



NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 15, 2015
Bulletin Number 7

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Masako Sakurai – Chen Dawei Win Asuka Cup Akio Ijuin – Takako Ijuin Win JCBL Cup



Asuka Cup: Winners



JCBL Cup: Winners

Top Finishers in Asuka Cup and JCBL Cup

Rank	Asuka Cup		JCBL Cup	
	Pair	Score	Pair	Score
1	Masako Sakurai – Chen Dawei	2581.89	Akio Ijuin – Takako Ijuin	40.5
2	Masayuki Ino – Kyoko Toyofuku	2553.72	Sanae Miyazaki – Keiko Tanino	36
3	Avi Kanetkar – Terry Brown	2546.2	Masaki Shiratori – Reiko Tani	35.5
4	Poon Hua – Loo Choon Chou	2465.46	Tadayoshi Nakazawa – Etsuko Nakazawa	35.5
5	Takeshi Niekawa – Kazuhiko Yamada	2430.58		
6	Tadashi Imakura – Shunsuke Morimura	2421.96		
7	Kyoko Ohno – Akihiko Yamada	2420.58		
8	Swarnendu Banerji – Noriko Watanabe	2417.66		
9	Frances Hinden – Graham Osborne	2410.16		
10	Motoaki Shiga – Minako Takahashi	2407.13		

NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2015

Domo Arigato

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to thank our corporate sponsors, especially **NEC**, for once again joining with **JCBL** to produce a bridge event of the highest quality and competitiveness. The **NEC Bridge Festival** attracts the best players in the world, many of whom consider the NEC one of their best bridge experiences. Once again, congratulations to the sponsors and especially to the **JCBL** staff.

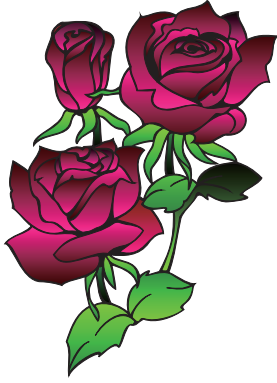
As always Yokohama, and especially the Pacifico, are wonderful places for this event. Each year we marvel at the developments in the area, and this year is no exception. The Conference Center is a terrific playing venue. The weather this year, though at times a bit cold and windy, was probably a good deal better than what many of us would have experienced back home. As always, everyone has been warm and friendly and it is our continuing great pleasure to return each year (or every two years in the future) to reunite with our many good friends to share the happy times and the fun and excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts. In honor of Valentine's Day we wish everyone love and joy for every day of the year.

The significant prizes and broad participation continue to make the **NEC Bridge Festival** an important event on the bridge calendar, and one which continues to grow in prestige. This year's field of 46 teams in the NEC Cup included many top teams as well as many improving Japanese teams. The quality of bridge this year was excellent, as usual, providing us with a number of well-played and well-defended hands for our archives. We hope our role here has in some small way contributed to the tournament's and JCBL's continued success. This year's festival was by any measure a success.

The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who provided us with deals, stories and other material to help us keep you informed. Many thanks to *Nakatani-san* for his leadership and friendship. Thanks also to *Richard Grenside*, tormented Director, who as ever ran a smooth and pleasant tournament; to *Sue Grenside* for her friendship and good humor (and for keeping Richard in check); to *Omasa-san*, for his awesome technical, computer, and directing support; to Michika Matsuo, for the wonderful pictures she took (which as usual we subjected to our peculiar sense of humor); to *Nakamura-san*, for once again suffering with us into the wee morning hours (he continues to be the unluckiest person in Japan to have been assigned this task again this year) so that you may have daily bulletins fresh with your morning coffee, and especially for his work with the pictures and many other things too numerous to list here; to *Suzuki-san* and *Kido-san* for their hard work and help with many things, both technical and otherwise; to *Maeda-san* for his work with BBO and to BBO itself; to *Koike-san* who helped to direct the events this weekend; and to the many who provided us with moral support during our long work sessions. Thanks also to the many volunteers who perform the myriad functions critical to making this tournament a success, while we remain oblivious to what is going on around us, absorbed in our work. As you know, we consider all of you part of our extended family here in Japan. And finally, many thanks to the players, who produced such exciting bridge.



Warmest regards, Rich, Barry, and the Bulletin Staff



A Very Special Thank You

To the treasured patrons of the 2015 NEC Bridge Festival

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Narita Bus Schedule

From the Intercontinental
(120 minutes)
¥3,500

06:40
07:40
08:40
11:40
12:40
14:10

From the YCAT
(100 min)
¥3,500

Every 15-20 minutes from
05:15 to 19:30

Second Thoughts Are Best

Paul Barden of the UK wrote to the Editors pointing out an intriguing variation on the following deal where we had glossed over a key detail. It came up in the quarter-finals between Hinden and Singapore.

Bd: 14	North	
Dlr: East	♠ K74	
Vul: None	♥ AKJ96	
	♦ 1098	
	♣ A9	
		East
West		♠ AJ85
♠ 1093		♥ 742
♥ Q105		♦ AJ5
♦ 2		♣ Q102
♣ K87543		
	South	
	♠ Q62	
	♥ 83	
	♦ KQ7643	
	♣ J6	

For Team Hinden, Hydes had played 2♥, making +170, after a precision 1♦ by East had silenced South. In the other room 4♥ was reached after the auction: 1♣-1♦-3♣-4♥-All Pass. Osborne led a club and that put him in with a chance to defeat the game.

Declarer ducked the lead, though he could have won and played a diamond to dummy, then gone after hearts (in which case the defenders must rise with ♦A and take the diamond ruff sooner rather than later to defeat 4♥). At trick two the defenders, again eschewing the diamond ruff to set the game, shifted to a spade which rode around to the queen. One can hardly blame West for now shifting to a spade, since partner might have the king and not the ace (though in that case declarer might have won the first club).

Be that as it may, declarer now drew trump in three rounds and played on diamonds. Osborne ducked twice and now declarer ducked a spade, but East now cashed out for down one. Let's go back to the ending when both opponents follow three times in hearts.

Once West is known to hold three trumps, then since East may not hold five spades for the 1♣ opening, West's shape is almost surely 3=3=1=6. When declarer cashes two more trumps, this is the position as North leads the last one:

	North	
	♠ K7	
	♥ (9)	
	♦ 1098	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ 1093		♠ AJ
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ ---		♦ AJ5
♣ 7543		♣ Q10
	South	
	♠ 62	
	♥ ---	
	♦ KQ76	
	♣ J	

Since a diamond or spade discard by East would be fatal, he discards a club. Declarer now leads a diamond to dummy, a club to the ace, and plays a second diamond. If East wins, he can do no more than cash a spade. If East ducks he is thrown in with the third diamond to lead spades into the tenace.



“Genki de. G’day, mates.”

Asuka Cup

by Barry Rigal

Let's look at a couple of deals from the Asuka Cup. First a defensive problem, rotated to make South declarer.

Dlr: West ♠ 6
 Vul: Both ♥ AJ764
 ♦ K10
 ♣ A8762

♠ 85
 ♥ 9832
 ♦ Q874
 ♣ Q94

With your usual hand of power and quality you are not surprised to see the opponents drive to 3NT, despite your partner opening the bidding.

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Partner's fourth-highest ♠4 goes to your eight and declarer's ten. Next declarer leads a diamond to your ten and you have to decide what to play to trick three.

Is your answer a low spade? Bzzz! Thank you for playing! Next.

Would you shift to a low club? Interesting. Thanks, but no thanks. Since declarer is marked with short hearts a heart shift might be right. It might be — but it isn't. You've eliminated everything else, so it has to be a diamond back, right? A pleasure to do business with you. That is wrong, too.

Here is the full deal, and perhaps I might have tipped you off if I had told you that South was a visiting expert, one not to be trusted any further than you can throw him.

<p>North</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ AJ764 ♦ K10 ♣ A8762</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ 9832 ♦ Q874 ♣ Q94</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ AJ9432 ♥ K105 ♦ 3 ♣ K105</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ KQ107 ♥ Q ♦ AJ9652 ♣ J3</p>

David Bakhshi, playing with Kazuko Tsumori, had tempted you to take the first diamond and unblock the suit for him. Did you fall from grace? If you win the first diamond and return a spade declarer takes ten tricks via the heart finesse. If you duck the first

diamond declarer will probably duck a club to your partner. To defeat the game his best shot is to play the ♥K (a club continuation also works). You must win the club and go back to diamonds, a great deal easier said than done.

From the first session I thought Francis Hinden and Graham Osborne were in the right place at the right time.

<p>Bd: 7 Dlr: South Vul: Both</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♠ KQ92 ♥ AKQ102 ♦ A ♣ Q98</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ --- ♥ 986 ♦ 9853 ♣ AK7643</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ 763 ♥ J53 ♦ KQ106 ♣ J105</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ AJ10854 ♥ 74 ♦ J742 ♣ 2</p>	

Bidding the N/S cards with confidence to 6♠ is far from easy. They had the right methods, since 2♠-2NT asked for shortage. After the 3♣ rebid Osborne could use keycard and bid slam with confidence. Bidding was worth 63 matchpoints out of 82 if they cashed their ace, 74 if they did not.

And for those of you who want to add a touch of delicate modern science to your responses, consider after 2♠-2NT using 3♦ as either the best or worst hands, 3♥/3♠ as good-hand/good-suit with no shortage, and 3♣ as any hand with shortage that isn't the worst. 3♦ then relays and you show good-hand, good-suit again, with the next step asking for shortage. That way you get the best of both worlds.

The following deal was one of the wildest of the day. Depending on what your opponents told you in the auction, East could find himself with a blueprint of the play...or be completely in the dark.

<p>Bd: 23 Dlr: South Vul: Both</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♠ 87432 ♥ AKJ32 ♦ 2 ♣ A3</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ AQJ106 ♥ 5 ♦ 83 ♣ KQJ102</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ K95 ♥ Q7 ♦ AK10654 ♣ 97</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ --- ♥ 109864 ♦ QJ97 ♣ 8654</p>	

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	2♦(♠+♥)	Dbl	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Where North put suit quality in front of quantity and simply overcalled in hearts (a minority position but not an absurd one) East played 4♠ on repeated heart leads, ruffing the second to play a trump. After that, the contract can no longer be made on accurate defense. Let's assume declarer does ruff at trick two. He can now play two rounds of clubs, and when North wins the second and plays a third heart he ruffs in dummy and cashes the ♦AK. If North ruffs in, declarer could, if he wished, discard his losing club, or he could over-ruff and play a cross-ruff for five of the last six tricks.

An alternative approach is for declarer to discard a diamond at trick two (though if clubs were 5-1 instead of diamonds this would look pretty silly). Then he can ruff the third heart in dummy and play clubs. North ducks to the second round and plays a third heart, but declarer can ruff in dummy and score one diamond, one club and the seven trumps separately. In many lines declarer cannot play even one round of trumps early or he loses his entry back to hand when dummy is forced to ruff two hearts.

A well done, we believe, to the three pairs who brought home 4♠x (or in the first case redoubled): Yoshiyuki Saito-Wakana Kawate, Mashuri Takatori-Mitsuko Sugino, and Keiko Koyama-Yoshie Jinbo.

Bd: 6	North		East
Dir: East	♠ A843		♠ J972
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ7		♥ 108543
	♦ J105		♦ Q8
	♣ Q104		♣ 75
West		South	
♠ 105		♠ KQ6	
♥ 2		♥ AJ96	
♦ AK9763		♦ 42	
♣ KJ83		♣ A962	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

I watched this deathtrap for N/S being played at a couple of tables. When Haruko Koshi and Yoko Oosako were N/S they bid as shown, with Koshi taking the sensible route when she stayed low. (My guess to bid 3NT might not have worked but it would have speeded up the play a little!) David Gold led a top diamond against 3♥ and knew at trick two from the spot cards to underlead in diamonds to his partner, Junko Nishimura. She followed her partner's suit-preference by leading a club to his king for a third top diamond. Nishimura discarded a club and declarer ruffed, drew two trumps to find the bad news, then went after spades. When that suit failed to behave she ended with just three spade tricks and four hearts. Minus 100 was not a terrible score, but to make 3♥ declarer has to win the ♣A at trick three, then after ace and another heart to dummy reveals the bad news declarer can ruff a diamond in hand, and play four rounds of spades, ruffing in hand again. Declarer takes one club, three spades, two ruffs in hand and three trumps in dummy — a sort of dummy reversal.

Mike Bell and Alex Hydes did even better. After Hydes intermediately jumped to 2♦ his opponents found the negative double, then explored for 3NT and ended up in 4♥. Bell doubled and the defense collected five tricks after Hydes led out two top diamonds and shifted to trumps. Plus 300 was most of the matchpoints.

