



# NEC Bridge Festival

Friday, February 13, 2015  
Bulletin Number 4

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## Day Three of the 2015 NEC Cup

Hackett (Jason Hackett, Brian Senior, John Holland, Gunnar Hallberg) led all qualifiers with 169.52 VPs. 14 VPs back and qualifying second was Singapore (Poon Hua, Loo Choon Chou, Kelvin Ng, Lam Cheng Yen) with 155.50 VPs, followed closely by SANDEN (Hu Mao Yuan, Yang Li Xin, Dai Jian Ming, Jin Ke, Wang Wei Min, Liu Yi Qian) with 154.13 VPs and SARA (Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Hiroshi Kaku, Masaaki Takayama, Takeshi Niekawa, Shugo Tanaka) with 148.98 VPs. Fifth through eighth were England Hinden, Sweden, Russia and England/Netherlands. Hackett will play SARA in their quarter-final match-up while Singapore will play England Hinden, SANDEN will play England/Netherlands, and Sweden will face Russia in the fourth quarter-final match-up. The complete final standings for the qualifying stage are in the table below while individual results for Matches 9-12 may be found on page 6.

### NEC Cup Qualifying: Final Standings (Twelve Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Hackett. ....	169.52	17	Akarui. ....	125.30	33	Jenny-Chang.....	108.43
2	Singapore. ....	155.50	18	Morimura.....	124.89	34	Daisy. ....	107.94
3	SANDEN. ....	154.13	19	JA-panda.....	124.47	35	Air-TRK. ....	107.52
4	SARA.....	148.98	20	Japan Youth. ....	122.06	36	NAITO. ....	106.57
5	England Hinden.....	147.51	21	NANIWADA.....	120.51	37	Gardenia. ....	105.54
6	Sweden. ....	147.24	22	Beijing Lawyers. ....	119.54	38	Katsumata.....	104.54
7	Russia. ....	145.01	23	7 Heart.....	118.05	39	LAS FLORES. ....	101.47
8	England/Ned. ....	140.03	24	Soul. ....	116.72	40	Tom and Jerry.....	101.31
9	ZhiHaoLe.....	139.42	25	PYON. ....	115.45	41	Great God. ....	100.52
10	Japan Senior.....	139.26	26	Sacrum. ....	115.45	42	River Side. ....	93.87
11	Australia. ....	136.96	27	Sakurai. ....	114.94	43	Edelweiss. ....	92.37
12	Down Under. ....	136.02	28	BlueLights. ....	113.95	44	HOSHI.....	86.58
13	YBM.....	135.19	29	Kitty-chan.....	112.39	45	Friends. ....	73.51
14	INDIA.....	132.48	30	KinKi. ....	112.11	46	HNES. ....	71.16
15	KORTAL.....	128.59	31	Five Star. ....	111.33			
16	Beijing Trinergy. ....	128.53	32	Scity.....	109.32			

### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bridgebase.com)

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Matches will feature Hackett (1) vs SARA (4)  
and Singapore (2) vs England Hinden (5)

## 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:** Bridgемate scoring terminals will be used. Match results should be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections and notifications of appeals will be permitted up until the start of the next session.

**KO Draw:** The team finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> group. The team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of the Conference Center.) Automatic penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director as follows: Qualifying Swiss — 1 VP for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense, 3 VPs for all subsequent offenses; KO — 3imps for the 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 20<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	Russia:	Andrey Gromov, Evgeny Gladysh, 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 Ogihara, 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 Sugiura, 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

### Real-Time NEC Cup Match Updates on the Web

Wondering how your favorite team is doing in the KO stage? Surf to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/20th/result/tabid/1236/Default.aspx>

Then click on **Quarter-final Live Result**, **Semi-final Live Result** or **Final Live Result**  
to follow the action as it happens.

### BBO Viewer Available

You can see all hands, auctions and plays broadcast on BBO

by downloading Masakatsu Sugino's BBO Viewer at:

<http://keiyou.mydns.jp/bbo/allvug/>

(just click on the link for the session you wish to view)

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>- or 4<sup>th</sup>-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 9				Match 10				Match 11				Match 12			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	6	28	9.67	115.54	13	25	12.44	127.98	9	20	7.03	135.01	23	30	10	145.01
2	29	61	19.47	107.87	24	20	7.84	115.71	23	25	6.28	121.99	39	47	18.04	140.03
3	26	58	18.87	103.26	4	53	17.49	120.75	6	28	10.33	131.08	7	28	4.94	136.02
4	5	38	11.87	106.35	3	20	2.51	108.86	19	56	17.77	126.63	12	26	10.33	136.96
5	4	32	8.13	103.15	33	44	18.17	121.32	8	26	8.42	129.74	14	61	17.77	147.51
6	1	29	10.33	112.74	10	22	7.84	120.58	3	27	9.67	130.25	24	9	2.23	132.48
7	13	22	8.13	128.55	9	32	8.42	136.97	10	63	17.49	154.46	3	47	15.06	169.52
8	9	26	5.15	109.28	35	88	20	129.28	5	31	11.58	140.86	10	35	14.64	155.5
9	8	44	14.85	115.4	7	37	11.58	126.98	1	30	12.97	139.95	13	16	7.29	147.24
10	14	46	17.19	115.16	6	29	12.16	127.32	7	30	2.51	129.83	8	18	5.36	135.19
11	23	12	4.15	90.96	37	67	19.08	110.04	12	20	0.26	110.3	18	57	18.29	128.59
12	19	30	9.34	90.01	44	82	20	110.01	11	73	19.74	129.75	4	25	9.67	139.42
13	7	28	11.87	119.22	1	17	7.56	126.78	24	46	14.64	141.42	9	25	12.71	154.13
14	10	15	2.81	101.36	23	18	7.03	108.39	35	57	17.91	126.3	5	26	2.23	128.53
15	31	7	2.96	69.38	42	47	11.87	81.25	40	39	16.03	97.28	17	33	10.66	107.94
16	39	49	13.23	91.02	19	7	0.17	91.19	28	42	17.19	108.38	31	28	9.67	118.05
17	27	37	17.04	83.51	31	11	1.83	85.34	20	23	14.64	99.98	15	31	9.34	109.32
18	36	52	14.42	85.38	30	54	17.19	102.57	25	25	12.44	115.01	11	18	1.71	116.72
19	12	32	10.66	90.67	16	61	19.83	110.5	4	21	2.23	112.73	33	38	12.16	124.89
20	44	33	3.62	77.47	46	41	7.56	85.03	17	6	5.36	90.39	42	38	18.04	108.43
21	46	22	12.71	79.44	32	47	9.67	89.11	41	47	8.13	97.24	44	14	3.28	100.52
22	24	3	0.35	88.9	29	45	16.03	104.93	33	31	7.84	112.77	35	28	6.77	119.54
23	11	35	15.85	102.57	14	28	12.97	115.54	2	38	13.72	129.26	1	30	10	139.26
24	22	55	19.65	113.69	2	27	12.16	125.85	13	29	5.36	131.21	6	44	17.77	148.98
25	33	10	2.09	86.73	28	50	18.04	104.77	18	17	7.56	112.33	29	27	3.12	115.45
26	3	14	1.13	81.27	39	20	1.83	83.1	45	24	7.56	90.66	28	3	1.71	92.37
27	17	7	2.96	69.69	34	15	9.34	79.03	43	35	16.88	95.91	32	20	10.66	106.57
28	35	12	1.47	88.27	25	13	1.96	90.23	16	11	2.81	93.04	26	42	18.29	111.33
29	2	11	0.53	88.6	22	21	3.97	92.57	31	51	15.85	108.42	25	56	16.88	125.3
30	32	32	14.19	86.43	18	23	2.81	89.24	44	40	11.28	100.52	41	35	11.87	112.39
31	15	37	17.04	81.3	17	49	18.17	99.47	29	28	4.15	103.62	16	29	10.33	113.95
32	30	17	5.81	77.84	21	48	10.33	88.17	46	24	7.03	95.2	27	18	9.34	104.54
33	25	46	17.91	102.64	5	6	1.83	104.47	22	38	12.16	116.63	19	31	7.84	124.47
34	40	18	5.81	69.12	27	17	10.66	79.78	38	53	17.19	96.97	45	16	4.34	101.31
35	28	53	18.53	106.74	8	6	0	106.74	14	21	2.09	108.83	22	39	13.23	122.06
36	18	36	5.58	74.34	41	6	1.83	76.17	42	33	10.66	86.83	43	35	14.64	101.47
37	45	55	18.76	95.55	11	21	0.92	96.47	39	7	3.62	100.09	46	38	14.85	114.94
38	42	16	5.15	66.92	43	31	3.62	70.54	34	22	2.81	73.35	40	25	13.23	86.58
39	16	38	6.77	84	26	58	18.17	102.17	37	33	16.38	118.55	2	10	1.96	120.51
40	34	33	14.19	71.55	45	42	11.58	83.13	15	15	3.97	87.1	38	14	6.77	93.87
41	43	45	15.66	69.35	36	44	18.17	87.52	21	53	11.87	99.39	30	29	8.13	107.52
42	38	34	14.85	51.73	15	41	8.13	59.86	36	31	9.34	69.2	20	1	1.96	71.16
43	41	23	4.34	48.65	38	57	16.38	65.03	27	6	3.12	68.15	36	18	5.36	73.51
44	20	59	16.38	90.01	12	11	0	90.01	30	36	8.72	98.73	21	42	16.72	115.45
45	37	12	1.24	75.59	40	37	8.42	84.01	26	32	12.44	96.45	34	38	15.66	112.11
46	21	13	7.29	74.98	20	49	12.44	87.42	32	34	12.97	100.39	37	20	5.15	105.54

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

## 20<sup>th</sup> NEC CUP Qualifying Datum Rankings (4 matches or more)

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
1	1.29	John Holland	Gunner Hallberg	Hackett	12
2	1.12	Sebastiaan Drijver	Sjoert Brink	Russia	9
3	1.09	Masaaki Takayama	Shugo Tanaka	SARA	4
4	1.05	Sridharan Padmanabhan	Sunderram Srinivasan	INDIA	10
5	0.86	Lidang Dong	Haitao Liu	Beijing Trinergy	9
6-7	0.85	Takeshi Niekawa	Shugo Tanaka	SARA	8
6-7	0.85	Yuko Noda	Hiroyuki Noda	JA-panda	7
8	0.83	Alex Hydes	Mike Bell	England Hinden	12
9-10	0.79	Kazuo Furuta	Hiroki Yokoi	Soul	12
9-10	0.79	Tadashi Teramoto	Masaaki Takayama	SARA	4
11	0.77	Kazuo Takano	Hisako Kondo	Air-TRK	8
12	0.73	Patrick Huang	Cheng-Jui Huang	KORTAI	12
13	0.72	Li Jie	Fu Zhong	ZhiHaoLe	11
14-16	0.7	Peter Fredin	Gary Gottlieb	Sweden	12
14-16	0.7	Yang Li Xin	Dai Jian Ming	SANDEN	8
14-16	0.7	Yoko Nenohi	Toshiko Kaho	Kitty-chan	4
17	0.69	Poon Hua	Loo Choon Chou	Singapore	12
18	0.61	Ming Sun	Dawei Chen	YBM	10
19	0.55	Yoshiyuki Nakamura	Masayuki Ino	Japan Senior	12
20	0.54	Robert Geller	Setsuko Ogihara	Akarui	12
21-22	0.52	David Bakhshi	David Gold	England/Netherlands	12
21-22	0.52	Kelvin Ng	Lam Cheng Yen	Singapore	12
23	0.48	Hu Mao Yuan	Liu Yi Qian	SANDEN	8
24	0.47	Ayako Miyakuni	Kenji Miyakuni	NAITO	12
25	0.46	Martin Reid	Peter Newell	Down Under	12
26-27	0.45	Jin Ke	Wang Wei Min	SANDEN	8
26-27	0.45	Terumi Kubo	Tadashi Imakura	PYON	12
28	0.4	Osami Kimura	Chisato Kiriya	BlueLights	7
29	0.39	Kyoko Toyofuku	Toshiko Kaho	Kitty-chan	4
30	0.35	Michael Wilkinson	Griff Ware	Australia	12
31-32	0.32	Evgeny Gladyshev	Mikhail Krasnoselskii	Russia	6
31-32	0.32	Hisami Kataoka	Junzo Kobayashi	NANIWADA	10
33	0.31	Sartaj Hans	Peter Gill	Down Under	12
34	0.29	Chuan Cheng Ju	Zhengjun Shi	Beijing Trinergy	8
35	0.26	Takahiro Honda	Tadahiro Kikuchi	Japan Youth	6
36	0.24	Chieko Ichikawa	Yoshiko Murata	Tom and Jerry	8
37	0.22	Ricco van Prooijen	Louk Verhees	England/Netherlands	12
38-39	0.21	Juei-Yu Shih	Ping Wang	YBM	11
38-39	0.21	Harue Iemori	Yasuyoshi Toriumi	BlueLights	8
40-41	0.2	Terry Brown	Avi Kanetkar	Australia	12
40-41	0.2	Im Hyun	Kwon Sooja	Scity	12
42-43	0.19	Masayuki Hayasaka	Hidenori Narita	JA-panda	7
42-43	0.19	Kenichi Asaoka	Takehiko Tada	SAKURAI	12
44-45	0.18	Takumi Seshimo	Mizuki Ishibashi	Japan Youth	6
44-45	0.18	Mitsuko Suyama	Yumiko Kichise	Gardenia	6
46-47	0.17	David Probert	Thomas Andersson	Sweden	12
46-47	0.17	Kyoko Ohno	Akihiko Yamada	Japan Senior	12
48-49	0.16	Jason Hackett	Brian Senior	Hackett	12
48-49	0.16	Zhao Yuqiao	Sun YanHui	ZhiHaoLe	10
50	0.15	Hiroko Ishino	Emi Sakata	HNES	7
51	0.14	Tadashi Yoshida	Sue Picus	Morimura	12
52	0.1	Sonoko Namba	Chizuko Sugiura	KinKi	8
53	0.09	Hiroya Abe	Shunsuke Morimura	Morimura	12
54	0.07	Wang Fei	Qi YouGuang	Beijing Lawyers	11
55	0.04	Mark LaForge	Toby Curtis	Air-TRK	8
56-57	0.02	Park Sunhee	Lee Hansang	Daisy	6
56-57	0.02	Xue Xiaoli	Tao Jianhua	Beijing Lawyers	12
58	-0.02	Hiroko Sentsui	Shintaro Sentsui	Sacrum	12
59-60	-0.04	Frances Hinden	Graham Osbourne	England Hinden	12
59-60	-0.04	Choi Jungjin	Jang Jungbai	7 Heart	12
61	-0.05	Yoko Nenohi	Kumiko Matsuo	Kitty-chan	4
62	-0.06	Noriko Yagi	Toshiharu Hirose	River Side	8

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
63	-0.07	Kyoko Shimamura	Jenny Kim	Jenny-Chang	12
64	-0.12	Toru Tamura	Mimako Ishizuka	KinKi	8
65-66	-0.15	Dong Lu	Yanhong Wang	Beijing Trinergy	7
65-66	-0.15	Masako Otsuka	Naoko Hishikawa	Gardenia	8
67	-0.19	Tadashi Teramoto	Kumiko Sasahira	SARA	8
68	-0.2	Yumiko Kawakami	Masakatsu Sugino	River Side	8
69	-0.24	Choi Anhee	Lee Hansang	Daisy	5
70-71	-0.26	Atsuko Katsumata	Yasuyo Iida	KATSUMATA	8
70-71	-0.26	Teruko Nishimura	Junko Nishimura	LAS FLORES	8
72-74	-0.27	Misae Kato	Kimiko Kamakari	KATSUMATA	4
72-74	-0.27	Yuki Harada	Takumi Seshimo	Japan Youth	6
72-74	-0.27	Yukiko Hoshi	Megumi Takasaka	HOSHI	12
75-76	-0.28	Masayasu Oga	Yoko Shimominami	Great God	12
75-76	-0.28	Michiko Shida	Kotomi Asakoshi	LAS FLORES	8
77-78	-0.29	Gopal Venkatesh	Keyzad Anklesaria	INDIA	8
77-78	-0.29	Makiko Sato	Chang Mirye	Jenny-Chang	12
79	-0.32	Kei Nemoto	Kuniko Saito	Tom and Jerry	8
80	-0.33	Toshiro Nose	Hideo Togawa	NANIWADA	6
81-82	-0.34	Hideyuki Sango	Nobuko Matsubara	Edelweiss	8
81-82	-0.34	Fumiko Kimura	Hiroaki Miura	Edelweiss	8
83-85	-0.35	Chung IISub	Hwang Iynryung	7 Heart	12
83-85	-0.35	Natsuko Nishida	Lee Bokhee	Great God	12
83-85	-0.35	Hiroko Kobayashi	Chizuko Tsukamoto	BlueLights	8
86	-0.38	Noriko Akira	Noriyuki Okamoto	Akarui	4
87-88	-0.39	Tsuneo Sakurai	Atsushi Kikuchi	SAKURAI	12
87-88	-0.39	Naoto Matsumoto	Hu Wenhui	Sacrum	12
89	-0.41	Lee Soohyun	Kim Sunyoung	Daisy	9
90-92	-0.46	Takako Nakatani	Sachiho Ueda	KATSUMATA	8
90-92	-0.46	Yoko Saito	Mamiko Odaira	Friends	8
90-92	-0.46	Yukinao Homma	Chie Fujita	KinKi	8
93	-0.48	Park Jungyoon	Kim Yoonkyung	Scity	12
94	-0.5	Mutsue Kokubo	Noriyuki Okamoto	Akarui	4
95	-0.54	Subhash Gupta	Swarnendu Banerji	INDIA	6
96	-0.56	Yuki Fukuyoshi	Takeshi Hanayama	PYON	12
97	-0.58	Makoto Nomura	Takashi Hatakeyama	Gardenia	10
98-99	-0.6	Andrey Gromov	Alexander Dubinin	Russia	8
98-99	-0.6	Kyunghae Sung	Sungae Yang	KORTAI	12
100	-0.65	Hiroko Sekiyama	Mieko Nakanishi	Kitty-chan	8
101-102	-0.66	Junko Den	Aiko Banno	Tom and Jerry	8
101-102	-0.66	Yoko Komuro	Shimako Yaji	LAS FLORES	8
103-104	-0.68	Oh Hyemin	Yasuhiro Shimizu	Soul	6
103-104	-0.68	Haruko Koshi	Yoko Oosako	Edelweiss	8
105	-0.75	Eiko Sakamoto	Setsuko Minami	Friends	8
106	-0.79	Ryoga Tanaka	Sakiko Naito	NAITO	12
107-108	-0.88	Toshiro Nose	Masaru Naniwada	NANIWADA	4
107-108	-0.88	Ryoichi Yasuhara	Hiroko Tanaka	River Side	8
109	-0.89	Masako Sakurai	Junko Tsubaki	HOSHI	12
110	-0.96	Sayori Harasawa	Mayumi Tanaka	Friends	8
111	-1.05	Hisayo Goto	Sae Ohashi	HNES	11
112	-1.11	Kyoko Toyofuku	Kumiko Matsuo	Kitty-chan	4
113	-1.21	Mutsue Kokubo	Noriko Akira	Akarui	4
114	-1.26	Yoko Fukuyama	Takashi Sumita	Air-TRK	8
115	-1.3	Kim Hyeyoung	Yasuhiro Shimizu	Soul	6
116	-1.37	Kazumi Nitta	Yumiko Nagato	HNES	5



# Match Nine: Hackett vs SANDEN

by Barry Rigal



Wang



Hallberg



Holland



Jin



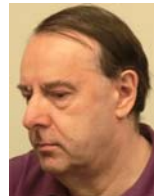
Hackett



Hu



Liu



Senior

The Hackett team had been sweeping all before them thus far, but would need to avoid accidents to retain their position atop the field. And so they began the day as if they would carry on where they left off:

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A6		
Vul: None	♥ A87		
	♦ KQJ10932		
	♣ 9		
West		East	
♠ Q2		♠ J109753	
♥ 432		♥ 96	
♦ A		♦ 765	
♣ Q1065432		♣ K7	
	South		
	♠ K84		
	♥ KQJ105		
	♦ 84		
	♣ AJ8		

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♦	2♠	3♥
3♠	Dbf	All Pass	

The set started with a bang when team SANDEN had what appears to be a “support double” accident. My sympathies are 100 percent with South; the double of 3♠ should be defensive, not support. And

what is wrong with repeating those diamonds? Mind you, on best defense 3♠x should be set 500 if the defenders lead trumps at once. After a top heart lead the defenders had more than one chance to collect that number. In fact, after two rounds of hearts and a diamond shift Senior played to ruff a heart, then ruff a diamond, but now had to lead a club to the king and ace. Liu won her ace, played a trump, and North played two more rounds of diamonds. When East ruffed in South could have counted him out to be 6=2=3=2 and thus known that her partner could have taken a club ruff. But when she failed to over-ruff and lead a club that let declarer play a second trump and get out for -300.

In the Open Room Hallberg sensibly treated his hand as worth a jump rebid. Then, when his partner rebid hearts and offered 3NT, he knew to bid on. Holland’s second cue-bid saw Hallberg pull in his horns but Holland had enough to bid on to slam. The partnership selected the right slam as diamonds goes down on most 3-1 diamond breaks whereas a singleton heart lead would only beat slam if the trump ace was also wrongly placed.

The field coped only moderately well with the problems of the deal. Two tables went down in the grand slam (“Terribly unlucky” as Boris Schapiro was rumored to have said “Our teammates bid the grand slam and found the trump ace offside!”). Two tables went down in 3NT and one pair went off in 5♥. The datum was 660 to N/S.

Anyway, Hackett had 920 in one room 12IMPs and was off to a roaring start

We knew a guy who didn't like his beard at first. Then it grew on him.

Bd: 2  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ 973  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ J96  
 ♣ QJ1063

West  
 ♠ Q105  
 ♥ QJ84  
 ♦ KQ8  
 ♣ 942

East  
 ♠ A84  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ 1053  
 ♣ AK875

South  
 ♠ KJ62  
 ♥ 109532  
 ♦ A742  
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠(NT)	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Both tables played 1NT from East. Senior won the ♠10 lead and tabled a low club. When North followed low impassively Senior can hardly be blamed for going up with the ace. He ducked a club to North, ducked a spade to South, won the next spade, and led a heart to the queen and ace. Back came a diamond. South won her ace and cashed a spade (dummy pitching a heart). When Senior ducked the next heart the king fell on empty air and he had +90.

In the other room, where South led a low heart to the queen and king, Hallberg shifted to the ♣Q at trick two. Declarer covered, then set up the minors and guessed hearts as well by ducking the second round. He ended with eight tricks for +120 and his side's first imp.

Bd: 3  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AQ98  
 ♥ AQ1084  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ 84

West  
 ♠ 63  
 ♥ J76532  
 ♦ J92  
 ♣ K3

East  
 ♠ J54  
 ♥ K9  
 ♦ KQ875  
 ♣ A105

South  
 ♠ K1072  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ 643  
 ♣ QJ9762

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Dbl	1♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Dbl	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

I like Liu's handling of the South cards but her reward was to miss her side's 4-4 fit. 2♣ played just fine, of course, for +130, whereas 3♠ was a somewhat messier affair. But after Wang led the ♣K, life was easy for Holland. He won the diamond shift to set up clubs and the defenders led two more rounds of diamonds. Holland ruffed in dummy, drew trumps, and his hand was high for +170, and an imp.

About half the field bid to 4♠, though it is not clear to me if North could ever drive to game here at his second turn or if South should accept an invitation to game with such short spades and likely club shortage opposite.

Bd: 4  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ K109  
 ♥ A96  
 ♦ 974  
 ♣ J952

West  
 ♠ Q873  
 ♥ QJ  
 ♦ 1032  
 ♣ AKQ6

East  
 ♠ A654  
 ♥ 752  
 ♦ AKQ65  
 ♣ 7

South  
 ♠ J2  
 ♥ K10843  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ 10843

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
1♦(2+)	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT(R)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
1♣(2+)	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(GF)	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Where Hackett was declarer he had put North on lead with an impossible choice. The diamond lead let declarer pitch hearts on the clubs and play on trumps with impunity. In the other room your editors are agreed that South had a chance, but no really good reason (unless "It works" constitutes that reason) to find the heart lead. He opted for a club and declarer was home here as well. No swing; still 13-1, Hackett.

Just about half the field found the heart lead to set the game (you can certainly imagine that after 1♣-1♦-1♠ East might use fourth-suit because of the slam interest) and now South might double. That is what David Bakhshi did for England/Ned to earn a game swing.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ Q92  
 Vul: N/S ♥ QJ76  
 ♦ KJ2  
 ♣ 1096

West  
 ♠ K743  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ 1043  
 ♣ Q832

East  
 ♠ J86  
 ♥ K92  
 ♦ AQ75  
 ♣ KJ4

South  
 ♠ A105  
 ♥ A1043  
 ♦ 986  
 ♣ A75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
	Pass	1♦(2+)	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Pass	1♣(2+)	Dbl
1♠	Dbl	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♥	2♠	All Pass

The contract of 2♠ was no fun at all. Hu led hearts and the defense forced declarer to ruff a heart at trick three. The 3-3 breaks in the minors allowed Hackett to score two tricks in each suit plus one trump winner, but the trump spots were so bad that this was the limit of the hand.

1NT was a potentially easier spot and after Holland's low heart lead Jin was in with a chance. He advanced the ♣K, ducked, then the ♣J and a third club. Holland won to underlead in spades and declarer ducked this to Hallberg's queen for a heart shift. On the fourth heart, won by North, declarer pitched dummy's club winner rather than rely on the

diamond finesse, which seems strange. The defenders ducked a spade and now declarer had just one heart, two clubs, one spade and two diamonds. That was a missed opportunity for SANDEN but still 2 imps, to make it 13-3.

2♥ would certainly have been a playable spot for N/S. Where do we all stand on Holland's silence over 1♦? I know any Italian worth his salt would scoff. There again, it is nice to know that a take-out double when vulnerable consists of more than 13 cards and a four-leaf clover. And that is especially so when facing a passed partner. Kotomi Asakoshi and Michiko Shida for Las Flores not only reached 2♥, they were doubled to boot, and +670 was the result when declarer guessed diamonds after using the ♠Q as the hand entry to draw trumps.

The next deal saw each North have to take a position, one managing this dramatically more successfully than the other.

Bd: 6 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ 7  
 Vul: E/W ♥ A9  
 ♦ AQ1094  
 ♣ Q10964

West  
 ♠ J9  
 ♥ KQ1043  
 ♦ J72  
 ♣ 532

East  
 ♠ 108643  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ 653  
 ♣ AK87

South  
 ♠ AKQ52  
 ♥ J8762  
 ♦ K8  
 ♣ J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With the diamonds 3-3 North had nine tricks in his notrump game. Senior led his singleton heart and Hackett took his best shot (maybe) when he ducked, letting declarer score his nine for a cheap trick. Hu had +430, good for a 10-imp gain when Hallberg

guessed very unsuccessfully to play the 5-2 fit, a decision that could have been right had partner's  $\heartsuit K$  been the  $\heartsuit A$ . Holland received a club lead to the ace (nice deception by Jin, though it didn't matter here) and a low heart ducked around to the nine. Holland tried the  $\heartsuit A$ , got the bad news, then cashed all his plain winners, ruffing two clubs in hand, and gave up the last three tricks to West's trumps for down one and 10 imps to SANDEN. It was 13-13 now.

Only five pairs attempted the heart game, unsuccessfully, of course. But the most interesting result might have been the pair who stopped in  $2\heartsuit$ . That doesn't look good for N/S, does it? But to be fair it was Peter Newell as East who opened  $2\heartsuit$  to show spades and a minor and a weak hand. Martin Reid passed it out, as did everyone else, and that was a cool -600. No double, not *that* much trouble at a loss of 5 imps.

Bd: 7  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 $\spadesuit$  ---  
 $\heartsuit$  AK10863  
 $\diamond$  106  
 $\clubsuit$  KJ1043

West  
 $\spadesuit$  AJ9743  
 $\heartsuit$  J5  
 $\diamond$  954  
 $\clubsuit$  Q6

East  
 $\spadesuit$  K10  
 $\heartsuit$  742  
 $\diamond$  J8732  
 $\clubsuit$  987

South  
 $\spadesuit$  Q8652  
 $\heartsuit$  Q9  
 $\diamond$  AKQ  
 $\clubsuit$  A52

Open Room

West <i>Wang</i>	North <i>Hallberg</i>	East <i>Jin</i>	South <i>Holland</i>
Pass	$2\heartsuit(\heartsuit)$	Pass	$1NT$
Pass	$3\clubsuit$	Pass	$3NT$
Pass	$4\clubsuit$	Pass	$4\heartsuit$
Pass	$6\clubsuit$	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Hackett</i>	North <i>Hu</i>	East <i>Senior</i>	South <i>Liu</i>
Pass	$4\heartsuit(\heartsuit)$	Pass	$1NT$
Pass	$4\spadesuit(1)$	Pass	$5\heartsuit(2+\heartsuit Q)$
Pass	$6\heartsuit$	All Pass	

(1) Exclusion

After the Texas  $4\heartsuit$  bid Hu could use Blackwood for hearts and reach  $6\heartsuit$ . But that route didn't include a grand slam on the agenda nor really take account of clubs as a possible trump suit. There is certainly a case for playing  $4\spadesuit$  as keycard and  $4NT/5\clubsuit/5\heartsuit$  as Exclusion Blackwood. Today this would not have been enough but on a slightly different day...

Hallberg showed his two suiter and then, after the diamond cue-bid, settled for the small slam in clubs.

Maybe there were other possible approaches but both pairs reached a sensible spot, with SANDEN taking the lead in the match by playing the higher scoring strain.

Are you as surprised as I, Gentle Reader, that not one pair bid the grand slam here? Color me perplexed. If we can bid a grand slam without the trump ace, surely...

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 $\spadesuit$  K972  
 $\heartsuit$  A1096  
 $\diamond$  J103  
 $\clubsuit$  75

West  
 $\spadesuit$  10  
 $\heartsuit$  KQ5  
 $\diamond$  A762  
 $\clubsuit$  J8632

East  
 $\spadesuit$  Q83  
 $\heartsuit$  J72  
 $\diamond$  KQ84  
 $\clubsuit$  KQ4

South  
 $\spadesuit$  AJ654  
 $\heartsuit$  843  
 $\diamond$  95  
 $\clubsuit$  A109

Open Room

West <i>Wang</i>	North <i>Hallberg</i>	East <i>Jin</i>	South <i>Holland</i>
Pass	Pass	$1\heartsuit(4+)$	$1\spadesuit$
Dbl	$3\heartsuit(\spadesuit)$	Pass	$3\spadesuit$
$4\heartsuit$	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Hackett</i>	North <i>Hu</i>	East <i>Senior</i>	South <i>Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	$1\spadesuit(2+)$	$1\spadesuit$
$2\spadesuit(\clubsuit)$	$4\spadesuit$	All Pass	

If Hackett had been able to see the dummy before the auction was over I'm sure he would have awarded Hu's truly wild leap to  $4\spadesuit$  a red card. Without that information he was prepared to let Senior off the hook for a third-in-hand opener (he has been there before). Liu guessed spades to escape for down two, worth an imp when all the critical suits behaved in  $4\heartsuit$  to allow declarer to come home with ten tricks. SANDEN led 16-13.

Bd: 9  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 $\spadesuit$  K83  
 $\heartsuit$  AK1062  
 $\diamond$  K4  
 $\clubsuit$  AQ6

West  
 $\spadesuit$  J954  
 $\heartsuit$  985  
 $\diamond$  Q8765  
 $\clubsuit$  J

East  
 $\spadesuit$  102  
 $\heartsuit$  743  
 $\diamond$  A1093  
 $\clubsuit$  10542

South  
 $\spadesuit$  AQ76  
 $\heartsuit$  QJ  
 $\diamond$  J2  
 $\clubsuit$  K9873

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6NT

All Pass

Both tables took a relatively unsophisticated route to slam. As against that they did reach the right spot, the right way up. Senior cashed his ♦A to save the overtrick, making it 16-14. In each case it was certainly possible that the slam was off two cashing tricks, but if they don't take them why not bid it?

Four tables missed the slam, and at one table South played 6♣ on a low diamond lead. Was this the moment for West to be a hero and underlead the ♦A? That was what South thought, and rose with the ♦K, expecting a hotline to the New York Times bridge column to be opened at once. Alas, it was merely a footnote consigned to the dustbin of history and 11imps to their opponents. (And since slam was missed in the other room it was a doubly painful swing out.)

Bd: 10	North
Dlr: East	♠ AJ8
Vul: Both	♥ K43
	♦ Q105
	♣ AQ83
West	East
♠ 932	♠ Q5
♥ Q108	♥ AJ975
♦ A43	♦ KJ872
♣ KJ95	♣ 6
	South
	♠ K10764
	♥ 62
	♦ 96
	♣ 10742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

(1) Consistent with a limit raise of hearts or GF

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♥	Dbl	3♥	All Pass

Hackett treated his hand as a constructive simple raise in hearts, Wang as a minimum limit raise. The latter treatment let him out at 2♥ while Senior re-raised to 3♥ obstructively and found himself a level higher. The defenders cashed their spades against Senior, who pitched a club on the third round of the suit leaving North on lead. Hu played a diamond to dummy's ace and Senior passed the ♥Q, then the ♥10, then rejected the diamond finesse, instead drawing trumps and giving up a diamond.

In the other room Jin received a diamond lead. He settled for a modicum of safety by playing ace and another heart to make +140 in a different way. Still 16-14 to SANDEN.

About 20 percent of the field bid game here while for Singapore Ng-Yen did even better, doubling 4♠ to collect +800.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ ---
Vul: None	♥ J6
	♦ J107542
	♣ QJ876

West	East
♠ AJ1093	♠ KQ8762
♥ AK7	♥ Q1053
♦ A93	♦ ---
♣ K9	♣ 432
	South
	♠ 54
	♥ 9842
	♦ KQ86
	♣ A105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥(2)	Pass	2♠(3)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

- (1) Strong or..
- (2) 20-21
- (3) Relay

Senior heard Hackett show 20-21 hcp but had to wrong-side spades in the process. When he showed



spades Hackett intended his jump to 4♠ to show a control in each suit but Senior had no specific agreement to that effect and no reason to assume his partner would have the ♥K and not the ♦K, when even 4♠ might be quite high enough.

The auction from the Open Room got spades right-sided and the slam was now excellent, since the fall of the ♥J would allow a club to be discarded from the short hand. A well-earned 11 imps gave SANDEN a 27-14 lead.

Approximately half the field got this right. Takasaki-Narita were doubled in 6♠ for +1210 and all the matchpoints.

Bd: 12 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ QJ873  
 Vul: N/S ♥ ---  
 ♦ 652  
 ♣ AJ954

West  
 ♠ 95  
 ♥ AJ4  
 ♦ QJ843  
 ♣ 863

East  
 ♠ AK6  
 ♥ K109632  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ Q107

South  
 ♠ 1042  
 ♥ Q875  
 ♦ AK107  
 ♣ K2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

For what it is worth (no doubt not a lot) I like Holland's pass of 3♥ more than Liu's raise. Facing a passed partner, you rate to buy moderate spades or only a five-card suit. Nonetheless, 3♠ played very nicely on the singleton diamond lead. Hu ruffed his club high in dummy and lost three trumps and a diamond in the fulness of time.

By contrast, 3♥ was a messy spot. After repeated spade leads Jin lost two clubs, a diamond, two hearts and a trick in the wash. Still, another imp for SANDEN, up 28-14 now.

Of course quite a few pairs bid the spots off the N/S

cards, reaching 4♠x and avoiding the trump lead which would doom that spot (no one led a spade here). Only one pair got doubled in 3♠; on reflection maybe that is not entirely surprising.

Bd: 13 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ A6  
 Vul: Both ♥ Q98532  
 ♦ J5  
 ♣ A53

West  
 ♠ K43  
 ♥ 107  
 ♦ KQ1092  
 ♣ Q86

East  
 ♠ QJ5  
 ♥ AKJ  
 ♦ 8643  
 ♣ 1072

South  
 ♠ 109872  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ A7  
 ♣ KJ94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Against 2♥ Senior led a top heart and shifted to diamonds. The defense had four red-suit winners and could dislodge the ♦A early enough to prevent declarer from threatening to establish a spade winner. So declarer had no option but to fall back on the club finesse and that was a painless down one.

In the other room the top spade lead was fatal to the defense. Declarer won and returned the suit, then used the ♦A as the entry to ruff out spades. Now he could lead low trumps from hand while still in control of the trumps (dummy having a second trump to cope with any diamond plays) and eventually cross to the ♣K to lead a fourth spade and pitch the club loser. Plus 110 meant 5 imps and a score of 28-19 with one deal to go.

For the record, a diamond lead rates to be just as effective for the defense, and so maybe it isn't entirely surprising that about a third of the field went plus as E/W. What is surprising and laudable is that one pair actually managed to bid the E/W cards to 3NT by East. That was Tada-Asaoka for Sakurai. After a heart lead to the queen and ace, if declarer guesses to play on diamonds it looks as if South has to shift to the ♣J when in with the ♦A. Maybe North can make that easier by ducking at trick one.

Bd: 14  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ KQ105  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ Q1052  
 ♣ K1076

West  
 ♠ 876  
 ♥ 98543  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ J93

East  
 ♠ J9  
 ♥ A1072  
 ♦ K74  
 ♣ AQ85

South  
 ♠ A432  
 ♥ KQ6  
 ♦ J986  
 ♣ 42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Jin</i>	<i>Holland</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	1♥(t/o of ♥)2♥		2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	1♥(t/o of ♥)2♥		2♠
3♥	All Pass		

Charles Dickens had one of his characters say, "The law is an ass." But no one would say that about the *Law*, would they (at least not within Larry Cohen's hearing)? West would argue that his values were pure...such as they were. And who could argue with that, or indeed with Jason Hackett's result? In 3♥ declarer needs the hearts to be 2-2 or the clubs to be very favorable. The decent chance did not come through, the slim chance did. 3♥ fetched +140 while in 2♠ Holland was doubtless more hurt than surprised to run into a diamond ruff to be defeated. After ace and another diamond Jin thoughtfully cashed the ♥A and led a third diamond to eliminate his partner's losing options. Still, 3 imps to Hackett, leaving SANDEN winners, 28-22.

### A Combined Effort: Match 10

Bd: 22  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 965  
 ♥ K82  
 ♦ Q8  
 ♣ K10843

West  
 ♠ KQJ73  
 ♥ AJ7  
 ♦ AK106  
 ♣ 9

East  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ Q9543  
 ♦ J93  
 ♣ AJ762

South  
 ♠ A10842  
 ♥ 106  
 ♦ 7542  
 ♣ Q5

North  
 ♠ 95  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ K843

West  
 ♠ QJ73  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ K10  
 ♣ ---

East  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ Q9  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A76

South  
 ♠ A1084  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wu</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Matsumoto</i>	<i>Fu</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Against 3NT Fu Zhong started well by deceptively leading a fourth highest diamond from his four small. Declarer finessed, quite reasonably, and Jerry Li won and returned the textbook ♣10, covered by the jack and queen. Seeing the danger in the hearts, Fu played back a diamond to disrupt declarer's communications. Declarer played the ♠K, ducked, then the ♥AJ, ducked again, and a third heart. Li won and had reached this ending:

The defense had taken a spade, a heart and a club and now Li played a spade to his partner's ace for a third diamond play. Declarer could win in dummy and surrender a spade at the end, or win in hand and be left with a club loser.

The defense was basically forced from trick one. Declarer can succeed double-dummy by rising with the ♣A at trick two, and Fu could have won the ♠A at his first turn and played a club. But that is only because his partner and not declarer had the ♣8, and the defense would have gone as it did had those cards been reversed. Fu's defense would prevail against either lie of the cards.

# Match Ten: Australia vs Down Under

by Rich Colker



Reid



Ware



Newell



Kanetkar



Hans



Brown



Wilkinson



Gill

This match features a battle of Antipodeans: Australia versus the Aussie-Kiwi mix Down Under. Beware that the systems in use here may be strange to some readers, with opening bids (especially by the Reid-Newell partnership) starting as low as 8 hcp, some showing other suits (i.e., transfers), plus relays, canape, and lots of other strange (at least to those of us from other parts of the world) methods.

Bd: 17      North  
 Dir: North    ♠ K  
 Vul: None    ♥ K862  
                   ♦ KQ75  
                   ♣ A972

West  
 ♠ Q104  
 ♥ Q943  
 ♦ J109  
 ♣ K106

East  
 ♠ 98652  
 ♥ 1075  
 ♦ 83  
 ♣ J83

South  
 ♠ AJ73  
 ♥ AJ  
 ♦ A642  
 ♣ Q54

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦

All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gill</i>
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Many players have an aversion to opening 1NT on hands containing a singleton and whose high-card strength falls within the opening notrump range. But when the singleton is a high honor, and especially when it is in spades, we see no reason to complicate the auction by opening a minor and taking (at least) three bids to describe the hand rather than one bid that falls a mere spot card short of being a perfect description. Opening hands like North's here can have serious problems when opened 1m. Say the auction starts 1♦-1♠, what is your rebid? The hand is a bit too strong for 1NT (presumably 12-14) and the alternative, 2♣, risks losing the heart suit if partner is weakish with five-four in the majors. 1NT solves all of those problems, and even if partner should transfer to spades, the five-one fit may well be the best (or at least an acceptable) contract.

In the Closed Room Sartaj Hans took the practical route to 3NT (as per the above discussion) and ended up precisely where one would hope to land looking at the N/S hands. He won the spade lead in hand, played a club to the queen and ace, rode the ♦J to dummy's ace, played a club to the seven and jack, won the diamond return in hand, took the losing heart finesse, and cashed out for 10 tricks; +430.

Contrast the Open Room auction with the Hans-Gill auction above. Six rounds of bidding to reach a slam that is a serious stretch at best. (One estimate has it at about 20 percent: trumps need to be three-two, the ♣K almost needs to be onside, and even that, though necessary, is surely not sufficient.) Griff Ware won the opening spade lead in hand, led a club to the queen and king, won the club return, and fell back on the heart finesse hoping to set up a discard for dummy's other club. When that failed he was down two, -100, and Down Under was ahead 11-0.

One could say from the statistics that the better the

team, the harder they found this deal. Seven of the 15 top-ranked teams played slam, but only five other pairs misjudged the deal. A little learning is indeed a dangerous thing.

Bd: 18  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ AK3  
 ♥ J1093  
 ♦ 65  
 ♣ QJ65

West  
 ♠ QJ962  
 ♥ 8652  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A98

East  
 ♠ 1087  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ KQ9432  
 ♣ 1042

South  
 ♠ 54  
 ♥ KQ74  
 ♦ A1087  
 ♣ K73

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>

Pass	1NT	2♦	3NT
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) ART; 4+ ♦; may have ♣; denies M; 9-13

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gill</i>
		2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Kanetkar's light 2♠ response stole the pot. 4♠ undoubled went down just 100; very useful if game was going to make the other way. However, it isn't enough just to bid game, you also have to make it.

If Ware's 1NT could contain as few as 11 hcp, then Michael Wilkinson's hand looks more like an invitation than a game bid (unless the Australian hcp has significantly increased in trick-taking ability since we last looked). And of course Martin Reid's double just served to reinforce that point. Peter Newell obediently led a spade. Ware won the ace and led a heart up. Newell won the ace and continued the spade attack, Ware ducking the second round, winning the third, and leading a club to the king and ace. Now came two more spade winners and Ware was quickly down one, -200, and Down Under had another 7imps to increase their lead to 18-0. Notice that had South explored for a heart fit he might have liked what he found. While a few pairs came home in 3NT on a non-spade lead (especially if East put his fingers on a disastrous top diamond at trick one) 4♥ had plenty of play. The datum was only N/S+210 but most pairs who played 4♥ brought home ten tricks.

Bd: 19  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ Q4  
 ♥ AKQ54  
 ♦ AQ5  
 ♣ AQ7

West  
 ♠ AJ985  
 ♥ 9632  
 ♦ 109  
 ♣ 104

East  
 ♠ 1073  
 ♥ 1087  
 ♦ 872  
 ♣ KJ82

South  
 ♠ K62  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ KJ643  
 ♣ 9653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gill</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Dbl	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Now here is a diamond slam a mother could love (cf. Board 17), especially if played by North. Basically, all it needs is diamonds not five-zero plus four-three spades or the ♣K onside. In the Closed Room Hans-Gill sniffed at slam, then settled for game. There was nothing to the play and Hans soon claimed 12 tricks for +420. Oh, and by the way, 6NT is not a bad slam either (but that ♥J is not easy to identify or evaluate).

In the Open Room Ware-Wilkinson made no move to locate a possible minor-suit slam after their 2NT opening. However, in their defense there are not many systems using 2NT to show a strong balanced hand that can handle these auctions very well either. It makes sense that Ware's 3NT rebid must have shown five hearts and now Wilkinson gave up on diamonds since Ware was less likely to have three of them after having shown a five-card major. Unlucky — sort of! While the Aussies failed to even sniff at the good slam, 3NT by North was easy: just knock out the ♠A and claim 12 tricks; +490. An unexpected 2imps to Australia, who were now on the scoreboard trailing 18-2.

About one third of the field bid and made slam here.

Both tables bid a normal 3NT on Board 20 and took ten tricks with the help of the diamond finesse for a push. Still 18-2, Down Under. Then...

Bd: 21 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ Q54  
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ6  
 ♦ AK5  
 ♣ Q862

West East  
 ♠ K8 ♠ 103  
 ♥ AJ42 ♥ 109753  
 ♦ Q763 ♦ J10984  
 ♣ AJ4 ♣ 3

South  
 ♠ AJ9762  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ K10975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♥(♠)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT(♣)
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gill</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♥(♠)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Dbl	4♠	All Pass	

Both tables sniffed at slam. Ware-Wilkinson climbed to 5♣ (we think on a Redwood ace-asking auction with clubs agreed) before bailing out. Meanwhile, Hans-Gill were able to subside in 4♠. Neither contract is safe. If the defense to 4♠ can negotiate one or two club ruffs and cash a heart before letting N/S in, it will be down one or two. Similarly, if the defense to 5♣ cashes a heart before giving up the lead there will be three inescapable losers (one spade, one heart, and one club), plus the ♣J must be located to hold it to that.

In the Open Room Reid led the ♥A against 5♣ and continued the suit. Wilkinson won, played a club to the king and ace, won the heart return, lost the spade finesse, won the spade return, and guessed to float the ♣10 to hold his losses to down one; -100.

In the Closed Room Hans received the ♥10 lead against his 4♠ contract. Avi Kanetkar won the ace and switched to a diamond. Hans won, cashed his

other top diamond and hearts, pitching three clubs from dummy, then took out insurance by refusing the trump finesse and playing ace and a spade. Now all that was left was to knock out the ♣A and claim; +420. Nicely done! That was 12 more imps to Down Under, who now led by 28 at 30-2.

Approximately half the field made the spade game here. The most impressive result came from Singapore, though admittedly their opponents had something to do with it. It looks as if a keycard auction may have gone wrong, at the very least, but Singapore unkindly doubled 7♣ and collected +1100 when declarer failed to give it his best shot (understandably, one might say).

Bd: 22 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ 965  
 Vul: E/W ♥ K82  
 ♦ Q8  
 ♣ K10843

West	East
♠ KQJ73	♠ ---
♥ AJ7	♥ Q9543
♦ AK106	♦ J93
♣ 9	♣ AJ762

South  
 ♠ A10842  
 ♥ 106  
 ♦ 7542  
 ♣ Q5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
		1♦(♥)	1♠
Dbl	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gill</i>
		Pass	2♠
3NT	All Pass		

In the Open Room Ware-Wilkinson stepped in it with quite sketchy values and came up smelling, if not of roses, at least not of manure. Reid led the ♠K against 2♠x and Wilkinson won to play on diamonds. Reid hopped up with the king, switched to a club to Newell's ace, secured a club ruff, then tried a low heart. Wilkinson rose king and got out with the ♦Q but Reid won, cashed two more trumps, then played the ♥A, ♥J. Wilkinson ruffed the third heart and got out with a diamond to Newell's jack. Back came a club allowing Reid to score his other low trump while Wilkinson pitched his remaining diamond loser. When the smoke had cleared the defense had eight tricks for down three, -500. 'Tis merely a flesh



wound.

In the Closed Room Gill and Hans might have suffered the same fate as N/S in the Open Room but Kanetkar chose to follow another tack and simply bid what he thought he could make: 3NT. And he was right. Hans got off to a club lead, ducked to the queen, and Gill switched quickly to a diamond. Kanetkar won with the ace, tabled the ♥J, which held, then continued with the ace and a third heart to the king. Hans now tried the ♠9, ducked to the jack, and Kanetkar continued with the ♠K. Gill won and switched back to diamonds and now Kanetkar could duck to guarantee an entry to dummy's good hearts and claim nine tricks for +600. That was 3 imps to Australia, who now trailed by 25 at 30-5.

The field generally played 3NT and made it, or declared 4♥ successfully.

Bd: 23      North  
 Dlr: South   ♠ J6  
 Vul: Both    ♥ KJ6  
                   ♦ AKQ  
                   ♣ A6542

West	East
♠ 843	♠ AK72
♥ Q103	♥ A852
♦ 86542	♦ 73
♣ J3	♣ K87

South  
 ♠ Q1095  
 ♥ 974  
 ♦ J109  
 ♣ Q109

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
Pass	1♣	Dbl	Pass
1♦	1♥	Pass	2♣

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gill</i>
Pass	1♣(STR)	Dbl	1♦(ART)
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT

All Pass

In the Open Room Ware and Wilkinson managed to find their best fit and stop at a low level. Newell led the ♠A and immediately switched to the ♦7. Ware won, perforce, cashed another top diamond, then got out with the ♠J to the king, endplaying Newell either to give up a trick in a major or break trumps to Ware's advantage. Newell opted to exit with a spade.

Ware won in dummy, pitching a heart, then played a club to the ace and a second club. Newell made it easy by rising with the king and getting out with a club but now Ware could win in dummy, pitch a second heart on the good spade, and claim nine tricks for +110.

In the Closed Room Hans-Gill got a bit higher than was comfortable. Against their 2NT Terry Brown led the ♠K and continued with a low spade. Hans won in hand with the jack and tried a low club, inserting the nine from dummy when Brown followed low. Kanetkar won the jack, tried the ♥10, and Hans' jack held the trick. Next he cashed the ♣A, the three top diamonds, and exited with a low heart (a club would have worked better). Kanetkar won the queen and the defense cashed out for down two, -200, and a useful 7 imps to draw closer at 30-12.

We just want Sartaj Hans to know that Takahashi Hatakeyama of Gardenia (originally team 46) bid and made 3NT on a diamond lead. He will be available for consultation if you need to brush up on your declarer play technique.

On Board 24 the Aussies picked up another 3 imps when they managed to take all the tricks in 3NT while the other table settled for just one overtrick. That made the score 30-15, Down Under.

Bd: 25      North  
 Dlr: North   ♠ AKJ943  
 Vul: E/W    ♥ AK62  
                   ♦ 75  
                   ♣ 5

West	East
♠ Q105	♠ 87
♥ J9853	♥ Q107
♦ K10	♦ A98
♣ AQ3	♣ 108642

South  
 ♠ 62  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ QJ6432  
 ♣ KJ97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass	3♦

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gill</i>
Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦(neg)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

(1) Values, no fit

In the Open Room Wilkinson got a bit optimistic with his raise to 3♦ facing an opening which included at least nine cards in the majors. Still, passing might have led to missing a game if North was about to show a powerhouse, and the final contract was not without play. Newell got off to a low trump lead to the queen and king, and Reid got out with the ♥8 to the ace. Ware tried a club to the jack and queen and back came a spade. Ware won the ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed another heart, finessed in spades and tried to cash the ♥K. Newell ruffed with the ♦A, led a club to the king and ace, and Reid now applied the *coup de gras* by leading a heart for a trump promoting ruff by Newell. Down one, —50.

In the Closed Room Hans-Gill chose to play in spades, which proved to be a much more reasonable contract. Brown led a trump, taking the guess out of that suit. Hans took the queen with the king, cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart, exited with the ♦Q to the king, won the heart return, drew trump, and soon claimed nine tricks for +140. That was 5 imps back to Down Under, leading now 35-15.

As you might expect, quite a few Norths drove to game and five pairs even made it when on an unrevealing auction East guessed to lead a heart.

Bd: 26 North  
 Dir: East ♠ A3  
 Vul: Both ♥ Q6  
 ♦ 762  
 ♣ A108543

West East  
 ♠ 105 ♠ Q84  
 ♥ 5 ♥ AJ98743  
 ♦ AKQ1098 ♦ J4  
 ♣ 9762 ♣ J

South  
 ♠ KJ9762  
 ♥ K102  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ KQ

Open Room  
 West North East South  
 Reid Ware Newell Wilkinson  
 1♦(♥) 1♠  
 2♣(♦) Dbl 2♥ 2♠  
 All Pass  
 Closed Room  
 West North East South  
 Kanetkar Hans Brown Gill  
 Pass 4♠ All Pass 3♥ 3♠

In the Open Room Ware-Wilkinson managed to stop at a sensible level. Against 2♠ Reid led a heart to the

ace and Newell switched to the ♦J. When Reid allowed that to hold Newell switched back to hearts. Reid ruffed, cashed a top diamond and continued with a third diamond. Wilkinson ruffed, played a spade to the ace, a spade to the king, then claimed eight tricks for +110.

In the Closed Room Brown's tactical 3♥ opening put Gill under a lot of pressure. Not wishing his spades to be shut out he tried a reasonable 3♠, and Hans showed good judgment in simply raising to game. Kanetkar cashed his two top diamonds and switched to a heart. Brown won the ace, led the suit back for Kanetkar to ruff, and Gill was quickly down one before he could draw trumps. When he did get back in he worked out to play spades by leading to the ace and finessing on the way back, and so claimed the rest for -100 and a 5-imp loss. Down Under by 15 at 35-20.

Precisely one table made game here. We suspect that Harue Iemori of BlueLights, who collected +620 in 4♠, will be willing to admit modestly that she has run into more challenging defenses in her lifetime.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dir: South ♠ A4  
 Vul: None ♥ Q976  
 ♦ KJ962  
 ♣ 85

West East  
 ♠ KQ8763 ♠ 2  
 ♥ A85 ♥ KJ4  
 ♦ 5 ♦ 1083  
 ♣ J93 ♣ AK10762

South  
 ♠ J1095  
 ♥ 1032  
 ♦ AQ74  
 ♣ Q4

Open Room  
 West North East South  
 Reid Ware Newell Wilkinson  
 1♥(♠) Pass 1♠(R) Pass  
 2♠ All Pass  
 Closed Room  
 West North East South  
 Kanetkar Hans Brown Gill  
 Pass 2♣ Pass  
 1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass  
 2♠ Pass 3NT All Pass

The different systems provided the East players with vastly different contexts in which to evaluate their holdings. Newell settled for 2♠ with his singleton opposite a hand with at least six spades but limited

to about 14 hcp while Brown forced to game opposite a hand not limited by a strong club system. In the Open Room Newell received a favorable heart lead. He won in hand, led a spade to the king and ace, won the club return, crossed to the ♠A, played queen and a third spade and claimed nine tricks; +140.

In the Closed Room Gill got off to a low diamond lead and the defense cashed the first six tricks for down two, -100, and 6 imps to Down Under, who led by 21 at 41-20.

Only one East was capable of persuading his opponents that they didn't want to cash out their diamonds against 3NT. The old Jedi mind trick can come in useful from time to time, as Kenji Miyakuni (for NAITO) has demonstrated so many times during the course of his illustrious career.

Bd: 28      North  
 Dir: West    ♠ 3  
 Vul: N/S     ♥ AJ874  
                  ♦ K93  
                  ♣ A1032

West	East
♠ A1042	♠ QJ9865
♥ 65	♥ K10
♦ J	♦ A74
♣ KQJ864	♣ 75

South  
 ♠ K7  
 ♥ Q932  
 ♦ Q108652  
 ♣ 9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
1♥(♠)	Dbl	4♠	5♦
5♠	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gill</i>
1♣	1♥	1♠	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

Wilkinson in the Open Room did well to push E/W to the five level, where his side might have secured a nice plus score. Unfortunately, Ware looks not to have been on the same wavelength and may have predicated his double on finding some useful defensive values opposite (given the vulnerability). Regardless, the contract could be defeated only if N/S found their club ruff(s). Wilkinson led a heart to the ace and Ware switched to the ♦K. Bzzz! Sorry. Newell won, drew trumps via the spade finesse, and emerged with 11 tricks for +650 the hard way.

In the Closed Room E/W bought the hand a level lower but this time the defense was more accurate. Gill led the ♣9 to the ace and back came the suit-preference ♣10. Gill ruffed, led the ♥9 to the ace and over-ruffed declarer on the club return for +50. Another 12 imps to Down Under, leading now 53-20.

Half the field made game here, half went down, for a datum of 270 for E/W. Five pairs played 5♠x making; in fact, 11 tricks in 5♠ was a more common number than ten or nine.

And that's the way the match ended when both N/S pairs bid and made what should have been a straightforward 6♥ on Board 29 (reached by half the field only) and both E/W pairs bid 3NT on Board 30 and went down two on identical competent defenses by N/S. A third of the field found their way home in game; competence is at a premium everywhere.

**Images of Our Game: Part 1**



"See, we're out of last place!"



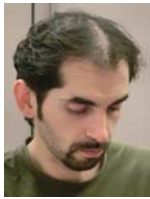
"Look, it's a bird. No, it's a plane..."



"It's dangerous to balance in this sequence."

# Match Eleven: Japan Senior vs England/Netherlands

by Barry Rigal



Bakhshi



Nakamura



Ino



Gold



Yamada



v Prooijen



Verhees



Ohno

Two matches to go and both Japan Seniors and England/Netherlands (“The Alliance” to save ink) needed a pair of decent results plus some relatively favorable developments from the other contenders if they were to advance.

than invitational values by doubling before raising diamonds but it would have taken a far larger bridge player than West to drag Gold into game. 3♦ was just the right spot. With the heart finesse succeeding Gold had nine tricks.

Bd: 1  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AJ43  
 ♥ 75  
 ♦ 104  
 ♣ 98432

West  
 ♠ KQ  
 ♥ AQ1082  
 ♦ 9753  
 ♣ J10

East  
 ♠ 10875  
 ♥ J4  
 ♦ KQJ82  
 ♣ K7

South  
 ♠ 962  
 ♥ K963  
 ♦ A6  
 ♣ AQ65

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
	Pass	1♦	Dbl
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦ (2+)
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Gold’s feather-light opening immediately propelled his side into dangerous territory. Of course Bakhshi had a better hand than his partner, but his poor honor structure argued for caution. He showed more

Meanwhile, in the other room the Precision diamond worked its ugly magic, stealing the opponents’ best suit and silencing East, who should surely have considered balancing with 2♦ even in the face of her opponents’ bidding. When she sold out, Yamada led the ♣J against 1NT — safe, but not successful. With the clubs behaving declarer could take seven tricks off the top and emerged with an overtrick when the defenders set up a heart for him. Very few N/S pairs managed to go plus here.

Bd: 2  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ Q6  
 ♥ Q986  
 ♦ 1072  
 ♣ Q873

West  
 ♠ A10  
 ♥ A43  
 ♦ K9543  
 ♣ A106

East  
 ♠ 97  
 ♥ KJ10  
 ♦ QJ86  
 ♣ KJ52

South  
 ♠ KJ85432  
 ♥ 752  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 94

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
		1NT(11-13)	2♣
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dbl	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		Pass	3♠

All Pass

The second board looked like more of the same. When Ohno passed in second seat (and who could blame her?) Verhees opened 3♠ red versus white and bought the pot. No one could find a convenient way into the auction and 3♠ quietly wandered down two when declarer took his six spades and ♠A. With E/W able to make 5♦, it was not clear if this was a good result or not. Alas for The Alliance, they could not find a way to get to their 5-4 fit, and Ino led a spade against 3NT to doom the contract to three down; 8 imps for the Seniors.

You might argue that The Alliance was a little unlucky; had the minor suits been switched E/W might well have reached the 11-trick game. I prefer to believe that the Great Shuffler disapproves of opening hands like East's.

A half dozen pairs reached and made game with the E/W cards, a few in 3NT, but Sun-Zhao managed the feat for KORTAI, and Homma-Fujita also managed it for Edelweiss.

Bd: 3	North
Dir: South	♠ Q85
Vul: E/W	♥ 95
	♦ 652
	♣ A9852

West
♠ 97
♥ K1086
♦ 73
♣ K7643

East
♠ A432
♥ A432
♦ J1094
♣ Q

South
♠ KJ106
♥ QJ7
♦ AKQ8
♣ J10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
Pass	Pass	Dbl(♥+♠)	1NT
2♥	3♣	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			1♣(16+)
Pass	1♦(0-8)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

The Alliance continued their habit of getting more

bids in than their opponents. Verhees' strong club allowed him to buy the hand in 2♠ while in the other room the strong notrump from Ino let Gold balance fearlessly to show the majors. Bakhshi picked hearts, Nakamura competed to 3♣ (reasonable enough, I suppose, in theory). No one had anything to say now and Gold led a top diamond against 3♣. Nakamura won, passed the ♣J around to the bare ♣Q, won the spade return, then passed the ♣10 to get the bad news. When he led top diamonds from dummy Bakhshi ruffed in, took the ♠A, a spade ruff, then the two top hearts for down two.

That was worth 5 imps since 2♠ on a heart lead had eight winners (three spades, three diamonds, and a trick in each of the other suits). I suppose a club lead might have given declarer something of a losing option. Making partscores were the order of the day for N/S here. It was 11-8 now, The Alliance.

Bd: 4	North
Dir: West	♠ J
Vul: Both	♥ KQJ732
	♦ 974
	♣ 983

West
♠ A10875
♥ A
♦ AQ85
♣ A105

East
♠ KQ9643
♥ 1065
♦ ---
♣ KQJ6

South
♠ 2
♥ 984
♦ KJ10632
♣ 742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
1♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT(♠)	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Dbl
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Both tables coped extremely well with the problems of this deal. Gold showed short diamonds, one keycard, the trump queen and ♣K (and no ♥K), then accepted the grand slam try by virtue of his good clubs. I wonder whether he might have gone via 7♣ en route to 7♠.

Yamada-Ohno used a trump raise 2NT followed by



keycard, and had a double of a diamond bid just to make life even easier. No swing at 2210 and a job well done. Half the field failed to get to the grand slam. Color me unimpressed.

Next both tables had a difficult opportunity for a big swing in. This was not the moment to be playing weak notrumps.

Bd: 5  
Dlr: North  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ K943  
♥ K8  
♦ 9875  
♣ J94

West  
♠ Q7  
♥ AJ96  
♦ K106  
♣ K653

East  
♠ A65  
♥ Q102  
♦ AQJ3  
♣ 872

South  
♠ J1082  
♥ 7543  
♦ 42  
♣ AQ10

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Forcing Stayman

While 3NT by West would be likely to make, South was dealt the right spade suit to lead and that was a quick down one when the heart finesse lost. Indeed, one down was the best the two Easts could possibly hope for. Not surprisingly, only four pairs reached 3NT by West. In fact, unless West jumps in notrump at his first turn to speak it is very hard to imagine how one might play game from the West seat.

Bd: 6  
Dlr: East  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ K62  
♥ KJ98  
♦ 75  
♣ 9876

West  
♠ J9  
♥ A7  
♦ KJ10632  
♣ J42

East  
♠ A105  
♥ 652  
♦ Q84  
♣ AKQ5

South  
♠ Q8743  
♥ Q1043  
♦ A9  
♣ 103

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
		1NT	2♦(♥+♠)
2♠(♦)	3♥	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		1♣	1♠
2♦	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

That ♠10 turned out to be a big card, didn't it? 3NT made 11 tricks when the E/W spade spots combined to produce a second trick. Kudos to Ohno for putting up the ♠J from dummy, giving N/S a fleeting expectation that their combined spade spots would be good enough to defeat the game. The art of raising one's opponents' hopes, only to dash them, is hardly focused on in the bridge literature but it is worth learning these techniques.

5♦ was also simple to play. Gold took the ♥A at trick one and later discarded the spade loser on the fourth club. Still, 2 imps to Japan Seniors, down 11-10.

Our next deal demonstrates how subtleties of style can act like the butterfly's wings. Small variations lead to huge differences.

Bd: 7  
Dlr: South  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ A9632  
♥ 843  
♦ A87  
♣ J8

West  
♠ QJ5  
♥ AQ1072  
♦ 109  
♣ A32

East  
♠ 108  
♥ KJ65  
♦ K654  
♣ K94

South  
♠ K74  
♥ 9  
♦ QJ32  
♣ Q10765

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

The bonus for a vulnerable game leads us to push from time to time. Kaz Yamada had a minimum for his opening style so he rejected the balanced four-card trump raise invitation. David Bakhshi had a little extra in hand, given his more aggressive style, and wasn't prepared to go quietly. Not only is game no better than the diamond finesse, a club lead put the defense ahead in the race to establish a trick before the spades set up for a club discard. I make it that the game is probably on the cusp of desirability since 3♥ will go down a fair amount of the time that the ♦A is wrong, on either a club or diamond lead. Both Norths led a trump and ten tricks were made at each table, but The Alliance had 10 imps and led 21-10.

A handful of teams beat the game on a club lead (or had declarer beat themselves), but quite a few pairs stayed out game so the datum was E/W +270.

Bd: 8  
Dlr: West  
Vul: None

North  
♠ J8  
♥ 82  
♦ Q653  
♣ KQ432

West  
♠ 53  
♥ Q97  
♦ A1072  
♣ A987

East  
♠ Q10742  
♥ AK3  
♦ K9  
♣ J105

South  
♠ AK96  
♥ J10654  
♦ J84  
♣ 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦(♠+♥)
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

It was Japan Seniors' turn to steal the contract at both tables (always the right vulnerability to do that). When Bakhshi stayed silent, it let Nakamura pick hearts and no one had anything more to say. Gold led a top heart. What next? Gold played three rounds of hearts and Bakhshi won his queen to shift to a spade, knowing East had a five-card suit. This went to the eight, ten and king and a club towards the king-queen scored the trick as well. So far, so good for declarer who was up to three spades, a club and two hearts. The ♠J was covered all around and now came the ♦J, run around to the king. Gold exited with a club and declarer ruffed to lead a diamond to his queen for his seventh trick. Well done. That was 2

hard-earned imps to The Alliance to make it 21-12 since in the other room Ohno's spade opening kept her opponents out. After a low club lead it was only about overtricks, and declarer managed to establish the ♦7 (when Verhees pitched a diamond at trick two) to come home with +120.

Bd: 9  
Dlr: North  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ KJ92  
♥ K76  
♦ J82  
♣ J95

West  
♠ AQ10  
♥ 52  
♦ AKQ654  
♣ 102

East  
♠ 7543  
♥ AQ84  
♦ 1073  
♣ K7

South  
♠ 86  
♥ J1093  
♦ 9  
♣ AQ8643

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♣
5♦	4♣	Dbl	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♣
4♦	4♣	Dbl	Pass
	All Pass		

Another marginal vulnerable game which would have been excellent had East had the decency to have the ♠K instead of the worthless ♣K. Not today. And while 4♦ went down a trick after two rounds of clubs and a spade shift, the same tricks against 5♦ gave the Seniors 3 more imps. Well done by both N/S pairs to give their opponents the problem.

As you might have guessed, most Souths in the top half of the field got into the auction while most in the lower half let East play 3NT for 600 or so. The lesson to be learned is: at favorable vulnerability, passing is for wimps.

Bd: 10  
Dlr: East  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ KJ64  
♥ AQ73  
♦ K8  
♣ AQ10

West  
♠ A10975  
♥ K4  
♦ 97  
♣ J763

East  
♠ 83  
♥ J106  
♦ J10632  
♣ 982

South  
♠ Q2  
♥ 9852  
♦ AQ54  
♣ K54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥(1)
1♠	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

(1) Balanced positive

This board looks dangerous for N/S but both pairs dealt very well with the problems of playing in hearts and maybe getting too high. Nakamura did especially well to conceal his fit in order to play notrump.

While the Closed Room had a straightforward route to 11 tricks, Nakamura won the diamond lead in dummy to lead a low heart to the king and ace, Gold dropping the ten. Now if declarer had led a low heart towards the nine he might have found one of the more ingenious ways to play a suit for no loser. But in the end he laid down the ♥Q and made a mundane +660. Still 21-15.

The field did well here: only six pairs reached the no-play slam.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ AK97
Vul: None	♥ J5
	♦ Q1087
	♣ J76

West
♠ Q8
♥ 8763
♦ AJ9653
♣ 5

East
♠ J3
♥ AQ10942
♦ 4
♣ AKQ3

South
♠ 106542
♥ K
♦ K2
♣ 109842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
		5♥	2♠
Pass	4♠		All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl (4/5♠)
4♥	All Pass		

The Japan Seniors comprehensively outbid their opponents here. By reaching game in their big fit on the first round of the auction in each room they left their opponents no convenient option in the bidding. But when Ino led a spade and North turned up with the ace-king would Gold play to drop the ♥K offside? No. He finessed and Japan Seniors had taken the lead 26-21.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q106
Vul: N/S	♥ 94
	♦ KQJ984
	♣ K8

West
♠ J53
♥ QJ83
♦ 732
♣ 754

East
♠ AK2
♥ A1076
♦ 106
♣ AQ102

South
♠ 9874
♥ K52
♦ A5
♣ J963

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ino</i>
		Dbl	1♠
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♦		
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Ohno</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		Dbl	Pass
Pass	1♦	Dbl	All Pass
1♥	Pass	3♥	

Ohno's leap to 3♥ looks like an overbid to me, but if you play the raise to 2♥ here as purely competitive and not necessarily real extras you are somewhat awkwardly placed. Even 2♥ wasn't cold. The defenders took their diamond tricks and carefully played spades through West to ensure one trick in each of the other suits.

In 2♥ Bakhshi lost the same five tricks in due course, but that was still 4 imps. Now the match stood at 26-25, Seniors, as the wild pair of final deals arrived

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q74
Vul: Both	♥ QJ976543
	♦ ---
	♣ 76

West
♠ J52
♥ ---
♦ KQJ943
♣ A432

East
♠ K6
♥ A82
♦ 652
♣ KQJ85

South
♠ A10983
♥ K10
♦ A1087
♣ 109

Open Room  
 West North East South  
*Bakhshi Nakamura Gold Ino*  
 3♥ Pass 4♥  
 5♦ Pass Pass Dbl  
 All Pass  
 Closed Room  
 West North East South  
*Yamada V Prooijen Ohno Verhees*  
 4♥ Pass Pass Pass  
 5♦ Pass Pass Dbl  
 All Pass

Open Room  
 West North East South  
*Bakhshi Nakamura Gold Ino*  
 Pass 1♠ Pass 1♥  
 Pass 4♠ Pass Pass 3♠  
 Dbl Pass 5♦ Pass Pass  
 Pass Dbl All Pass  
 Closed Room  
 West North East South  
*Yamada V Prooijen Ohno Verhees*  
 2♥ 2NT Pass 1♠  
 All Pass Pass 4♠

Neither N/S pair did anything foolish here but both conceded 750 when 5♥x would have cost 500 at most — and might have tempted East into doing something indiscreet. After a heart lead declarer could test trumps, then use a club entry to play a diamond to the nine and claim 11 tricks (pitching two spades on the heart and club winners). No swing, and with one deal to go it was still 26-25 for Japan Seniors.

Five pairs were allowed to play 4♥, sometimes doubled, with Kuniko Saito and Kei Nemoto collecting +990 in 4♥x. Meanwhile, nine E/W pairs collected 750 in 5♣x or 5♦x.

On to our final instalment.

Bd: 14 North  
 Dir: East ♠ Q754  
 Vul: None ♥ ---  
 ♦ Q1094  
 ♣ AQ754

West East  
 ♠ 3 ♠ 10986  
 ♥ AJ7632 ♥ 109  
 ♦ AK ♦ J87652  
 ♣ KJ82 ♣ 9

South  
 ♠ AKJ2  
 ♥ KQ854  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ 1063

Bakhshi's decision to double 4♠ was by no means unique across the various tables. In the same sequence in our other BBO match Hallberg had redoubled and Ming had run to 5♦x down 1400. Here Gold was under less pressure to run but he too felt the lure of the diamonds was too strong.

There is a legitimate way to make 4♠x (even if East does not facilitate your task by leading the ♣9). On a heart lead, for example, declarer needs to play the ♣10 from dummy at some point, then build the club suit into tricks by ducking a club and later finessing. Easier said than done. 5♦x cost 1100 so it was poor consolation that Verhees had been allowed to make 4♠ as South when Yamada led the ♥A to the first trick. Japan Seniors had 12 imps and won the match 38-25.

Other than in our featured match, only two tables made 4♠: Robert Geller for Akarui on the lead of the ♣9 and Toby Curtis (well done!) on a diamond lead.

A girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

### Images of Our Game: Part 2



"Remind me, is this supposed to be fun?"



"Okay, I'll sign your scorecard."

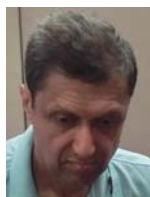


"He's not really making you play transfer preempts, is he?"



# Match Twelve: SARA vs INDIA

by Barry Rigal



Srinivasan



Teramoto



Sasahira



Pad'abhan



Tanaka



Venkatesh



Anklesaria



Niekawa

Over the years SARA had been one of the most consistently successful Japanese teams in the NEC. With qualification on the line they would be taking on India — winner take all. Incidentally, very few teams were assured of qualifying; Hackett and Singapore had punched their tickets, but for almost everyone else a big loss would be fatal.

Bd: 17 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ QJ62  
 Vul: None ♥ Q2  
 ♦ J52  
 ♣ KQJ8

West  
 ♠ 97543  
 ♥ 954  
 ♦ 106  
 ♣ A74

East  
 ♠ AK8  
 ♥ 1083  
 ♦ AQ43  
 ♣ 1096

South  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ AKJ76  
 ♦ K987  
 ♣ 532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sriniv'san</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
	1♣	1♦	1♥
Dbl	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Venka'sh</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>
	1♣	Dbl	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both E/W pairs did their best to get into their opponent's auctions, but neither N/S pair was biting. If Teramoto had doubled 2♠ the defense would have

collected at least 300, but as it was he ended up in a sensible spot, losing just the four top tricks in aces and kings. With 3NT very playable, would this be a small pick-up or a small loss?

Niekawa led a top spade and worked out from his partner's signal to shift to a heart. Had declarer played for 3-3 hearts he would have won in dummy to keep his entry to hand. Instead, Venkatesh won in hand and played the top clubs. Tanaka ducked twice and now declarer could have run hearts, but this would have squeezed his hand. So he played a third club. Tanaka won and shifted back to spades, letting Niekawa win and get out in hearts, locking declarer in dummy to lead diamonds for down one. Nicely defended. This was the only table where 3NT was defeated. Half the field bid and made game while Takahashi and Kawshima for Five Star achieved the best N/S score when they doubled 2♦ for 800.

Both E/W pairs went down 50 in a partscore, then India got on the scoreboard by playing a partscore in both rooms for +110 and -50. It was 5-2 SARA after three deals.

Bd: 20 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ 5  
 Vul: Both ♥ 5  
 ♦ K87642  
 ♣ AQ954

West  
 ♠ 84  
 ♥ AJ974  
 ♦ J103  
 ♣ K107

East  
 ♠ A963  
 ♥ Q10832  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ J86

South  
 ♠ KQJ1072  
 ♥ K6  
 ♦ AQ5  
 ♣ 32



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sriniv'san</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Dbl	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Venka'sh</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both tables reached 4♠, but where Anklesaria was declarer West had a blind lead and chose a top diamond, as who would not? Declarer won in hand and played trumps, letting East win to shift to a count-card ♥2. Tanaka won his ♥A and knew that a diamond ruff was the only way to set the game. It might not have been a good shot but it was his only chance. Bingo!

Srinivasan led a trump against 4♠ and that was a critical tempo lost. The defenders could win and take their hearts but the ruff had got away, and SARA had 12 imps, leading 17-2.

The diamond lead defeated 4♠ at a quarter of the tables where it was played, but N/S made game far more often than they were defeated.

A quiet 3NT with nine or ten tricks at most tables produced virtually no swing around the room. Then another double-edged board saw a potential swing to both sides, and once again India ending up on the wrong end of the swing.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ AJ10
Vul: E/W	♥ 984
	♦ A1043
	♣ Q108

West	East
♠ 87653	♠ KQ42
♥ A653	♥ KQ102
♦ K8	♦ Q6
♣ K7	♣ 642
South	
♠ 9	
♥ J7	
♦ J9752	
♣ AJ953	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sriniv'san</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Venka'sh</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The only explanations I can think of for the auction in the Open Room is that West was either in search of a swing or a new pair of bifocals. Regardless, the three level looks more than high enough for hearts. Teramoto unimaginatively led a trump and declarer used his entries to hand to play spades up after drawing trumps. But the same favorable lie of the cards meant that 4♠ had no problems in coming home for +620, and all of a sudden SARA led 27-2.

A surprisingly high percentage of the field found a way to go down in the spade game, which was attempted at slightly more than half the tables here. The datum score was E/W +260.

Bd: 23	North
Dlr: South	♠ 52
Vul: Both	♥ J54
	♦ 432
	♣ J10765

West	East
♠ QJ94	♠ 863
♥ 632	♥ AK87
♦ Q875	♦ KJ1096
♣ Q4	♣ 9

South
♠ AK107
♥ Q109
♦ A
♣ AK832

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sriniv'san</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
			1♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	1♠
Dbl	3♣	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Venka'sh</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>
			1♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Rdbl
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Both tables made a valiant effort to reopen their opponents into game. Who do you blame for missing game? I'd say Sasahira might have assumed she was facing a doubleton spade and five trumps and taken one more bid, though Teramoto still might not have been able to evaluate his hand as worth game. In the other room maybe Anklesaria might have got his partner to do more by bidding 3♥ over 3♣, but I doubt it. Plus 150 in both rooms meant no swing. Just seven pairs made it to game here.

Bd: 24 North  
 Dir: West ♠ QJ109732  
 Vul: None ♥ J7  
 ♦ 652  
 ♣ 3

West  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ Q86  
 ♦ AK1083  
 ♣ AQ65

East  
 ♠ AK5  
 ♥ A104  
 ♦ J4  
 ♣ KJ972

South  
 ♠ 84  
 ♥ K9532  
 ♦ Q97  
 ♣ 1084

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sriniv'san</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
1♦	3♠	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Venka'sh</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>
1♦	2♠	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Dbf	Rdbl	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♣	All Pass

Teramoto's full-blooded 3♠ preempt left East with very few sensible options but to bid 3NT, didn't it? West might have tried 4♣ or there again he might have decided it was not up to him to push the boat out. In the other room Venkatesh let his opponents find clubs easily and now a keycard auction maybe saw Niekawa relay via the redouble to find the ♦K. With no space left, he guessed that he would buy a dummy to give him play for the grand slam. Given the result from the other room this was a very poor odds play, but when declarer guessed to run the ♦J after drawing trumps he had turned his +10 imps into +14 imps and SARA led 41-2. Four tables bid the grand slam here, but many more pairs played game than slam.

The next deal offered decent play for a vulnerable 3NT, but with 16 facing 7 (and a five-card suit) it was generally played in 1NT, as was the case at both

tables in our match.

Bd: 26 North  
 Dir: East ♠ AJ973  
 Vul: Both ♥ A9  
 ♦ 652  
 ♣ 832

West  
 ♠ Q42  
 ♥ Q832  
 ♦ 1098  
 ♣ AK4

East  
 ♠ K5  
 ♥ KJ1054  
 ♦ KJ3  
 ♣ J97

South  
 ♠ 1086  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ AQ74  
 ♣ Q1065

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sriniv'san</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
		1♥	Pass

3♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Venka'sh</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>
		1♥	Pass
3♣(♥)	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Anklesaria led a spade against 3♥, Sashira led a club (as, I must confess, would I). But then it doesn't take much skill to out-lead me. Only the ♦Q and a club let through the contract, and more than half the N/S field went plus against partscore or game. 6 imps for India, making it 41-8.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dir: South ♠ KJ943  
 Vul: None ♥ KJ964  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ KQ4

West  
 ♠ Q1076  
 ♥ Q105  
 ♦ A42  
 ♣ 875

East  
 ♠ A8  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ KQJ98763  
 ♣ A3

South  
 ♠ 52  
 ♥ A832  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ J10962

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sriniv'san</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Venka'sh</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♦	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

I don't know about you but I'd be pretty disappointed to go down in 3NT as East on the Open Room auction. The defense took five heart winners before declarer could say "Thank you" to the dummy. Not to worry. In the Closed Room N/S bid on to 4♥ which would surely have come close to making. Niekawa bid 5♦, which would surely have made if the ♠5 and ♠9 were switched. Not today; no swing, still 41-8 for SARA.

Seven pairs made heart games, with 5♥x succeeding at three tables. 15 pairs brought home game on the E/W cards, several succeeding in 5♦ after a spade lead when declarer drew one round of trumps and passed a spade to North. That player now had to return a low spade to kill the discard, and several defenders missed the point. The Russians were one of the pairs to make game, pushing Japan Seniors temporarily out of eighth place. Australia made 3NT from the East seat when South led his partner's suit rather than the unbid heart suit, but let through 5♦x to leave their match against ZhiHaoLe level.

After a quiet 4♠ making +420 around the room, and a 3NT game that was bid and made everywhere, too, we come to the last deal, with the top seven teams all locked into a qualifying position. England/Ned were in eighth spot, a couple of victory points ahead of Japan Seniors. And ZhiHaoLe were less than a victory point behind.

Bd: 30	North	
Dlr: East	♠ AQ752	
Vul: None	♥ K75	
	♦ Q97	
	♣ 52	
West	East	
♠ K96	♠ J	
♥ J862	♥ AQ1093	
♦ 65	♦ AKJ2	
♣ Q987	♣ K43	
South		
♠ 10843		
♥ 4		
♦ 10843		
♣ AJ106		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sriniv'san</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Pad'han</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Venka'sh</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>
		1♥	Pass
3♦(♥)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

It was hard to defend 4♠x accurately and the defense duly took a diamond ruff with a trump trick to hold the penalty to 300. Sara had won their match 44-9 and earned a place in the final eight.

Meanwhile, Japan Seniors collected 300 from 4♠x and were allowed to buy the hand in 3♠ down 100. England/Ned went for 500 but were still a fraction of a VP ahead of the Japanese Seniors. Now they needed ZhiHaoLe not to gain imps from Australia on the final deal. The Chinese bid to 4♥ and made it in one room. If they sacrificed in 4♠x, the defenders would have to collect 500 or the Chinese would qualify at The Alliance's expense. No, they defended 4♥ for a push and as result all three Anglo-based teams would make it to the last eight.

### Images of Our Game: Part 3



"I am, too sexy for my jeans..."



"Why did I pass a cuebid?"



"Where did the ♣4 go?"



"Hop on, we're going to Disneyland!"

## 20<sup>th</sup> NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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	503
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)	
	17:35-19:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams	501, 502
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 <sup>th</sup>
Yokohama Swiss Teams	Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>
Asuka Cup	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>

should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 417)

The registration deadline for each event is the previous evening

