♠	6♦	All Pass	

There was very little to the play here, so it was just a question of whether the auction would time out well for the N/S pair in the Open or Closed Room. As it was, had East responded 1♥ in the Closed Room it would have been South who bid spades. But when East stole the spade suit Isporski hoped for the odd value in the side suits and not in spades, and had nothing approaching an intelligent way to find out. Since Ino took all 13 tricks while Isporski played diamonds from the top on a spade lead, the All Stars gained 12 imps to lead 40-38.

In NEDUK-Yamada, Yamada jumped to 5♦ over 1♣. Gold doubled, heard a jump to 2♠ from Bakhshi, then bid diamonds, bullied some diamond support out of his partner, and jumped to 6♦. That was 13 imps, and a 45-5 lead now. About a quarter of the field reached slam. Doesn't that feel like a rather a low percentage to you?

After the wild excitements of the earlier deals both our matches shut up shop a little early, exchanging no more than an overtrick imp on the last four deals. The matches finished in a near blitz for NEDUK, with the All Stars pipping SARA by 2 imps, 10.66-9.34 in VPs.

Credit Where Credit Is Due

By Barry Rigal

Ricco van Prooijen very nicely pointed out that I had not given him enough credit for the line he followed in 6♥ yesterday, so we are running the deal again.

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

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 ♥K and ♥A. The fall of the ♥Q now meant that he would survive except in the extremely unlikely event that both spades and diamonds split very badly.

His line was to ruff another spade (finding the first piece of bad news), then cash the two top diamonds. Had all followed he would have crossed to the ♣A to play the ♠K and ruff a spade. In this ending:

♠ ---
 ♥ ---
 ♦ J10
 ♣ Q

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 83
 ♣ ---

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ J
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 102

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ 10
 ♦ ---
 ♣ K8

van Prooijen would have ruffed a diamond high in hand and led a club to score dummy's last trump *en passant*. The line failed because diamonds were five-one. The reason his line is arguably best is because it allows the slam to make whenever either spades or diamonds behave. Can YOU can do better?

Match Eight: NAITO vs JAPAN Golden Bull

by Barry Rigal



Takahashi



Tanaka



Naito



Miura



Ayako M



Abe



Sugino



Kenji M

Although we are not yet approaching the climax of the event, we are approaching a point where a big loss might rule a team out of contention or, by contrast, throw them right into the mix. Two home teams are about to meet in Round Eight and, as we shall see, one will emerge in a qualifying place, the other...

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K10
 ♥ J543
 ♦ 3
 ♣ KJ9532

West
 ♠ 852
 ♥ A72
 ♦ AQ4
 ♣ A1087

East
 ♠ A93
 ♥ KQ10
 ♦ 108652
 ♣ Q4

South
 ♠ QJ764
 ♥ 986
 ♦ KJ97
 ♣ 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takahashi</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Naito</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Miyakuni</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>K Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dbl	2♣	Pass	2♠
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Sakiko Naito led a top spade against 3NT and when Tanaka overtook declarer had no reason not to duck, though leaving the suit blocked might have worked well. Once a spade came back South was in position to cash out as soon as she obtained the lead. Declarer had seven winners and could set up one additional club trick, but had no reasonable play for more when clubs did not behave. Kenji Miyakuni

played 3NT on the accurate low spade lead. He ducked, won the next spade, and advanced the ♦8. South saw no reason to cover, Kenji saw no reason not to let it run, Bob's your uncle! That was the eighth trick and the ♣Q represented the ninth.

In the match between NEDUK and Pharon van Prooijen played 3NT as East and went down after a passive heart lead. But the Hacketts defended 2♣ (undoubled) on the E/W cards despite the fact that Jason as West heard his partner open the bidding — strange, but true. Still, it was 4 imps to Pharon.

Only Makoto Hirato also managed to find a ninth trick in 3NT after a spade lead. He could tell you how, but then he'd have to kill you.

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ A5
 ♥ QJ108
 ♦ 10864
 ♣ J96

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ A65432
 ♦ Q93
 ♣ A1075

East
 ♠ K1086432
 ♥ K
 ♦ A2
 ♣ KQ3

South
 ♠ QJ97
 ♥ 97
 ♦ KJ75
 ♣ 842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takahashi</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Naito</i>
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Miyakuni</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>K Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Kenji stopped low in 2♠ and held his losses to three

spade tricks. Fair enough, but with 4♠ obviously makeable this did not seem a likely imp-winner. In the other room Takahashi played 3NT on a top heart lead and started out well by ducking a spade (and pitching a heart). Saito won the ♠J, played a heart through, and Tanaka won to play a diamond to the king for a second diamond. Declarer now needed to duck a spade to set up the ninth trick if the ace fell, but that didn't seem likely to happen. So Takahashi cashed out the clubs, then played ace and another heart hoping that North had started life with a 3-4-3-3 pattern plus the ♠A, in which case he would be endplayed to give up a spade at the death. A brave effort but 6 imps away instead of 6 imps in.

Both tables in Pharon-NEDUK played 3NT, but Jason Hackett had bid hearts as West while Jan Jansma in the other room had not. After the heart lead Jansma played a diamond towards his queen at trick two. Can you blame South for taking the king and trying to set up hearts? When Jansma ducked the defenders played a third heart and declarer won and played the fourth heart for nine painless tricks. That was 10 imps and a 10-4 lead for NEDUK. Around the room, the field was playing game and bringing it home more often than not.

After an overtrick imp broke Golden Bull's duck on Board 19 they took over the lead with a remarkable swing on this deal...

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ K83
 Vul: N/S ♥ QJ10
 ♦ 5
 ♣ AKQJ84

West ♠ QJ9654 ♥ 4 ♦ A97632 ♣ ---	East ♠ A102 ♥ 53 ♦ KQJ10 ♣ 10975
--	--

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ AK98762
 ♦ 84
 ♣ 632

Open Room

West <i>Takahashi</i> 2♠ 5♦ Pass	North <i>Tanaka</i> 1♣ Dbl. Dbl Dbl	East <i>Miura</i> Pass 3♦ 5♠ All Pass	South <i>Naito</i> 1♥ 4♥ Pass
--	--	--	---

Closed Room

West <i>A Miyakuni</i> 2NT Pass All Pass	North <i>Abe</i> 1♣ 3♣ Pass	East <i>K Miyakuni</i> Pass 3♦ 4♠	South <i>Sugino</i> 1♥ 4♥ 5♣
--	---	---	--

Kenji isn't normally backward about coming forward. Here he owed Ayako at least two more bids, one might argue, since it isn't every day you have 100 honors in a suit your partner shows 5+ cards in and

K10x in her second suit. By contrast, Miura's thoughtful 3♦ bid probably would have persuaded Takahashi to bid slam if necessary. Golden Bull had 16 imps for winning the bidding battle.

Both tables played 5♠x in NEDUK-Pharon; NEDUK saved the overtrick and went in front, 13-11.

Elsewhere, of course, there were many remarkable results here. Let's just touch on a few. For N/S quite a few pairs beat 5♠ after the singleton diamond lead when declarer found the unsafety play of ace and another spade. Conversely, nine E/W pairs made slam while just one N/S pair made 6♣. Kunio Kodaira and Teruo Miyazaki recorded +1370 here. For E/W, it is hard to beat the result of Pszczola-Kwiecien, making +1630 in 7♦x on a club lead. But +1210 (four times) just pipped the +1190 and +1090.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ A95
 Vul: E/W ♥ QJ6
 ♦ 7652
 ♣ 852

West ♠ K4 ♥ K9743 ♦ 109 ♣ J943	East ♠ 87 ♥ 1082 ♦ AKQJ4 ♣ Q107
--	---

South
 ♠ QJ10632
 ♥ A5
 ♦ 83
 ♣ AK6

Open Room

West <i>Takahashi</i> Dbl Pass	North <i>Tanaka</i> 2♠ 3♠	East <i>Miura</i> 1♦ Pass All Pass	South <i>Naito</i> 1♠ 3♣
---	------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------

Closed Room

West <i>A Miyakuni</i> Dbl All Pass	North <i>Abe</i> 2♠	East <i>K Miyakuni</i> 1♦ Pass	South <i>Sugino</i> 1♠ 4♠
--	---------------------------	---	------------------------------------

Depending on the day of the week I might follow either Sugino's or Naito's approach. Game looks playable, but after three rounds of diamonds you basically need the singleton ♠K outside. Today was not Sugino's lucky day. 21-17 to NAITO.

Here the field played a partscore (as did both pairs in NEDUK-Pharon). Only one declarer got a lucky heart lead against 4♠ and avoided the trump promotion.



"I think this calculator is broken."

Bd: 23
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J92
 ♥ J106
 ♦ QJ5
 ♣ K953

West
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ AKQ9
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AJ10762

East
 ♠ A1054
 ♥ 8752
 ♦ A92
 ♣ Q4

South
 ♠ K873
 ♥ 43
 ♦ K108743
 ♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takahashi</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Naito</i>

1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Miyakuni</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>K Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sugino</i>

1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠(1)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

(1) GF hearts

Kenji found a strong heart raise opposite and after a little exploration took a shot at slam, while Miura also found a strong hand opposite but sold out to 5♥. This was somewhat pessimistic with three working cards — despite the terrible trumps. If partner can drive to game you can bid slam, can't you?

Of course slam isn't cold even if played by East to protect the ♠A. On a spade lead you have to guess the suit while on a club lead you need to rise with the ace and draw precisely two rounds of trumps — far from obvious. Sugino led a trump though and Kenji wasn't tested now. 13 imps meant NAITO led 34-17.

The twins stayed out of slam for Pharon, while NADUK's Jansma-van Prooijen reached slam on an unrevealing auction that made it impossible in practice for North to lead anything but a diamond. 26-11 now for NEDUK.

Eight pairs made the slam, four went down, and it was a flat board at -100 in England-Down Under. Well, they do say one down is good bridge.



"7 down is 'kibitzer.'"

Bd: 24
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q52
 ♥ AJ10
 ♦ AKJ9872
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ J103
 ♥ K98732
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J92

East
 ♠ AK6
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q1065
 ♣ KQ8753

South
 ♠ 9874
 ♥ Q654
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A1064

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takahashi</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Naito</i>

Pass	1♦	2♣	Dbf
3♣	4♣	5♣	Dbf

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Miyakuni</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>K Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sugino</i>

2♦	3NT	All Pass	
----	-----	----------	--

Abe's jump to 3NT gives new dimension to the term "buccaneering." Kenji led a low club and must have been both pleased and surprised when, after the disappointment of seeing those clubs in dummy, things took a turn for the better. In my world it is partner who shows out at trick one, not declarer. 3NT went down 150 but even worse things were in store for Tanaka after Naito's exuberant negative double. However, Miura didn't wait to find North was coming in diamonds when she went on to 5♣. Naito doubled and led a diamond. After a spade shift ran around to the jack, declarer cross-ruffed successfully but was left with two trump losers at the end. 6 imps to NAITO, up 40-17 now.

In Pharon-NEDUK Bakhshi did not double 2♣ as South. His reward was to put his dummy down in 3♦ undoubled, down a trick after a top club lead when declarer played trumps at once (as who would not?). Tom Hanlon *did* double 2♣. His reward was to put down his dummy in 6♦x when Paul Hackett took him seriously. The definition of the correct line of defense to an Irish slam is to cash your two aces, then sit back and wait for your trump trick. Van Prooijen remembered to double first, but had he played clubs instead of spades he might have collected +800. No matter, it was still 11 imps and a 36-11 lead.

Penalties were the order of the day here; USA recorded +470 in 3♦x (a club shift after a top spade lead will beat 3♦x by a trick, so long as West doesn't cover the ♥Q).



"Has anyone seen my pencil?"

Bd: 25
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ AQ5
 ♥ A832
 ♦ J10
 ♣ KJ108

West
 ♠ 743
 ♥ Q1096
 ♦ K3
 ♣ A743

East
 ♠ 9862
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q87642
 ♣ Q2

South
 ♠ KJ10
 ♥ KJ74
 ♦ A95
 ♣ 965

Both our tables played 3NT from the North seat, reached in two bids. Both Easts led a spade (well done) and both declarers won in dummy to take the losing club finesse. East pressed on with spades and West won the ♣A to clear the suit. Next both declarers quite reasonably went after hearts for their ninth winner and by the time they found out the suit wasn't breaking, both had compromised the entry position to set up diamonds.

♠ ---
 ♥ A832
 ♦ J10
 ♣ 108

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q1096
 ♦ K3
 ♣ 74

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q87642
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ KJ74
 ♦ A95
 ♣ 9

Had either declarer simply cashed two clubs in the diagramed position, pitching a heart from dummy, and passed the ♦10, they would have had nine tricks.

Accordingly, it is somewhat surprising that 3NT went down almost as often as it made, but it is not at all surprising that 4♥ was attempted unsuccessfully at quite a lot of tables. Gold-Bakhshi did play 4♥, down 100. Paul Hackett played 3NT on a diamond lead and successfully went after clubs for his nine tricks. That 11 imps made it 36-22

The datum here was N/S +60.



"No matter how you add it up, we still lost."

WARNING to Larry Cohen: if you're reading this you might want to skip the next deal; it might upset you.

Bd: 26
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K9842
 ♥ AQ4
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ J106

West
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 9832
 ♦ J6
 ♣ AQ8542

East
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ KJ75
 ♦ AK109
 ♣ 973

South
 ♠ AJ1076
 ♥ 106
 ♦ 87532
 ♣ K

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Takahashi</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Naito</i>
1♥	1♠	1♦	Pass
All Pass		2♥	3♠
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>A Miyakuni</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>K Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
1♥	1♠	1♦	Pass
All Pass		2♥	2♠

Yes folks, not only did the two Souths not drive to game, they were "right" in the sense that 4♠ can be defeated, though admittedly it is far from easy to do. For all of those defenders who look at all 52 cards and wonder how a defender could fail to cash two diamonds and play a club, just try switching one of North's heart honors with one of East's clubs. Not so easy now, is it? Ten tricks were achieved by North more often than nine, so clearly the problem has no easy solution. The score remained 40-17, NAITO.

In NEDUK-Pharon both Souths overcalled 1♠, Bakhshi over 1♥, Hanlon over 1♣. In the first auction when Gold heard a fit-jump to 3♣ he settled for a cuebid raise and did not raise 3♠ to 4♠. On the other hand Paul Hackett simply bid game. With South declarer the defense was easy enough to find. NEDUK had 6 imps and led 42-22.

After a couple of indecisive partscores, NAITO picked up one more swing:

Bd: 29
 Dlr: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 82
 ♥ KJ62
 ♦ 982
 ♣ AQ106

West
 ♠ A65
 ♥ AQ1098
 ♦ KJ6
 ♣ K8

East
 ♠ KJ1097
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 10743
 ♣ J32

South
 ♠ Q43
 ♥ 743
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ 9754

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Takahashi</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Naito</i>
	1♣(!)	Pass	1NT
Dbl	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>A Miyakuni</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>K Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sugino</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

The Closed Room auction was doubtless repeated many times, though had West upgraded her hand to an 18-19 count East might have played 4♠ as in the Open Room. I'm at a loss to explain North's opening in the Open Room, but it changed the tempo of his opponents' sequence altogether. Not only that, it also affected the play. The defenders cashed two clubs and shifted to a diamond to the ace for a heart through. Miura won the ♥A and ♦K, ruffed a heart, pitched dummy's ♦J on the master club, ruffed a diamond, bringing down the queen, and now "knew" North must have the ♠Q for his opening bid. Unlucky. 6 more imps to NAITO to make it 48-18, 17.04-2.96 in VPs. NEDUK had a 43-22 win, 15.46-4.54 in VPs.

18th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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	
11:35-13:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)		
Saturday (Apr. 20)	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
	Sunday (Apr. 21)	10:00-17:30	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)
	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!

**Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature Beauchamp (13) vs Australia Youth (3)
 and Italy Lavazza (6) vs PoIUS (10)**