



NEC Bridge Festival

Thursday, February 11, 2015
Bulletin Number 3

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Day Two of the 2015 NEC Cup

At the end of Day Two, the top qualifier is still Hackett (Jason Hackett, Brian Senior, John Holland, Gunnar Hallberg) with 120.42 VPs. 13 VPs back is SANDEN (Hu Mao Yuan, Yang Li Xin, Dai Jian Ming, Jin Ke, Wang Wei Min, Liu Yi Qian) with 107.35 VPs followed by Russia (Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnoselskii, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink) with 105.87 VPs, Singapore (Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Kelvin Ng, Lam Cheng Yen) with 104.13 VPs, INDIA (Subhash Gupta, Gopal Venkatesh, Sridharan Padmanabhan, Sunderram Srinivasan, Swarnendu Banerji, Keyzad Anklesaria) with 102.41 VPs and Sweden (Peter Fredin, Gary Gottlieb, David Probert, Thomas Andersson) with 100.55 VPs. Rounding out the top eight are Beijing Trinergy with 98.55 VPs and YBM with 97.97 VPs. The complete Day One rankings are shown below while individual results for Matches 5-8 may be found on page 6.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day Two (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Hackett.	120.42	17	Five Star.	86.80	33	Soul.	70.69
2	SANDEN.	107.35	18	Japan Senior.	86.72	34	LAS FLORES.	68.76
3	Russia.	105.87	19	JA-panda.	84.73	35	Gardenia.	67.69
4	Singapore.	104.13	20	PYON.	84.64	36	NAITO.	66.73
5	INDIA.	102.41	21	Down Under.	84.39	37	Great God.	66.73
6	Sweden.	100.55	22	ZhiHaoLe.	80.67	38	Scity.	66.47
7	Beijing Trinergy.	98.55	23	Edelweiss.	80.14	39	Daisy.	66.42
8	YBM.	97.97	24	Morimura.	80.01	40	BlueLights.	64.26
9	England Hinden.	95.02	25	7 Heart.	77.79	41	Tom and Jerry.	63.31
10	Australia.	94.48	26	NANIWADA.	77.23	42	HOSHI.	61.77
11	SARA.	94.04	27	Sakurai.	76.79	43	River Side.	57.36
12	Beijing Lawyers.	88.55	28	KinKi.	74.35	44	Air-TRK.	53.69
13	England/Ned.	88.40	29	Jenny-Chang.	73.85	45	Friends.	44.31
14	Japan Youth.	88.21	30	Sacrum.	73.63	46	HNES.	36.88
15	Akarui.	88.07	31	Kitty-chan.	72.24			
16	KORTAL.	86.81	32	Katsumata.	72.03			

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 20th NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/tabid/1043/Default.aspx>

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

Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature Hackett (7) vs SANDEN (13)
and Singapore (8) vs Sweden (9)

NEC Cup 2015: 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, the latest version of WBF 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 the latest version of WBF 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 and the upload of the results of all matches in progress on the web.

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, personal computers, 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. In KO rounds, mobile phones in the playing area are prohibited during game time. Players with mobile phones should surrender their phones to the staff at the service desk and receive a number tag which is used to collect the phone after the game. 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.

WBF VP scale (14 boards)

IMPs	VPs - Won	VPs - Lost	IMPs	VPs - Won	VPs - Lost
0	10.00	10.00	29	16.88	3.12
1	10.33	9.67	30	17.04	2.96
2	10.66	9.34	31	17.19	2.81
3	10.97	9.03	32	17.34	2.66
4	11.28	8.72	33	17.49	2.51
5	11.58	8.42	34	17.63	2.37
6	11.87	8.13	35	17.77	2.23
7	12.16	7.84	36	17.91	2.09
8	12.44	7.56	37	18.04	1.96
9	12.71	7.29	38	18.17	1.83
10	12.97	7.03	39	18.29	1.71
11	13.23	6.77	40	18.41	1.59
12	13.48	6.52	41	18.53	1.47
13	13.72	6.28	42	18.65	1.35
14	13.96	6.04	43	18.76	1.24
15	14.19	5.81	44	18.87	1.13
16	14.42	5.58	45	18.98	1.02
17	14.64	5.36	46	19.08	0.92
18	14.85	5.15	47	19.18	0.82
19	15.06	4.94	48	19.28	0.72
20	15.26	4.74	49	19.38	0.62
21	15.46	4.54	50	19.47	0.53
22	15.66	4.34	51	19.56	0.44
23	15.85	4.15	52	19.65	0.35
24	16.03	3.97	53	19.74	0.26
25	16.21	3.79	54	19.83	0.17
26	16.38	3.62	55	19.91	0.09
27	16.55	3.45	56	19.99	0.01
28	16.72	3.28	57	20.00	0.00

Team Rosters: 20th NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	Russia:	Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Mikhail Krasnoselskii, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink
2	England/Netherlands:	David Bakhshi, David Gold, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees
3	Down Under:	Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill, Martin Reid, Peter Newell
4	Australia:	Michael Wilkinson, Griff Ware, Terry Brown, Avi Kanetkar
5	England Hinden:	Frances Hinden, Graham Osbourne, Alex Hydes, Mike Bell
6	INDIA:	Subhash Gupta, Gopal Venkatesh, Sridharan Padmanabhan, Sunderram Srinivasan, Swarnendu Banerji, Keyzad Anklesaria
7	Hackett:	Jason Hackett, Brian Senior, John Holland, Gunnar Hallberg
8	Singapore:	Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Kelvin Ng, Lam Cheng Yen
9	Sweden:	Peter Fredin, Gary Gottlieb, David Probert, Thomas Andersson
10	YBM:	Ming Sun, Chen Yeh, Yalan Zhang, Juei-Yu Shih, Ping Wang, Dawei Chen
11	KORTAL:	Kyunghae Sung, Sungae Yang, Patrick Huang, Cheng-Jui Huang
12	ZhiHaoLe:	Zhao Haibo, Zhao Yuqiao, Sun YanHui, Li Jie, Fu Zhong
13	SANDEN:	Hu Mao Yuan, Yang Li Xin, Dai Jian Ming, Jin Ke, Wang Wei Min, Liu Yi Qian
14	Beijing Trinergy:	Dong Lu, Chuancheng Ju, Zhengjun Shi, Lidang Dong, Haitao Liu, Yanhong Wang
15	Daisy:	Choi Anhee, Park Sunhee, Lee Soohyun, Kim Sunyoung, Lee Hansang
16	7 Heart:	Chung Ilsub, Hwang Iynryung, Choi Jungjin, Jang Jungbai
17	Scity:	Park Jungyoon, Kim Yoonkyung, Im Hyun, Kwon Sooja
18	Soul:	Oh Hyemin, Kim Hyeyoung, Kazuo Furuta, Hiroki Yokoi, Yasuhiro Shimizu
19	Morimura:	Tadashi Yoshida, Hiroya Abe, Shunsuke Morimura, Sue Picus
20	Jenny-Chang:	Kyoko Shimamura, Makiko Sato, Jenny Kim, Chang Mirye
21	Great God:	Natsuko Nishida, Masayasu Oga, Yoko Shimominami, Lee Bokhee
22	Beijing Lawyers:	Yoshie Kikuchi, Xue Xiaoli, Wang Fei, Qi YouGuang, Tao Jianhua
23	Japan Senior:	Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Masayuki Ino, Kazuhiko Yamada
24	SARA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Hiroshi Kaku, Masaaki Takayama, Takeshi Niekawa, Shugo Tanaka
25	PYON:	Yuki Fukuyoshi, Takeshi Hanayama, Terumi Kubo, Tadashi Imakura
26	Edelweiss:	Haruko Koshi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Fumiko Kimura, Hiroaki Miura, Yoko Oosako
27	NAITO:	Ryoga Tanaka, Sakiko Naito, Ayako Miyakuni, Kenji Miyakuni
28	Five Star:	Kazuko Takahashi, Katsumi Takahashi, Takako Fujimoto, Sumiko Sugino, Kazuko Kawashima, Akiko Kawabata
29	Akarui:	Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogiwara, Mutsue Kokubo, Noriko Akira, Noriyuki Okamoto
30	Kitty-chan:	Yoko Nenohi, Kyoko Toyofuku, Kumiko Matsuo, Toshiko Kaho, Hiroko Sekiyama, Mieko Nakanishi
31	BlueLights:	Osami Kimura, Hiroko Kobayashi, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Harue Iemori, Chisato Kiriya, Yasuyoshi Toriumi
32	Katsumata:	Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Misae Kato, Kimiko Kamakari, Takako Nakatani, Sachiho Ueda
33	JA-panda:	Megumi Takasaki, Yuko Noda, Masayuki Hayasaka, Hidenori Narita, Hiroyuki Noda
34	Tom and Jerry:	Chieko Ichikawa, Yoshiko Murata, Kei Nemoto, Kuniko Saito, Junko Den, Aiko Banno
35	Japan Youth:	Yuki Harada, Takumi Seshimo, Mizuki Ishibashi, Takahiro Honda, Tomoaki Nakanishi, Tadahiro Kikuchi
36	LAS FLORES:	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Yoko Komuro, Shimako Yaji
37	Sakurai:	Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Takehiko Tada
38	HOSHI:	Masako Sakurai, Yukiko Hoshi, Junko Tsubaki, Megumi Takasaka
39	NANIWADA:	Toshiro Nose, Masaru Naniwada, Hisami Kataoka, Hideo Togawa, Junzo Kobayashi
40	River Side:	Yumiko Kawakami, Masakatsu Sugino, Ryoichi Yasuhara, Hiroko Tanaka, Noriko Yagi, Toshiharu Hirose
41	Air-TRK:	Yoko Fukuyama, Takashi Sumita, Mark LaForge, Timothy Curtis, Kazuo Takano, Hisako Kondo
42	HNES:	Hisayo Goto, Hiroko Ishino, Emi Sakata, Sae Ohashi, Kazumi Nitta, Yumiko Nagato
43	Friends:	Yoko Saito, Mamiko Odaira, Sayori Harasawa, Mayumi Tanaka, Eiko Sakamoto, Setsuko Minami
44	Sacrum:	Hiroko Sentsui, Naoto Matsumoto, Hu Wenhui, Shintaro Sentsui
45	KinKi:	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka, Yukinao Homma, Chie Fujita
46	Gardenia:	Makoto Nomura, Masako Otsuka, Naoko Hishikawa, Takashi Hatakeyama, Mitsuko Suyama, Yumiko Kichise

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Wondering how your favorite team is doing RIGHT NOW? Surf to:

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Qualifying Lineups@ <http://jcbl.willnet.ad.jp/Lineup/tsdbtr2ed032m95qzpl2/Top>

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 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	18	48	18.17	72.98	8	26	5.58	78.56	5	43	11.28	89.84	24	44	16.03	105.87
2	28	63	18.65	58.42	6	33	8.13	66.55	35	27	8.13	74.68	12	46	13.72	88.4
3	11	20	7.56	54.28	10	37	8.72	63	12	36	8.42	71.42	39	28	12.97	84.39
4	23	8	1.96	55.77	29	67	19.08	74.85	14	34	15.66	90.51	7	8	3.97	94.48
5	19	51	18.17	61.27	12	47	17.19	78.46	1	39	8.72	87.18	9	15	7.84	95.02
6	12	30	8.72	57.99	2	39	11.87	69.86	25	44	14.64	84.5	22	52	17.91	102.41
7	8	19	6.28	71.99	23	38	16.55	88.54	22	48	15.85	104.39	4	32	16.03	120.42
8	7	32	13.72	74.05	1	42	14.42	88.47	24	51	14.42	102.89	13	9	1.24	104.13
9	31	53	19.38	70.77	24	26	6.04	76.81	23	34	11.58	88.39	5	22	12.16	100.55
10	24	2	0.92	53.76	3	41	11.28	65.04	36	49	16.72	81.76	23	38	16.21	97.97
11	3	28	12.44	59.6	35	39	12.97	72.57	13	12	2.66	75.23	33	20	11.58	86.81
12	6	34	11.28	60	5	16	2.81	62.81	3	41	11.58	74.39	2	33	6.28	80.67
13	15	59	19.56	65.44	22	23	5.81	71.25	11	44	17.34	88.59	8	52	18.76	107.35
14	26	53	17.04	57.02	18	45	17.19	74.21	4	12	4.34	78.55	16	75	20	98.55
15	13	8	0.44	44.09	19	25	6.04	50.13	28	30	0.44	50.57	41	51	15.85	66.42
16	17	39	15.66	48.87	37	37	12.71	61.58	26	43	16.21	77.79	14	1	0	77.79
17	16	17	4.34	37.47	21	25	8.13	45.6	30	17	2.96	48.56	43	50	17.91	66.47
18	1	10	1.83	57.07	14	14	2.81	59.88	33	18	2.66	62.54	20	21	8.42	70.96
19	5	13	1.83	43.91	15	39	13.96	57.87	29	23	8.42	66.29	30	31	13.72	80.01
20	27	13	6.52	34.17	43	47	17.77	51.94	45	21	10.33	62.27	18	26	11.58	73.85
21	25	27	2.81	37.55	17	31	11.87	49.42	38	32	12.97	62.39	26	14	4.34	66.73
22	36	71	20	68.12	13	38	14.19	82.31	7	25	4.15	86.46	6	16	2.09	88.55
23	4	45	18.04	71.06	7	11	3.45	74.51	9	29	8.42	82.93	10	13	3.79	86.72
24	10	48	19.08	70.53	9	40	13.96	84.49	8	35	5.58	90.07	1	20	3.97	94.04
25	21	58	17.19	53.06	31	50	16.88	69.94	6	27	5.36	75.3	35	34	9.34	84.64
26	14	23	2.96	44.84	30	45	15.85	60.69	16	18	3.79	64.48	21	36	15.66	80.14
27	20	25	13.48	41.02	44	30	4.34	45.36	46	22	6.52	51.88	38	39	14.85	66.73
28	2	21	1.35	41.03	39	21	10	51.03	15	81	19.56	70.59	37	50	16.21	86.8
29	34	54	18.04	56.92	4	21	0.92	57.84	19	28	11.58	69.42	36	58	18.65	88.07
30	37	32	8.13	44.77	26	22	4.15	48.92	17	47	17.04	65.96	19	18	6.28	72.24
31	9	4	0.62	50.73	25	21	3.12	53.85	39	13	3.12	56.97	45	26	7.29	64.26
32	45	8	3.12	34.89	38	28	7.03	41.92	41	35	14.85	56.77	40	42	15.26	72.03
33	42	58	19.56	39.99	34	60	18.98	58.97	18	50	17.34	76.31	11	15	8.42	84.73
34	29	17	1.96	40.31	33	15	1.02	41.33	43	18	6.52	47.85	42	39	15.46	63.31
35	44	59	18.98	58.65	11	29	7.03	65.68	2	33	11.87	77.55	25	36	10.66	88.21
36	22	11	0	48.47	45	35	15.66	64.13	10	21	3.28	67.41	29	16	1.35	68.76
37	30	38	11.87	48.67	16	28	7.29	55.96	44	49	17.04	73	28	25	3.79	76.79
38	46	37	11.58	36.62	32	38	12.97	49.59	21	22	7.03	56.62	27	21	5.15	61.77
39	41	58	19.83	43.32	28	21	10	53.32	31	42	16.88	70.2	3	18	7.03	77.23
40	43	31	15.46	34.31	46	21	7.03	41.34	42	26	11.28	52.62	32	22	4.74	57.36
41	39	4	0.17	24.83	42	60	19.56	44.39	32	17	5.15	49.54	15	28	4.15	53.69
42	33	7	0.44	23.18	41	9	0.44	23.62	40	22	8.72	32.34	34	18	4.54	36.88
43	40	10	4.54	26.51	20	12	2.23	28.74	34	30	13.48	42.22	17	14	2.09	44.31
44	35	14	1.02	40.59	27	52	15.66	56.25	37	19	2.96	59.21	46	44	14.42	73.63
45	32	37	16.88	47.63	36	13	4.34	51.97	20	20	9.67	61.64	31	35	12.71	74.35
46	38	32	8.42	35.66	40	31	12.97	48.63	27	34	13.48	62.11	44	28	5.58	67.69

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

Match 1, Board 8: Revisited

This was Board 8 from Tuesday's first NEC Cup qualifying-round match. A bit more than half the field (24 pairs out of 46) played in a small slam, either 6♠ or 6♦, with 20 of the 24 going down due to the bad splits in both pointed suits.

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 6		
Vul: None	♥ AJ64		
	♦ J1085		
	♣ 9872		
	West		East
	♠ AQ72		♠ K1053
	♥ 8		♥ 10532
	♦ KQ9762		♦ A3
	♣ KQ		♣ AJ6
	South		
	♠ J984		
	♥ KQ97		
	♦ 4		
	♣ 10543		

Against 6♠ most declarers received a heart lead and subsequently played spades correctly by cashing the ace-queen in order to finesse North for the jack in case he had started with jack-fourth. In our original write-up (Bulletin 1, page 10) we glossed over the play after that start, simply saying: "after a club lead declarer has 12 tricks." Well, he does, but the fact remains that he is still obligated to take them!

We assumed (subject to the old adage that when you ass-u-me "you make an **ass** out of **u** and **me**") that dummy's heart would then be pitched on the third club and declarer would now simply set up the diamonds for heart pitches. Enter Gopal Venkatesh,

who stopped by the secretariat yesterday morning to point out the error of our ways and a fact that had totally escaped us. First, let's deal with the error in our initial analysis.

Recall that the play has gone: club lead won in the West hand, ♠A, ♠Q, two more clubs, pitching West's losing heart, ♦A, diamond. Several defenses work here. Say South ruffs, then exits with a heart. We can ruff in the West hand but now cannot both draw trumps and get back to run the good diamonds. In fact, there's no line of play that works after we cash both of West's top spades. So the idea of picking up North's trumps when he holds jack-fourth is an illusion — unless the diamonds split three-two.

Can the hand be made if both pointed suits split four-one? Indeed it can, and this is the fact that Gopal explained that had totally escaped us. After a non-heart lead declarer must cash one high spade in the West hand and then lead low to...the king! Now come two more rounds of clubs, pitching West's losing heart, followed by ace and a second diamond. South cannot ruff to advantage (if he does we win his return, cross to West's remaining trump honor drawing South's last trump, and run the now-good diamonds), so South pitches. We win a top diamond and ruff a diamond (setting up the suit). What can South do? If he over-ruffs we win his return and finish as above. If he pitches we cross to the other high trump in the West hand and begin running diamonds. South can ruff in with his last trump whenever he wants but the West hand remains with a trump and good diamonds.

Images of Our Game



"And now I will demonstrate my famous one-handed, behind the head, non-simultaneous double squeeze."



"Boring!"



"I'm ready for my close-up, Mr DeMille."

Match Five: Sweden vs BlueLights

by Barry Rigal



lemori



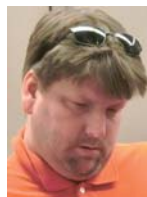
Fredin



Gottlieb



Toriumi



Andersson



Kobayashi



Tsukamoto



Probert

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ J87652
♥ 63
♦ A9
♣ Q85

West
♠ AQ4
♥ A5
♦ 87
♣ KJ7643

East
♠ K
♥ KQ109842
♦ 1054
♣ 92

South
♠ 1093
♥ J7
♦ KQJ632
♣ A10

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>lemori</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Toriumi</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>
<i>Anders'n</i>	<i>Kob'ashi</i>	<i>Probert</i>	<i>Tsukamoto</i>
	2♠	3♥	4♠
Dbf	All Pass		

Both tables played 4♠x on a top heart lead, won by West for a heart return. East shifted to a club, run around to the king, and a club came back to the ace. Both declarers played a trump now, of course. Fredin led the ♠10 and lemori fell from grace and covered. Kobayashi led the ♠3 from dummy making it much easier for West to duck; 5-0, Sweden.

If East plays 4♥, the defenders will be hard pressed to present him with a losing option. After North overtakes the lead and continues the suit, South might cash the ♣A, then play a third diamond. Now if North has been able to resist preempting, East might fall into the trap of ruffing high, then finessing in hearts. A triumph for North's discretion? Better to stay silent and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt. Four Easts succumbed

to this defense.

The second board was a mundane game, where the overtrick in 4♥ hinged on finding the missing ♦Q. Both pairs did not do so. Still 5-0, Sweden.

♠ AJ1096
♥ KJ4
♦ A54
♣ 63

♠ 8
♥ AQ1076
♦ KJ103
♣ J87

Of course my idea of a mundane game doesn't match everyone's. After a trump lead you do not have ten winners. Maybe the best line is to win it in the East hand, then lead a spade to the ace and pass the ♠J pitching a club. Alternatively, you might just run the ♠8 immediately, planning if they cash their clubs to take a club ruff in dummy while setting up the fifth spade. If they win the first spade and play back a trump you draw trumps ending in dummy and play ace and a third spade pitching clubs, with a diamond entry to cash the fifth spade. You take three spades, five hearts and two diamonds. Nine tables made game on a heart lead, five went down.

Bd: 3
Dir: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ KJ4
♥ 6
♦ J108753
♣ J74

West
♠ 106
♥ AQ984
♦ A96
♣ AQ8

East
♠ Q98
♥ 1072
♦ KQ
♣ 109653

South
♠ A7532
♥ KJ53
♦ 42
♣ K2

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Iemori</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Toriumi</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>
2♥	2♠	3♥	1♠
4♥	All Pass		Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Anders'n</i>	<i>Kob'ashi</i>	<i>Probert</i>	<i>Tsukamoto</i>
2♥	2♠	3♥	1♠
			All Pass

For a second time in this young set the two teams started the same way; then the paths diverged. In 3♥ Fredin led a trump to trick one, which should have allowed Iemori to make ten tricks but she ended with nine. Where the stakes were greater it was up to Kobayashi to put declarer under pressure with a club lead. (If declarer wins in hand and goes after spades, South gets a diamond away on the third club to prevent declarer taking two trump finesses.) To succeed in 4♥ declarer's simplest line is to use the diamond entries early to take two trump finesses, then play clubs for one loser by leading them from hand if necessary. This line is far from automatic.

At the table, Andersson received a spade lead and diamond shift. He won the diamond to finesse the ♣Q and lead a spade up. North won the ♠K and played a second diamond, letting Andersson win in dummy and cash the ♠Q to pitch the club loser. Now he led the ♥10 from dummy and had South followed low without a flicker declarer might well have gone down (since finessing the ten loses when North is e.g. 3=2=6=2 with the ♥J). When South covered, declarer could give up a heart and claim ten tricks. 10 imps to Sweden, leading 15-0.

Only three declarers brought home 4♥; apparently the way to get rich on this deal was to play against manic overbidders, since no fewer than four N/S pairs decided to save in 4♠ over 4♥. When doubled, on a trump lead, results ranged from disastrous to catastrophic; down five, even down six was recorded here with Hydes and Bell scoring +1400 against 4♠x.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AJ32		
Vul: Both	♥ K962		
	♦ 8532		
	♣ 8		
West		East	
♠ 1064		♠ K985	
♥ 84		♥ AQJ53	
♦ AKQ94		♦ 6	
♣ A63		♣ Q74	
	South		
	♠ Q7		
	♥ 107		
	♦ J107		
	♣ KJ10952		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Iemori</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Toriumi</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dbf
2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Anders'n</i>	<i>Kob'ashi</i>	<i>Probert</i>	<i>Tsukamoto</i>
1NT(14-16)	Pass	2♣	Dbf
2♦	Pass	3♠(4♠ 5♥)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In 2NT on a club lead Iemori won in hand, finessed in hearts, then came to hand with a diamond and led a spade to the nine. This had the unfortunate effect of cutting herself off from the diamonds, and after a heart return by Gottlieb declarer ended up losing three spades, one heart and two clubs when the lead got locked in dummy. It hardly mattered, since Andersson won the club lead and finessed in hearts, ran the diamonds (thanks, Bridgidda, goddess of luck at the bridge table) and repeated the heart finesse. With nine tricks in the bag he graciously conceded the rest. Sweden led 27-0 now.

Next BlueLights got on the board with an overtrick in a notrump partscore, then added to it on a deal where it was not easy for E/W to find their best spot.

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 42		
Vul: E/W	♥ A852		
	♦ QJ852		
	♣ Q5		
West		East	
♠ AK		♠ J983	
♥ KQJ1093		♥ ---	
♦ 9		♦ K10643	
♣ A863		♣ J1042	
	South		
	♠ Q10765		
	♥ 764		
	♦ A7		
	♣ K97		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Iemori</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Toriumi</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Anders'n</i>	<i>Kob'ashi</i>	<i>Probert</i>	<i>Tsukamoto</i>
1♣(16+)	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT(1)	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
(1) One suiter			

Andersson and Probert play a souped-up strong club where the 1NT rebid showed any one-suiter and the 2♣ rebid by responder promised at least some scattered values. (For the record opener's 1♥ rebid is any balanced hand or some two-suiters.) The 4♥ bid was explained by Andersson as "My teammates likes us to bid games." Well, at least we know whose fault the overbid was.

Kobayashi led a top diamond against 4♥, ducked, then a second diamond to the ten and ace. Andersson led a top heart, ducked, but North won the next heart to lead a third diamond, ruffed and over-ruffed. Andersson could draw trumps now but when he played ace and another club he had run out of trumps, and the defenders had diamonds to cash. That was down two, and a chance for a pickup for the Japanese team. Fredin led the ♠4 against 3♥: 3, 7, K. Fredin won the third trump to lead another spade and now if declarer had simply drawn trumps and played ace and another club he had nine tricks,. When she led a diamond to the king and ace he had set up a force on himself and the defense had the tempo to prevent her from ever establishing the fourth club. Sweden led 27-4.

At first glance it appears that you might make eleven tricks in clubs, especially if you play it from South. Repeated diamond leads might foil that and when you have that heart suit who cares about clubs?

Gold and Bakhshi demonstrated that the makeable game was 3NT. After a spade lead Gold drove out the ♥A and South kept too many spades in the ending, allowing the ninth trick home. Of course an equally satisfying way for E/W to go plus is in hearts, when they are bid by the opponents and doubled by you. Qi YouGuang and Wan Fei for Beijing Lawyers collected +1100 that way against a mere 2♥x by South.

On the next deal (below) both tables avoided trouble, bidding 1♦ - 1♠ - 3♣ - 3NT. The diamond slam is not without play but you would need to be exceptionally tall to bring it home today since ♦Q1087 are onside.

Bd: 7 North
 Dlr: South ♠ AQ875
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ3
 ♦ 643
 ♣ J5

South
 ♠ K3
 ♥ J9
 ♦ AKJ95
 ♣ AK74

The datum score here was +350 to N/S so nearly half the field climbed, like Icarus, too close to the sun and duly got their wings burned.

There was also no swing on the next deal where E/W bid to a decent game with a 6-4 fit. There were ten tricks unless the defenders could cash four first (only possible on a diamond lead and heart shift, should the ♥A be wrong). Today the ♥A was onside, so the defenders could take the first three tricks but no more.

And the next deal was equally unexciting, with a 5-3 major-suit fit off two keycards and a round-suit finesse to take for the overtrick. No swing; still 27-4, with six deals to go.

Bd: 10 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 83
 Vul: Both ♥ K82
 ♦ Q83
 ♣ KQ854

West East
 ♠ J ♠ 109754
 ♥ QJ107543 ♥ A9
 ♦ A42 ♦ KJ1095
 ♣ 62 ♣ 10

South
 ♠ AKQ62
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 76
 ♣ AJ973

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iemori</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Toriumi</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
2♥	2NT	Pass	2♣
All Pass		Pass	3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Anders'n</i>	<i>Kob'ashi</i>	<i>Probert</i>	<i>Tsakamoto</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♥	Dbl	3♦	4♣
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Probert's 3♦ bid did not promise heart tolerance; they have no diamond preempts since their style is to use the three level for 10-13 one-suiters. So Andersson's 4♦ bid was, to put it mildly, sporting facing a passed hand. Things worked better than he had any right to expect. When North did not bid on to 5♣, which looks easy to set and almost always was defeated at other tables, Andersson was in a contract with a surprising amount of play. He ruffed the second spade and decided to finesse in hearts, cash the ace, then play three rounds of diamonds, finessing North en route.

The fourth diamond let him pitch a club as North ruffed in, and there was now just one club to lose, for a stellar +620.

In the other room the defenders managed to lead and cash out diamonds against 3NT, but Sweden still had 9imps to lead 36-4. Seven pairs let through 3NT here on repeated heart leads while 4♥ was bid and made a handful of times — sometimes doubled.

The match score became 37-4 with an overtrick imp in an unexciting 4♥ game. Then the next deal also produced only a small swing, but let no one say it was unexciting.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ A86		
Vul: N/S	♥ 108432		
	♦ AK3		
	♣ 85		
		East	
West		♠ Q	
♠ J105		♥ 5	
♥ AJ976		♦ QJ762	
♦ 84		♣ AQJ1096	
♣ 432			
	South		
	♠ K97432		
	♥ KQ		
	♦ 1095		
	♣ K7		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Iemori</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Toriumi</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>
Pass	1♥	2NT	3♦(♠)
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Anders'n</i>	<i>Kob'ashi</i>	<i>Probert</i>	<i>Tsukamoto</i>
Pass	1♥	2♣	Dbl
Pass	2♦	3♣	4♥
Dbl	Pass	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

One could speculate that in the Closed Room auction South had sworn off spades for Lent, but fortunately he rediscovered the suit just in time to avoid serious injury. The defenders took their heart ruff at once by leading ace and another heart, then exited in clubs for down two (since a diamond and spade loser could not quite be avoided). In the other room East led the ♣A against North's game, took the heart ruff, then played a low diamond. Now the diamond loser had gotten away; 3imps to Sweden to make it 41-4.

No one found a way to bring home 10 tricks in 4♠, but a significant percentage of the field saved in 5♣ for 300.

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 1042		
Vul: Both	♥ 10972		
	♦ 5		
	♣ A10987		
		East	
West		♠ Q95	
♠ AJ763		♥ K8	
♥ AQ5		♦ J102	
♦ K987		♣ KQJ53	
♣ 2			
	South		
	♠ K8		
	♥ J643		
	♦ AQ643		
	♣ 64		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Iemori</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Toriumi</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣(♠)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Anders'n</i>	<i>Kob'ashi</i>	<i>Probert</i>	<i>Tsukamoto</i>
	Pass	1♦(2+)	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦(GF)	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

In both rooms North led his singleton diamond against 4♠. Both Souths won and returned a diamond that was consistent with North having led from a four-card suit. West rose with the ♦K and North ruffed, then played back a heart. Declarer won in dummy to finesse a trump.

Where Andersson was declarer the trump went to the eight, jack and four. It looks natural to cash two hearts to pitch the diamond loser but Andersson realized that as a passed hand South had shown the ♦AQ and ♠K so it was safe to play a club at once. He could pitch his diamonds on the clubs and draw all the remaining trumps without inconvenience.

Where Iemori was declarer, the first trump went to the eight, jack and North's ten. (A good try by Fredin but the fact that the missing spot was the four might have persuaded her that this was a falsecard.) Declarer cashed the hearts to pitch the diamond from dummy, ruffed a diamond in dummy and led a top club. Fredin pounced on this and fired back his last trump, locking declarer in hand to lose a diamond at trick 13. Nicely defended; 12 moreimps to Sweden, leading 53-4, the final score of the match.

At only one other table (where van Prooijen-Verhees were defending 4♠) did the defenders persuade declarer to go down. Did he fall or was he pushed?

Match Six: Beijing Lawyers vs SANDEN

by Rich Colker



Wang W M



Xue



Tao



Jin



Wang Fei



Dai



Yang



Qi

Bd: 17
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ Q109
♥ Q10
♦ 10953
♣ K842

West
♠ J632
♥ A86
♦ Q62
♣ Q63

East
♠ AK8
♥ 753
♦ KJ874
♣ A10

South
♠ 754
♥ KJ942
♦ A
♣ J975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Xue	Jin	Tao
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠(1)	Pass	3♣(2)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Asks max/min
(2) Max

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Dai	Qi	Yang
	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Jin Ke opened a 13-15 notrump in the Open Room and after a size-ask by Wang Wei Min ended in 3NT. With the heart suit on lead that contract had little chance and when Tao Jianhua tabled the ♥4 the game's fate was settled. Jin won the second heart and led a diamond to the king and ace. On the run of the hearts Xue Xiaoli, needing to guard both pointed suits, bared the ♣K while Jin pitched the ♠8 and ♣10 from hand and the ♠2 and ♣3 from dummy. Tao got out with the ♣J, 6, K, A and Jin cashed the ♠AK,

trying to drop the ♠Q. When that failed he crossed to the ♦Q and cashed the ♣Q, catching Xue in a spade-diamond squeeze for down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Wang Fei played 2♠ in the four-three fit. That figures to be a good idea in theory doesn't it? Not so fast. Thanks to the heart overcall Wang received the ♥Q lead. He won the ace immediately and led a club to the ace and a club back. Yang Li Xin covered the ten with the jack, queen from dummy, king and Dai Jian Ming switched back to hearts. Yang allowed the ♥10 to hold and Dai got out with a club, Wang ruffing in dummy. Next came the ♠AK followed by a third heart to Yang, who cashed the ♦A before playing a fourth heart. Wang ruffed with the ♠7, got over-ruffed with the queen, and now Dai played the fourth club, extracting declarer's last trump. Yang now could score the last two tricks with the ♠7 and ♥J for down two, -100, and 2 imps to SANDEN.

The field generally played notrump here, but only one pair bid and made 3NT thanks to an initial club lead by South (the power of positive thinking by East?). A nice result for Aiko Banno and Junko Den.

Bd: 18
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ KJ1095
♥ A85
♦ ---
♣ AKQ97

West
♠ A
♥ Q10764
♦ KQ1082
♣ 83

East
♠ 87632
♥ 2
♦ J76
♣ J654

South
♠ Q4
♥ KJ93
♦ A9543
♣ 102

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Xue	Jin	Tao
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Dbl	1♠	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Dai	Qi	Yang
		Pass	Pass
1♥	2♥(♠+m)	Pass	2NT(1)
Pass	3♥(2)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- (1) Minor ask
- (2) Clubs, good hand

In the Open Room Wang chose to open his good five-card diamond suit rather than his (weaker) five-card heart suit, perhaps favoring lead direction over game prospects opposite a passed partner. Lo and behold, the opponents bounced into 4♥ and when that came back around to him he expressed his pleasure in not having opened 1♥ with a white "X" on a red background. He led the ♠A, then shifted to the ♣8 to dummy's ace. Tao led the ♥5 to the king and a heart back to the ace, Wang splitting with the ten. Next came the ♠K. Wang ruffed, then exited with the ♦K. Tao ruffed in dummy and continued with another high spade, pitching a diamond. Wang ruffed, cashed the ♥Q, and Tao claimed down one, -200.

In the Closed Room Dai-Yang reached the good 3NT contract via an intelligent Michaels auction. Wang led the ♦8 to the jack and ace (dummy pitching a heart) and Yang started spades, the queen losing to the ace, and claimed nine tricks after Wang cashed his three top diamonds. That was +600 and 13 more imps to SANDEN, leading now 15-0. Had West led a top diamond, it would have been incumbent on South to duck, but that would have been the indicated play.

Most pairs bid and made game here, but quite a few attempted slam, unsuccessfully, in one black suit or the other.

Bd: 19
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KQ10
 ♥ A93
 ♦ J1096
 ♣ Q96

West
 ♠ 982
 ♥ J64
 ♦ Q854
 ♣ 1052

East
 ♠ 74
 ♥ KQ52
 ♦ K7
 ♣ AKJ43

South
 ♠ AJ653
 ♥ 1087
 ♦ A32
 ♣ 87

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Xue	Jin	Tao
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	1NT	Dbl
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Dai	Qi	Yang
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	2♣	Dbl
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Against Tao's 2♠ in the Open Room Wang led the ♣10 to the queen and king. Jin Ke continued: ♣J, ♣A. Tao pitched a heart (perhaps fearing an over-ruff if clubs were six-two) and Jin shifted to the ♥K, ducked, followed by the ♥Q. Tao won the ace, then passed the ♦J to the queen. Wang tried a third heart but Tao ruffed, cashed dummy's three spades, then called for the ♦10 and claimed +110 when the ♦K appeared on his right. That was, not surprisingly, the room result here.

However, in the Closed Room Yang surprisingly failed to bid 2♠ (as a passed hand) after the 2♣ overcall, then failed to bid spades again over Dai's 2♦ rebid, and the resulting contract was anything but elegant. Qi led the ♣A, saw Wang's deuce, switched to the ♥K, ducked, then continued with the ♥Q. Dai won, played the ♦J to the king and ace, led a second diamond ducked to the nine, then exited with a heart. Wang won the jack, cashed the ♦Q, then switched to the ♣10 allowing Qi to continue the suit until Dai ruffed with the ♦10, promoting Wang's eight into a winner. But that was all the defense could take and Dai finished down two, -100, and the Lawyers were finally on the scoreboard trailing 15-5.

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AK
 ♥ AQJ8653
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ 105

West
 ♠ 72
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AK10962
 ♣ QJ96

East
 ♠ J9864
 ♥ 94
 ♦ J875
 ♣ K7

South
 ♠ Q1053
 ♥ K107
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A8432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Xue</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Tao</i>
3♦	3♥	5♦	Dbf

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Qi</i>	<i>Yang</i>
1♦	Dbf	1NT	2♦
Dbf	4♥	All Pass	

There was a sharp contrast between the two Wangs' choice of openings with the West hand. For what it's worth your editors favor 1♦ (assuming that a weak 2♦ is not available), though certainly anything could work out on any given day. On this day 3♦ was the winner when it convinced East (Jin) to take an immediate save for -500 against N/S's heart game. If South's double of 5♦ is card-showing, should North remove it? The answer to this question and so many more will be on the next episode of Soap.

4♥ made six in the Closed Room so -500 was worth 5 moreimps to SANDEN, whose lead was now 20-5. Of course 6♥ is an outstanding contract but only two pairs found it: Newell-Reid for Down Under, and Kimiko Kamakari-Misae Kato for Katsumata. Well done, both pairs!

Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ K1086
Vul: N/S	♥ 863
	♦ AQ104
	♣ Q9

West	East
♠ 42	♠ A953
♥ A742	♥ KQ10
♦ 92	♦ KJ763
♣ AK742	♣ 5

South
♠ QJ7
♥ J95
♦ 85
♣ J10863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Xue</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Tao</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Qi</i>	<i>Yang</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

In the Open Room Wang blasted into 4♥ and got a low heart lead to the ten, jack and ace. Next came a diamond to the jack, a club to the ace, and the ♦9, ducked (why?) when Xue covered with the ten. Back came a trump. Now Wang tried to ruff a diamond but Tao ruffed in front of him with the ♥9; Wang shed a spade (and maybe a tear). Back came the ♠Q to the ace followed by a diamond ruff by Wang, a club ruff (promoting North's ♥8) and the ♦K (pitching a club). Xao ruffed and tabled the ♠K. Wang ruffed, cashed the ♣K, but had to lose the last club to Tao for down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Wang also played a heart contract, though two levels lower. The play to the first three tricks was the same as at the other table but when the second diamond was led toward dummy Dai rose with the ace, then exited with the ♣Q to the king. Wang now drew trump, cashed the ♦K, gave up a diamond to the queen, and finished with ten tricks (one spade, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs) for +170 and a 6-imp pick-up, closing the lead to 9imps at 20-11.

Most pairs played game in notrump here, not a great spot but one that came home with the favorable lies in the red suits. The datum was 200 to E/W.

Board 22 was a push when both E/W pairs played 3NT and came home with an overtrick. On the next board both sides played 2♥ but Jin brought in a second overtrick to pick up 1 imp for Lawyers, now 21-11.

Bd: 24	North
Dlr: West	♠ A7
Vul: None	♥ QJ72
	♦ KJ96
	♣ Q32

West	East
♠ KJ108642	♠ Q95
♥ 84	♥ A105
♦ Q	♦ 107432
♣ 986	♣ A5

South
♠ 3
♥ K963
♦ A85
♣ KJ1074

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Xue</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Tao</i>
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Qi</i>	<i>Yang</i>
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Jin's 3NT looks suspiciously like he was trying to talk the opponents out of something. (We prefer to believe that rather than any alternative we can think of.) Instead, he talked his side into a slew of extra undertricks when the opponents could not compete at that level. Tao led the ♣J to the ace and Jin played on spades, Xue winning the second round and switching back to clubs. When Tao had finished cashing that suit the ♦A looked like the obvious choice and now the defense took three more tricks there for down four, -200.

Qi's 4♠ looks like a reasonable shot in the Closed Room. After all, give partner a reasonable hand such as ♠AJ10xxx ♥xx ♦x ♣xxx and you simply need the ♠K onside no more than third to collect your game bonus. While on the present deal there were simply four unavoidable losers (down one, -50) Qi must have been pleased to hear his teammates call out "Win 4" in the comparison. The pick-up brought SANDEN to within 6 imps at 21-15.

Was it a good idea to try to silence the opponents here? Yes and no. The defenders can take a diamond ruff to hold hearts to ten tricks, but Newell-Reid recorded +650 in 5♥x, even after the lead of the ♦Q, and seven other N/S pairs made the heart game.

Bd: 25 North
 Dlr: North ♠ QJ753
 Vul: E/W ♥ K842
 ♦ 3
 ♣ K97

West	East
♠ A42	♠ 109
♥ A	♥ J10963
♦ AQJ8762	♦ 1054
♣ Q10	♣ 643

South
 ♠ K86
 ♥ Q75
 ♦ K9
 ♣ AJ852

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Xue</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Tao</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dbf	Rdbl	Pass	2♣
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦	3♥	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Qi</i>	<i>Yang</i>
	2♥(1)	Pass	Pass

3♦ All Pass

(1) Both majors (at least 5-4) sub-opener

The auction in the Open Room seems surreal. Wang had shown a pretty good hand by doubling and then competing twice to the three level in diamonds. Also, Jin's hand was not exactly a thing of beauty. Still, perhaps a jump to 3♦ over 2♣ would have either bought the hand outright or convinced Jin to compete to the four level where a spade ruff would provide the dummy entry needed to take the winning diamond finesse. Instead, Xue-Tao bought the hand in 3♠ and lost one trick in each suit to come home with +140.

You hold the West hand and LHO opens 2♥ (at least 5-4 in the majors either way with less-than-opening values), passed around to you. What now? 3♦ seems more than a bit wimpy to us, but what do we know? Forget that East has a virtual Yarborough; after all, West can't see through the backs of the cards. Give East a modest 6-count (e.g., ♠Jxx ♥Jxxx ♦Kx ♣Jxxx) and 3NT has play (picture an honor lead in one of the majors). Make the East hand fit a bit better (e.g., ♠xx ♥xxxx ♦Kxx ♣Kxx) and 5♦ looks like a virtual claim. We'd balance with 3♦ if you took away both of our major-suit aces and replaced them with a king somewhere. 3♦ simply doesn't do justice to the hand. Anyhow, playing 3♦ offered no challenge and Wang collected nine tricks even while eschewing the diamond finesse. Plus 110 was worth 6 imps to Beijing Lawyers, who were now tied at 21-21.

There were quite a few results at either end of the normal curve on this deal. Kanetkar-Brown brought home 4♠ for +420 by guessing clubs (once West turned up with a singleton heart it was somewhat easier to take the ♣10 at face value and guess that suit). Tamura-Ishizuka did the same for Kinki. Meanwhile when Toyofuko-Kaho bid the E/W cards to 4♦ their opponents bet them they couldn't make it by doubling, and lost that bet, for -710.

Bd: 26 North
 Dlr: East ♠ AQJ532
 Vul: Both ♥ K1072
 ♦ A
 ♣ K6

West	East
♠ 104	♠ 986
♥ A93	♥ QJ
♦ Q10762	♦ KJ94
♣ J32	♣ A975

South
 ♠ K7
 ♥ 8654
 ♦ 853
 ♣ Q1084

Here both North's opened a strong club, rebid 1♠ over South's negative 1♦ response, and played there. We'd drop the discussion right there were it

not for that South hand. Granted, North will not hold a strong two-bid for the 1♠ rebid (a jump would be appropriate in that case, depending on your strong club continuations) but we'd be willing to bet that a spade game is still very much in the picture. In fact, we could easily construct hands where even slam is not out of the question (e.g., give partner ♠AQJxx ♥x ♦Ax ♣AJ9xx and 6♣ is on the club finesse; give him ♠AQJxx ♥x ♦Ax ♣AKxxx and 6♣ is virtually cold). Passing 1♠ with the South hand is, if not a felony, perhaps a misdemeanor unless you relay with 1♥ on all really strong hands. Dai made 10 tricks in the Closed Room while Xue made 11 in the Open. That was 1 imp to Beijing Lawyers, taking the lead for the first time at 22-21.

The field generally stopped in partscore here (1♠-1NT-2♥ being a common sequence).

Bd: 27 North
 Dir: South ♠ 875
 Vul: None ♥ Q109
 ♦ Q10765
 ♣ Q9

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ AJ6432
 ♦ A432
 ♣ KJ5

East
 ♠ A432
 ♥ K
 ♦ KJ9
 ♣ A7642

South
 ♠ KQJ1096
 ♥ 875
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 1083

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Xue</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Tao</i>
3♥	Pass	3NT	2♠
			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Qi</i>	<i>Yang</i>
2♥	3♠	3NT	2♦(1)
Pass	Pass	Dbl	4♠
			All Pass

The auction and result in the Open Room seem so normal that it's difficult to see where a swing might come from here. Jin took 10 tricks by winning the third spade, taking the losing club finesse, winning the return, and cashing his tricks; +430.

In the Closed Room Yang found out the hard way that The Great Shuffler does not like it when mortals bid their hands more than once, so he looks to punish such behavior whenever possible. (Of course Dai's 3♠ bid was no thing of beauty either.) Against 4♠x the defense blew a heart ruff when Qi led the ♥K, then shifted to ace and another trump allowing Yang to draw trumps before leading a heart toward the queen. That was +800 for E/W instead of +1100, 9 imps instead of 12 to Beijing Lawyers, who upped their lead to 10 imps at 31-21.

There were quite a few large penalties here, but they were dwarfed by the E/W pairs who got the bit between their teeth and bid on to slam. Yes, 6♥ is ugly but the pairs who inscribed +980 on their cards by setting up clubs and finding trumps 3-3 will not give it back just because we ask them too. There are marks for artistic quality, but only in Dancing with the Stars. Maybe 6♣ is a better slam. Only Hydes and Bell registered +920 here.

The bidding and play records ended abruptly here on BBO so we can only give you contracts and results from the official JCBL records for the final three boards. On Board 28 both E/W pairs played in 3NT, Qi picking up a third-overtrick imp for SANDEN to make the score 31-22. On Board 29 Wang went down one (-100) in 3NT in the Open Room while Yang was set one in 2♦x (-200) in the Closed Room. That swung 7 imps back to Beijing Lawyers, who now led 38-22. And finally, on Board 30 Wang Wei Min picked up one additional imp for SANDEN by scoring an overtrick in 3NT while Wang Fei was held to nine tricks. The match ended with Beijing Lawyers winning 38-23, 14.19-5.81 in VPs.

I used to be a banker...before I lost interest.



"This deck must have five aces!"



"I shudda kept my iPhone 3!"



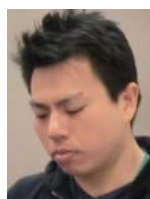
The long and the short of it

Match Seven: Singapore vs SARA

by Barry Rigal



Tanaka



Hua



Niekawa



Yen



Teramoto



Takayama



Ng



Chou

For the seventh match we will watch SARA, a regular contender for the KO stages, take on the very young and highly promising Singapore team. Ever since the World Junior Teams in Bangkok a decade ago Singapore players have been making their mark in world events. Let's see how they measure up here.

nine tricks. In the other room Ng took a slightly different approach, starting trumps by cashing the ace, and held himself to eight tricks. SARA led 1-0.

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ 9
♥ 105
♦ AQ10432
♣ KQ85

West
♠ AQ42
♥ KJ84
♦ 86
♣ A72

East
♠ J873
♥ A72
♦ K95
♣ 1094

South
♠ K1065
♥ Q963
♦ J7
♣ J63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	2♦	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dbl	2♣	2♠	All Pass

The 2♠ contract reached in the Open Room handled very smoothly. Declarer was allowed to win the first diamond with the king, and when a spade finesse succeeded Niekawa had three hearts, one diamond, one club and two trumps, with a ruff in each hand for

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ J972
♥ QJ5
♦ K753
♣ 54

West
♠ A854
♥ K976
♦ Q
♣ QJ106

East
♠ KQ63
♥ 2
♦ A942
♣ AK83

South
♠ 10
♥ A10843
♦ J1086
♣ 972

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
		1♦	1♥
Dbl	2♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

The difference between the exuberance of youth and the struggles of maturity are featured on this deal. Few of us would overcall as South at unfavorable — and even fewer would admit to it, or do it in a place where the general public might have a chance to witness it and force us to acknowledge our crimes

and misdemeanors. Chou had no such scruples and the consequence was that Tanaka knew his ♥K was not pulling its full weight. He did not try for slam and Niekawa recorded a sedate +450.

In the other room Ng heard his partner splinter in support of spades and despite having no obvious home for his diamond losers he was prepared to gamble out slam facing the appropriate number of aces. If you can take two ruffs in one hand while drawing trumps you have six spades, four clubs and a diamond. And partner will come through for you in hearts, won't he? Up to a point that was so, but the bad trump break doomed him to down one. SARA now led 12-0. 6♣ may not be down in top tricks but the communications (and the absence of the ♣9) make it look impossible on accurate defense.

The record has it (and we have no reason to doubt it except for bridge logic) that Sumiko Sugino and Akiko Kawabata for Five Star brought home 6♠ as East on the lead of the ♦J. Who are you going to believe, me or the evidence of your own eyes?

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 10
 ♦ AK1098653
 ♣ A94

West
 ♠ AQ63
 ♥ QJ643
 ♦ 74
 ♣ K2

East
 ♠ 1098742
 ♥ K87
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 753

South
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ A952
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ QJ1086

Open Room

West <i>Tanaka</i>	North <i>Hua</i>	East <i>Niekawa</i>	South <i>Chou</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Yen</i>	North <i>T'moto</i>	East <i>Ng</i>	South <i>Takayama</i>
			1♣
Dbl 3♠	1♦ 5♦	2♠(!) All Pass	Pass

As the Duke of Wellington once said, speaking of his troops, "They may not frighten the enemy, but by God they frighten me." The barrage put up by E/W in

the Closed Room was certainly frightening, as well as effective. I'm not sure how Teramoto could have handled his hand scientifically, but I'm also not sure he gave it much of a try. Regardless, the strong notrump kept West out in the Open Room, maybe a little surprisingly in these days of derring-do. Hua set diamonds, used keycard, and punted slam, as might we all. When a club was led Tanaka ducked his king. Now declarer played a spade after drawing trumps so the duck saved an overtrick — and an imp. It was 12-10 to SARA.

About a third of the field bid and made 6♦, and I am sure that when E/W for Sacrum came back with -940 they were not expecting to gain 6imps. Hiroko and Shintaro Sentsui had collected +1190 in 6♦x for all the matchpoints.

Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AK876
 ♥ 10765
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ 5

West
 ♠ 9
 ♥ KJ932
 ♦ A84
 ♣ KJ72

East
 ♠ J105
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ KJ1096
 ♣ A94

South
 ♠ Q432
 ♥ 84
 ♦ 73
 ♣ Q10863

Open Room

West <i>Tanaka</i>	North <i>Hua</i>	East <i>Niekawa</i>	South <i>Chou</i>
1♥	1♠	2♦	3♠
4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Yen</i>	North <i>T'moto</i>	East <i>Ng</i>	South <i>Takayama</i>
1♥	1♠	2♣(♦)	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

You could argue that Yen and Ng combined well to get to 4♥, though I might have been worried as West that I was facing a less strong doubleton heart than was the case. The heart game was somewhat scary though it emerged with 12 tricks, even though declarer was immediately tapped out in spades. He had to use all his trumps to draw North's four hearts, then combined the minor-suit chances by cashing the ♣AK and finessing diamonds. A sweaty 12 tricks and a 2-imp gain against the pedestrian 5♦ (which had the merit of being considerably easier to play).

Seven E/W pairs went down in contracts as mundane as 3NT or as exciting as 6♦. Six pairs bid and made slam and Gold-Bakhshi made +1390 on a

club lead. Easy game, bridge.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ Q107
 ♥ Q953
 ♦ J87
 ♣ 1073

West
 ♠ J
 ♥ AK4
 ♦ A64
 ♣ AJ6542

East
 ♠ 9865
 ♥ J102
 ♦ KQ32
 ♣ Q8

South
 ♠ AK432
 ♥ 876
 ♦ 1095
 ♣ K9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♠	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

It isn't clear where if anywhere the wheels came off in the Closed Room. Looking at the East cards I can't believe East meant 2NT as natural, but equally clearly West took it as such. The defenders led a low spade and cashed out the first five tricks, but Ng had the rest when the minors behaved. Unluckily for Singapore, though, the fact that the minors behaved meant that 5♣ was cold. I'm really not sure why Tanaka rejected the possibility of the heart finesse in the ending. He played for a heart-diamond squeeze rather than testing diamonds, then falling back on the heart finesse if diamonds failed to break. Fortunately for him, diamonds behaved.

3NT was allowed to make rather more times than you might expect here. Since almost everyone who played 5♣ brought it home, the datum for E/W was +190.

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ J83
 ♥ KQ732
 ♦ J5
 ♣ J52

West
 ♠ A754
 ♥ A864
 ♦ A764
 ♣ Q

East
 ♠ Q62
 ♥ 109
 ♦ K93
 ♣ K10986

South
 ♠ K109
 ♥ J5
 ♦ Q1082
 ♣ A743

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

The play followed predictable lines in the Open Room, where Tanaka led spades against 1NT. Declarer could take two spades, two hearts, and set up two diamonds to go with the ♣A when the ♦9 was onside. In the Closed Room two strange things happened. The first was Yen's lead of the ♣Q to trick one, a Wonder Lead if not a Wonder Bid. Declarer ducked, won the spade shift (4, 8, Q, K) in hand and advanced the ♥J, ducked all around. Had he played a second heart he would have set up his seventh winner. When he led a diamond to the jack and king the defenders could knock out dummy's spade entry and take their top winners, marooning declarer in hand with only six winners (he could never score a second heart trick). If East ducks his ♠Q perhaps he can always keep declarer from his seventh trick.

Bd: 7
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ A4
 ♥ A1093
 ♦ 982
 ♣ KQ108

West
 ♠ 10872
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ AJ105
 ♣ 743

East
 ♠ J65
 ♥ 875
 ♦ Q76
 ♣ AJ92

South
 ♠ KQ93
 ♥ KJ64
 ♦ K43
 ♣ 65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
			1♣(2+)
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The two auctions, while both essentially natural, sounded very different to the two Easts. Ng could not have been blamed for leading a spade but his

alternative choice was surely the disastrous trump. Disastrous, yes, but it did not have to be fatal. After the ♠5 went to the queen and ace, declarer is surely supposed to draw no more trumps but instead cash three spades, pitching a diamond, and lead a club to the king and ace. The defenders will win and can return a second trump, and now declarer has to be careful to score his small trump. He can succeed by winning the heart in hand, ruffing a club low in dummy, then pitching a diamond loser on the fourth spade. This endplays West to lead away from the ♦A (if the ♦A is inside he will still be able to reach it so long as West doesn't have the last trump).

Declarer actually drew three rounds of trumps at once, then took the top spades before leading a club to the king and ace. Ng won his ♣A and had to exit in diamonds to set the game. Instead he played back a club into declarer's tenace for his tenth trick. In the other room a low diamond lead from Niekawa saw the defenders take the first four tricks in the minors. Declarer then misguessed the ♥Q for down 200 and it was 35-16, SARA.

It is not entirely surprising that most declarers who made 4♥ sat North and received a trump lead. But it was an honorable flat board in Hinden-Russia at +620 on an unhelpful black-suit lead.

Bd: 8
Dir: West
Vul: None

North
♠ 10765
♥ K54
♦ K53
♣ AQ9

West
♠ 93
♥ 10962
♦ 109862
♣ 104

East
♠ K82
♥ 83
♦ J7
♣ KJ7632

South
♠ AQJ4
♥ AQJ7
♦ AQ4
♣ 85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦(GF)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

How bad is a bad hand? Both Souths tried to reach slam facing a club control and like Peter rejecting Jesus, they received three rejections before cock-crow and gave up. In the Open Room it seems that North knew he had already shown a bad hand and bad trumps, and that if his partner wanted to hear about a club control below game he had a duty to show it. In the Closed Room the 5♠ bid can hardly have been asking for trumps if you are looking at ♣AQ9 in an unbid suit, can it? An opportunity missed for both teams.

Apart from the +230 (and the 6♠ down one; let's be charitable and assume a revoke) virtually the entire field bid and made slam here.

A quiet partscore followed (1NT down one off the first six clubs and an ace), then a 3NT with ten top tricks. Next, an opportunity, of sorts, for both sides.

Bd: 11
Dir: South
Vul: None

North
♠ AJ7
♥ 102
♦ Q
♣ AQ109874

West
♠ Q8
♥ KJ543
♦ J643
♣ J5

East
♠ 10532
♥ A976
♦ A102
♣ 32

South
♠ K964
♥ Q8
♦ K9875
♣ K6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	2NT
All Pass		Pass	3NT

Both defenders blocked the hearts and cashed five of their six top winners, but 4♠ might have been more fun to defend. Of course one has to guess whether to play East for ♠Qx or ♠Q10x, but to set the spade game by force one needs to cash the red aces and kings, then give a ruff and discard to establish a trump winner for the defense.

Four pairs made 3NT here, two on spade leads and, curiously, two on the lead of the ♥A. Maybe West's ♥5 wasn't encouraging enough.

Bd: 12
 Dlr: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ K82
 ♥ K862
 ♦ K
 ♣ 96432

West
 ♠ AQ4
 ♥ QJ9
 ♦ QJ10872
 ♣ 7

East
 ♠ 1053
 ♥ A7543
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AKQ10

South
 ♠ J976
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A9653
 ♣ J85

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Wests rebid diamonds rather than raise hearts, then gave tepid preference to 3♥ rather than jump to 4♥ on an auction where they might be forced to take the three-level call with ♥Hx. Not to worry, both Easts were happy to play hearts with their powerful intermediates and raised themselves to 4♥. Both Souths led a low spade. Ng ducked this around to North, who was forced to win his king. Teramoto cashed his ♦K and exited in clubs. Declarer won in hand, led a low trump to the ten, jack and king, and back came a spade. Ng tested trumps, then needed the ♣J to drop. When it did, he had his ten tricks.

In the Open Room Niekawa guessed to play the ♠Q to trick one. North won and returned a spade. Now declarer pitched a spade from dummy on the clubs, ruffed a spade in dummy, and could not avoid losing two trumps and a diamond when hearts broke badly. Singapore had 10 imps and trailed 35-27.

Elsewhere on this deal game was made slightly more often than not. Hallberg-Holland defeated 3♥ after declarer won the spade lead with the ace and played four rounds of clubs. South ruffed in with the ♥10 to force the overruff and Hallberg as North won the ♦K to shift to the ♥K and kill the spade ruffs in dummy.

Bd: 13
 Dlr: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K3
 ♥ J98632
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 10873

West
 ♠ A10765
 ♥ K
 ♦ AKQ42
 ♣ Q6

East
 ♠ Q982
 ♥ A7
 ♦ 10753
 ♣ AJ5

South
 ♠ J4
 ♥ Q1054
 ♦ J96
 ♣ K942

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣(♠)	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT(R)	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

6♠ is not the greatest contract in the world but it will come home unless North leads a club after South had had an opportunity to double a club bid and had not done so. Accordingly, Teramoto led a heart and declarer could play ace and another spade and claim 12 tricks when they behaved. A not unfortunate 13 imps to Singapore, suddenly in front 38-35.

Your guesses as to how many pairs defeated 6♠ on a club lead. Out of the 15 pairs who bid slam, zero. Yes, you heard me right.

The Singapore charge continued.

Bd: 14
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 8
 ♥ J1098732
 ♦ K8
 ♣ 1072

West
 ♠ Q1075
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 653
 ♣ AQ986

East
 ♠ J932
 ♥ 65
 ♦ Q1092
 ♣ 543

South
 ♠ AK64
 ♥ AK4
 ♦ AJ74
 ♣ KJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Hua</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Chou</i>
Pass	1♦(Wk)	Pass	1♣(16+)
Pass	3♦	Pass	2NT(GF)
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yen</i>	<i>T'moto</i>	<i>Ng</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
		Pass	2♣
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Yet again the Singapore pair bid the spots off their

cards; this was the *fourth* slam they had bid that their opponents stayed out of. (For the record they missed an excellent slam on Board 8 and a makeable slam on Board 4. You had better not bump into this team when the cards are running well for adventurous bidding.) 6♥ might have gone down on a major-suit lead; declarer rates to draw trumps and try to ruff out the ♦Q. (If it fails to drop you take a club finesse.) But Tanaka led a diamond and now declarer had two homes for dummy's clubs. That was another 11 imps to Singapore, who had scored 34 imps in the last three deals to win 49-35.

Of the 11 tables where South declared 6♥, a spade lead was found at four of them. The rest led a top club or a diamond. Only Kazuko Kawahima for Five Star succeeded after that start. Well done!

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

Hats Off to Hackett (Jason, That Is)!

Bd: 29
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q854
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q6532
 ♣ A982

West
 ♠ AK62
 ♥ A84
 ♦ AK9
 ♣ 765

East
 ♠ J973
 ♥ KJ75
 ♦ 874
 ♣ K3

South
 ♠ 10
 ♥ Q109632
 ♦ J10
 ♣ QJ104

♠ Q85
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q65
 ♣ A9

West
 ♠ AK6
 ♥ 84
 ♦ K9
 ♣ 7

East
 ♠ 973
 ♥ KJ7
 ♦ 87
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q10632
 ♦ 10
 ♣ J10

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Nakamura	Senior	Ino
2NT	Pass	3NT	2♦(1)
(1) Multi: weak in either major			All Pass

Jason Hackett played 3NT here as West after a Multi 2♦ and one can hardly blame Nakamura for failing to lead a heart. While the logic of leading a diamond is obvious Nakamura decided, from the lack of a Stayman enquiry, to try a major. He led a low spade and Hackett guessed extremely well at trick one to put up the jack. Now came a low heart from dummy, but Ino alertly put in the nine. So declarer won the ace, then led a club to the king and a club back. When he won the diamond shift, the position was:

Hackett led a club, catching the defenders in a very unusual position. If North played low then he would be known to win the fourth club. So declarer would strip off the ♥K and throw North in with the third diamond to cash his minor winners but be forced to lead a spade into the tenace at trick 12. If North flew with the ♣A here, then South would be sure to win the fourth club. Declarer could then cash his spade winner, remove South's exit in diamonds and run the ♥8, letting South win and cash his master club but then be forced to lead a heart into *that* tenace at trick 12.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went,...and then it dawned on me.



"Go on, appeal, we dare you!"



"We're better than the Boob Tube!"



"You gotta have 5 suits to bid this way!"

Match Eight: Japan Senior vs YBM

by Barry Rigal



Shih



Nakamura



Wang



Yamada



Chen



Ohno



Ino



Ming

Two teams needing something good to happen met in Round Eight. A good result could get them into a qualifying spot, together with a good night's sleep, while either squad would have a hard road to come back from a loss.

The first deal saw both Norths in with what in the abstract might have seemed an extremely unlikely chance for a major pick-up. But as we shall see, it was easier for some than others.

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North	♠ 3
	♥ 4
	♦ J1042
	♣ AKJ7542
West	
	♠ AKQ1054
	♥ A98
	♦ 73
	♣ 86
East	
	♠ J9862
	♥ Q10653
	♦ K65
	♣ ---
South	
	♠ 7
	♥ KJ72
	♦ AQ98
	♣ Q1093

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Shih	Nakam'a	Wang	Ino
	3♣	Pass	3♦
3♠	5♦	5♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Yamada	Chen	Ohno	Ming
	2♣(♣)	Pass	2♦
2♠	3♣	4♠	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Nakamura tried to cash a top club; Shih set up hearts while keeping North off lead. (I think the right way to do the latter is to run the ♥8 but Shih played the ♥Q from dummy. Today, both lines worked.) Yes, a diamond lead defeats the game and although my

Japanese isn't too good I'm sure I can hear Ino asking whether his partner might have led a diamond if he, South, had simply raised clubs.

Chen led his singleton heart against 5♠x. If he was going to do that I can imagine his partner asking, "Wouldn't it have been cheaper to save in 6♣?"

A surprising number of teams were allowed to play 5♣ and make it for +400. Slightly more surprising is that Mutsue Kokubo for Las Flores as West brought home 6♠ after a top club lead. I can't help thinking there must have been a defense...

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ AKQJ843
	♥ J96
	♦ 2
	♣ K4
West	
	♠ 10976
	♥ Q82
	♦ 986
	♣ J109
East	
	♠ 5
	♥ K1054
	♦ KJ543
	♣ Q72
South	
	♠ 2
	♥ A73
	♦ AQ107
	♣ A8653

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Shih	Nakam'a	Wang	Ino
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Yamada	Chen	Ohno	Ming
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

You might feel there has to be some compromise between not making the slightest exploration for slam and driving to slam over a series of sign-offs. I couldn't possibly comment on that. The fact remains that 6♠ looks all too easy to make. And indeed Dawei Chen wrapped up 13 tricks in no time at all and would no doubt have feared the worst. Nakamura received a diamond lead and rejected the finesse, worried no doubt that a heart shift would set him at once. Even so, all he had to do was draw trumps and ruff out clubs. Alas for him, he pitched a club from dummy and did not try to ruff out clubs, and turned his 12 tricks into 11. That was a gain of 13 imps for YBM instead of 13 the other way.

Li Jie and Fu Zhong bid this hand to 7♠ — as who would not, one might ask — which needed little more than 3-3 clubs. Indeed, after a club lead declarer would have made it with clubs 4-2 and the diamond finesse onside so, were it not for the fact that they played game in the other room, this was clearly the indicated contract.

Both E/W pairs then stayed out of an excellent game on Board 19 — one which needed the ♥A in the hand of the opening bidder and no 4-1 club break. Since clubs were indeed 4-1 the matching +140s meant no swing. Indeed it was N/S who had better play for game on their combined 16-count, and Venkatesh-Anklesaria actually bid and made it.

Bd: 20	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 64		
Vul: Both	♥ K1065		
	♦ A108542		
	♣ 3		
	West		East
	♠ KJ953		♠ Q7
	♥ J92		♥ 73
	♦ Q3		♦ J6
	♣ AQ9		♣ KJ108742
	South		
	♠ A1082		
	♥ AQ84		
	♦ K97		
	♣ 65		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Nakam'a</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Ino</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Ming</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	2♦	4♣	4♦
All Pass			

A truly difficult hand for N/S, who wouldn't mind playing 4♥ but have no sensible way to get the suit into the bidding. 3♣ went down a trick, 4♦ made 11 tricks painlessly, and YBM emerged with 2 imps for Chen's enterprise at getting into the auction at all.

Precisely one pair bid to 4♥ here: Hu Mao Yuan and Lu Yi Qian for SANDEN. Having said that, I'm confident you will appreciate the charming near-flat board in Gardenia-Sacrum. I'm sure Mitsuko Suyama and Yumiko Kichise were happy to record +660 with the N/S cards in 3NT when West led a club. Good, but not good enough since their teammates had "saved" in 3NT as E/W, down seven, -700, which curiously was also on a heart lead.

Next the E/W pairs accurately stopped in a heart partscore where game needed two finesses. But on the next deal perhaps the N/S pairs got a little lucky.

Bd: 22	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 5		
Vul: E/W	♥ KJ10654		
	♦ K108		
	♣ J103		
	West		East
	♠ KQ87642		♠ J3
	♥ Q7		♥ 9832
	♦ J6		♦ 754
	♣ 96		♣ AQ84
	South		
	♠ A109		
	♥ A		
	♦ AQ932		
	♣ K752		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Nakam'a</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Ino</i>
2♠	Dbl	Pass	1♦
All Pass		Pass	3NT
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Ming</i>
1♠	2♥	Pass	1♣(16+)
Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♠

4♥ feels a little safer than 3NT here (though a bad heart break might sink 4♥ while 3NT has nine fast tricks with the clubs well-placed). Regardless, the fall of the ♥Q made life easy for both pairs. Neither West led a low spade so declarer might have survived any number of bad breaks. And yes, three pairs bid this hand to a making slam: Drijver-Brink and Nomura-Hatakeyama played 6♦ while the pair who played 6NT, making no less than 1020, will probably be happy not to be named.

YBM led 15-5, which became 15-6 after a mundane partscore for E/W and a game for N/S.

A theatrical performance about puns is just a play on words.

Bd: 25
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

West
 ♠ Q9
 ♥ AK76
 ♦ J973
 ♣ A73

North
 ♠ KJ7
 ♥ 9
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ QJ98654

East
 ♠ 106532
 ♥ 1082
 ♦ 1082
 ♣ K2

South
 ♠ A84
 ♥ QJ543
 ♦ AK54
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Nakam'a</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Ino</i>
	3♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Ming</i>
	2♣	Pass	2♦(R)
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

5♣ is an excellent contract here, but not easy to bid. Nakamura wrapped up +150 but Chen's illusion that he had an opening bid as opposed to a preempt got him to 3NT, which looks a pretty decent spot. Kyoko Ohno led a low spade and Chen ran this to his hand to advance the ♣Q. Ohno had just one chance now and she took it, winning her ♣K to shift to the ♥10. Bingo! Chen had to cover and Yamada won and cleared hearts, with the club entry to cash the master heart when he got in. A well-earned 5 imps to Japan Seniors, down 15-11 now.

For the second time this set we saw 3NT attempted in both directions. I wish I could tell you that it was attempted in both directions in one match, but it wasn't. Still, Russia will be peeved to discover that their +1400 against 3NTx wasn't a top board. Lidang Dong and Haitao Liu for Beijing Trinergy saw their 1400 and raised it 300, from 3NTx down six.

Then a horrible result for Precision could have been much worse.

Bd: 26
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

West
 ♠ J92
 ♥ AJ8
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ KQ87

North
 ♠ 1064
 ♥ K74
 ♦ Q632
 ♣ AJ2

East
 ♠ AKQ8
 ♥ Q1065
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 10964

South
 ♠ 753
 ♥ 932
 ♦ AKJ98
 ♣ 53

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Nakam'a</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Ino</i>
		1♦(1+)	Pass

1NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Ming</i>
		2♦(0-1♦)	Pass

2♥ All Pass

Had Nakamura led a diamond against 1NT the defense might have prevailed. As it was, on a heart lead declarer had seven tricks. But that was still 2 imps to the Seniors when 2♥ scrambled +140. It was 15-13 for YBM now.

YBM recovered those imps by bidding to a higher-scoring game on the next deal and guessing the play better. Then came something more rewarding.

Bd: 28
 Dlr: West
 Vul: N/S

West
 ♠ Q873
 ♥ Q1097
 ♦ A9
 ♣ 1054

North
 ♠ K2
 ♥ A
 ♦ QJ1064
 ♣ AK963

East
 ♠ AJ10
 ♥ J864
 ♦ 752
 ♣ J87

South
 ♠ 9654
 ♥ K532
 ♦ K83
 ♣ Q2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Nakam'a</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Ino</i>
	2♦(♠+♥)	3♥	All Pass(!)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Ming</i>
Pass	1♣(16+)	Pass	1♦(0-8)
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Both auctions contain numerous points of interest. Chen seems to have done a great deal of bidding, Ming Sun rather less than one might have expected. And they managed to reach the best game the wrong way up, but West can hardly be blamed for leading a heart rather than a spade. Ming won her ♥A and crossed to the ♣Q to take a discard on ♥K. She drew one trump, observing the fall of the ♦9, ruffed a club with the ♦K, and when clubs split could give up two aces for +600. That was worth 11 imps given the remarkable silence from the Open Room, where 3♥ went down two. 28-13 now for YBM.

About 2/3 of the field bid and made game here, with 3NT by North looking to be the best spot since even when the ♠A is wrong the defenders may not be able to play spades through (or as here, the suit may be

blocked).

Bd: 29 North
 Dir: North ♠ A954
 Vul: Both ♥ K74
 ♦ A1084
 ♣ 84

West
 ♠ K83
 ♥ AJ2
 ♦ Q763
 ♣ AQ3

East
 ♠ 72
 ♥ Q1085
 ♦ KJ2
 ♣ KJ92

South
 ♠ QJ106
 ♥ 963
 ♦ 95
 ♣ 10765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Nakam'a</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Ino</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Ming</i>
	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables reached 3NT. Both Norths led a spade. Both Souths put in the ♠10 (Is there a case for playing the ♠J here?). After that start it might seem that declarer had no realistic play for his game and indeed both Wests ended up with eight tricks. On this deal, of course, the spade lead is necessary but it is by no means surprising that a quarter of the field found a minor-suit lead (indeed one might have expected more). And even after the spade lead the game was allowed to make a whopping one third of the time. If South puts in the ♠J at trick one or can give a Smith Echo the defenders should surely prevail.

One last opportunity for action.

Bd: 30 North
 Dir: East ♠ 53
 Vul: None ♥ 1075
 ♦ A82
 ♣ KQ643

West
 ♠ J7
 ♥ KQ92
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ AJ1092

East
 ♠ AKQ108
 ♥ J643
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 875

South
 ♠ 9642
 ♥ A8
 ♦ J1096543
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>Nakam'a</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Ino</i>
		1♠	3♦
Dbl	4♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Ming</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	3♦
3♥	4♦	5♥	All Pass

The Yeh team did well in both rooms. Shih knew he was facing a minimum opener when East couldn't act over 4♦, apparently with four hearts. And Chen did well to compete to 4♦ facing a partner who could not open, putting Ohno under pressure and robbing her of her 4♦ cue-bid. Note that the Open Room reached 4♥ the right way up since now there was only one ruff against the game. The final result was ten tricks in each room, but YBM had a 36-13 win and would be well-placed to qualify on day three of the Swiss.

Ten pairs went down with the E/W cards, but enquiring minds will care to speculate over their breakfast congee how team Daisy collected 1700 from 6♣x. On the other hand, maybe it is best not to know. Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise. And if you want to witness ignorance, just come visit us in the bulletin office.

There's a Lot of That Goin' Around



20th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Thursday (Feb. 12)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (9)	411, 412, 414, 415, 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 (Feb. 13)	09:00-11:15	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)	414, 415
	11:35-13:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)	
	13:50-15:00	Lunch Break	
	15:00-17:15	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	414, 415
	17:35-19:50	NEC Cup Semi-Final (2)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama IMP Pairs	
Saturday (Feb. 14)	09:00-11:15	NEC Cup Final (1)	414, 415
	11:35-13:50	NEC Cup Final (2)	
	13:50-15:00	Lunch Break	
	15:00-17:15	NEC Cup Final (3)	501, 502
	17:35-19:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams	
Sunday (Feb. 15)	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

Registration For Weekend Events

Anyone planning to play in:

Yokohama IMP Pairs	Friday 13 th
Yokohama Swiss Teams	Saturday 14 th
Asuka Cup	Sunday 15 th

should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 417)

The registration deadline for each event is the previous evening

