



NEC Bridge Festival

Saturday, February 11, 2017
Bulletin Number 5

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

It's England/USA vs Hackett in the NEC Cup Final

In the quarter-finals the top seed, China Dalian Aoxin, lost to Hackett by 4.5 imps while the second seed, Israel, lost to Ziyijia by just 2.5 imps. What is going on around here? The third seed, England/USA, won by 13 over Wuhan Dongfang BC and the fourth seed, New Zealand, after trailing by 6 at the half, came back to win the match by 30. That set up the semi-finals as England/USA versus Ziyijia and New Zealand versus Hackett. England/USA got off to a 30 imp lead at the half, then gave back 5 to coast to the finish line. Hackett, who certainly seem to have hit their stride after almost falling of the face of the earth on Wednesday, breezed through to the final by taking a 45-imp lead at the half and adding another 8 to it to win by 53. So good luck to the two finalists and our congratulations to the other qualifiers who gave us such an exciting day of playoff bridge yesterday. Check out the address of the real-time updates site for today's final and watch Vugraph at the Bridgebase address, both listed below. (Due to a clerical oversight, a previous version of this bulletin had the wrong teams in the heading. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. —The Editors.)

Quarter-final Results

Team	Carry	1-16	17-32	Final
China Dalian Aoxin	.5	50	47	97
Hackett		55	47	102
Israel	.5	43	32	75
Ziyijia		54	24	78
England/USA	.5	43	41	84
Wuhan Dongfang BC		38	33	71
New Zealand	.5	37	41	78
SARA		43	5	48

Semi-final Results

Team	Carry	1-16	17-32	Final
England/USA	.5	51	18	69
Ziyijia		21	23	44
New Zealand	.5	14	18	32
Hackett		59	26	85

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 21st NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/21st/tabid/1429/Default.aspx>

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

NEC Cup 2017: Conditions of Contest

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

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

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

Tie-Breaks: At the end of the Swiss, ties will be broken by IMP quotient. If the IMP quotients are the same the head-to-head match (if any) will be used. If there is still a tie a coin toss will be used. 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 greater total of IMPs (including fractional IMPs due to penalties or score adjustments) is the winner of the match. In the event of an exact tie the team with the higher position in the Swiss is the winner of the match.

KO-Phase Seating: The team with the higher position from the Swiss has the choice of seating in either of the two 16-board segments of the quarter-finals and semi-finals. If they do not declare their choice before the match starts they will be deemed to have used their rights in the first segment. In the four 16-board segments of the final, the team with the higher position from the Swiss can choose the seating in either the first and fourth segments or the second and third. If they do not declare their choice before the match starts they will be deemed to have chosen the former.

Swiss Pairings: First-round Swiss matches will be 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.

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. Appeals will be permitted until the start of the next session except that they will only be permitted for 30 min after the last session of the Swiss or the last session of a KO match.

Match Scoring: Bridgemate scoring terminals will be used. Match results should be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match). Score corrections should be made before the start of the next session, but they will be accepted after the start of the next session if still timely (i.e., until the draw for the KO for corrections to results in the Swiss, until the start of the next KO round for corrections to the Quarter-final or Semi-final results, or until the award of prize money for the KO final), and if there is no reasonable doubt.

KO Draw: The team finishing 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 5th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 5th-8th group. The same process is repeated for the team finishing 3rd and the team finishing 4th will play against the team not chosen by any of the other three teams. In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

Security: No player may leave the playing area during play without permission, due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online Broadcast and the upload of the results of all matches in progress on the web.

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

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.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices: Mobile phones and other electronic devices capable of receiving/ transmitting information to/from the playing area (e.g., personal computers, tablets, etc.) 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 and other electronic devices in the playing area are prohibited during game time. Players with mobile phones or other electronic devices should surrender their devices to the staff at the service desk and receive a numbered tag for collecting their mobile phones and other devices after the session. 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.

Official Language: English

Other: Any matter not covered here will be decided according to the JCBL Conditions of Contest. If not covered by the JCBL Conditions of Contest it will be decided according to the WBF Conditions of Contest. If not covered by either, the decision of the JCBL Tournament Operations Department will be final.

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

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 Yokohama Open Pairs 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 Yokohama Open Pairs) 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/Yokohama Open Pairs)

Opening Bids

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

Responses and Rebids

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

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

Competitive Bids

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

Carding

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

LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

Yokohama IMP Pairs — 48 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
1	Jen Lee Chi	Kuo Paw Cheng	2641
2	Inon Liran	Ehud Friedlander	2396
3	Ayako Miyakuni	Yukiko Hoshi	2236
4	Jimmi Wallis	Siegfried Konig	1857
5	Allan Livgard	Terje Aa	1633
6	Kazuo Furuta	Hiroki Yokoi	1621
7	Xi Yuheng	Shan Baisong	1412
8	David Bakhshi	Espen Erichsen	1343
9	Masayuki Ino	Kazuhiko Yamada	1093
10	Poon Hua	Kwon Haeryung	1046
11	Akitoshi Sugiura	Masako Hashimoto	1013
12	Akihiko Yamada	Kyoko Ohno	951
13	Chung Isub	Sung Kunghae	917
14	Katsuro Hatoyama	Michiko Hatoyama	842
15	Kim Younhee	Koh Inkyung	738
16	Kim Yoonkyung	Park Jungyoon	270
17	Daisuke Sugimoto	Kyoko Sengoku	259



Yokohama IMP Pairs – 1st



Yokohama IMP Pairs – 2nd



Yokohama IMP Pairs – 3rd

Beginners Cup (under 20 MP) — 11 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
1	Michiko Hara	Keiko Yasui	144
2	Chieko Okabe	Kanako Noguchi	120
3	Reiko Warita	Mari Honjo	83
4	Junko Haga	Takehiko Haga	18



Beginners Cup 20 – 1st

Beginners Cup (under 5 MP) — 12 pairs

Rank	Names		Score
1	Yumiko Sawaragi	Hiromi Amenomori	192
2	Noriko Sakata	Emiko Ebizuka	111
3	Atsuko Ebina	Masae Koyama	110
4	Nobuo Hirai	Atsushi Ikeda	48
5	Miki Yamashita	Sayaka hara	35



Beginners Cup 5 – 1st

NEC Quarter-finals (1st half): New Zealand vs SARA

by Barry Rigal



Tanaka



Cornell



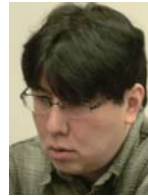
Niekawa



Reid



Teramoto



Takayama



Newell



Bach

New Zealand finished fourth in the qualifying group, blitzing in their last match to enter the top eight. They play perennial qualifiers SARA, the Japanese squad with one of the best records in the NEC recently.

We shall be focusing on this match but keeping an eye on Israel-Zhiyijia as well.

Bd: 1
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ 103
♥ A42
♦ AK103
♣ J1053

West
♠ 9
♥ Q10763
♦ Q764
♣ AK6

East
♠ K874
♥ J95
♦ J52
♣ 982

South
♠ AQJ652
♥ K8
♦ 98
♣ Q74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tanaka	Cornell	Niekawa	Bach
	1♣(2+)	Pass	1♥(♠)
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Reid	Teramoto	Newell	Takayama
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠

All Pass

4♠ may not be cold but you'd expect the field to be there. Takayama followed an entirely normal route to get there. He may have had a twinge of anxiety after the top club lead, but the discouraging club from

East followed by a heart shift would have settled his nerves. He won the heart in dummy, ran the ♠10, and claimed 420 a moment later.

Bach heard the double of 1♥, suggesting his ♥K wasn't working overtime, and elected to invite in spades, suggesting six but maybe not *this* good from his partner's perspective. Since a 2♠ response to 1♣ was 8-11 did this show less or more than that? Cornell had denied three spades already but he didn't have a spade honor and he had nothing to spare, so he guessed to pass and 2♠ made the same ten tricks as in the other room, but for a loss of 6 imps.

Everyone else bid game here.

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ QJ94
♥ 7
♦ 654
♣ A10973

West
♠ 1063
♥ KQ2
♦ Q732
♣ QJ4

East
♠ A82
♥ J10864
♦ J98
♣ 65

South
♠ K75
♥ A953
♦ AK10
♣ K82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Tanaka	Cornell	Niekawa	Bach
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
		2♥	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Newell's 2♥ opener was weak, consistent with five, and his opponents were never going to be able to play for penalties, so the best they could do was play a partscore. Of course when Takayama overcalled 2NT Teramoto was prepared to go on to game in the hopes of finding either a maximum or a spade fit opposite. Against 3NT the defenders led hearts and cashed out when in with the ♠A.

Bach and Cornell constructed an auction to avoid a heart lead, but after winning the first diamond in hand Bach could see he needed spade tricks, even if he could set up clubs for four tricks. He played on spades (5, 6, Q). Niekawa won the first and had to decide what to shift to. (The spade spot cards were unreadable even if you play Smith. But declarer's hand was a read-out for West. He surely had to be missing a spade honor and his decision to play spades before clubs marked him with ♣Kxx. So West could see East needed to play hearts, not diamonds.) Although declarer can always prevail by winning a shift to the ♥J, and can duck or cover a low heart shift, it would have been nice to see Bach put to the test. But when a diamond came back, it was easy for declarer to win and drive the ♣A to take nine tricks. That made it 12-6, New Zealand.

The defense went in identical fashion in both rooms in our other featured match. Indeed, at all four other four tables where a diamond was led, nine tricks were taken.

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ K3
Vul: E/W	♥ K98432
	♦ Q74
	♣ A4
West	East
♠ A104	♠ J85
♥ ---	♥ AQ6
♦ J1098632	♦ AK5
♣ J98	♣ Q753
	South
	♠ Q9762
	♥ J1075
	♦ ---
	♣ K1062

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	1NT	2NT
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	1NT	2NT
3♦	Pass	3NT	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Takayama did very well to save in 4♥ and discovered that it was the best sort of sacrifice—a making one. Teramoto ruffed the opening lead and used his spade and club entries to hand to ruff diamonds, then gave up three tricks in the majors.

Which of Cornell and Bach should have saved? Cornell had a sixth trump but a balanced hand and no reason to assume his partner's extreme shape. Bach thought he had shown his general hand type and was facing a light opener in third seat with a partner who might have opened a four-card suit). It is hard to cast the first stone, but that is after all what they pay us for. I'll give the responsibility to South: the void is surely going to offer three ruffs for partner.

For what it is worth, both Souths in our second match bid on to 4♥ over 3NT though on different auctions. Yicha as East (facing a 3♦ opener) bid 4NT over 4♥ and went down a trick. Bareket as West volunteered 5♦, and on a heart lead he finessed, tested trumps, pitched his second spade loser on the ♥A, then ruffed a heart back to hand to finesse trumps. Now he could lead a club to his nine, and claim when it lost to the ace.

The best result for N/S came when West against Hackett showed diamonds at the four level, then doubled 4♥. His partner pulled to 4♠ and when that was doubled both East and West sat for it. Not the best decision of the day; that one cost 1700 against their own probable game.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q865
Vul: Both	♥ AQ1092
	♦ 5
	♣ 1093
West	East
♠ 9	♠ 742
♥ K743	♥ J86
♦ 98764	♦ AKQJ
♣ 762	♣ AK4
	South
	♠ AKJ103
	♥ 5
	♦ 1032
	♣ QJ85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
3♦	4♦	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(16+)	1♠
Pass	3♥(fit)	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Sometimes the opponents' silence makes your task of evaluating your cards much harder. Here in the Closed Room when Newell showed a strong club and the E/W diamond fit never came to light, South had no inference about short diamonds opposite. He had no room to do more than commit himself to the three or four level; his choice, though unsuccessful, was entirely reasonable. In the other room Cornell had the short diamonds and no reason to assume real strength to his left. His choice over 3♦ might have been between a fit-jump to 4♥ and a splinter, but he was never stopping short of game. 10 somewhat random imps to new Zealand, up 22-21.

In Israel-Zhiyijia Assaf as East opened 1♣, then doubled 4♠ at his next turn. After a club lead declarer had no trouble making +790. But in the other room a 15-17 notrump from Yicha saw Hunji lead a heart against 4♠. Declarer went up with the ace and played to ruff out hearts. After heart, heart ruffed high, ♠A, spade to dummy, heart ruff, and the ♣J, East won and played a third trump. Declarer had run out of trumps and never scored his long club because East could duck the second club and let partner score his ♥K in due course.

Bd: 5	North
Dlr: North	♠ 102
Vul: N/S	♥ 964
	♦ A103
	♣ AKQ63
West	East
♠ K654	♠ J98
♥ AQ8532	♥ K10
♦ 5	♦ Q982
♣ 85	♣ J1074
	South
	♠ AQ73
	♥ J7
	♦ KJ764
	♣ 92

Open Room

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

Closed Room

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

Cornell's combination of actions persuaded Bach that he rated to be facing a minimum hand with five clubs, so he sold out. I'm not sure if 3♦ would be forcing over 3♣; I assume so if playing good/bad 2NT here, maybe showing 5-4 the other way around. Anyway, 3♣ received a top heart lead and an accurate shift to the ♣J. From here Cornell's simplest line is to return a heart, cutting defensive communications and forcing West to win and play back a club. Declarer draws three rounds of trumps pitching spades from dummy, finesses diamonds, ruffs out the suit, then pitches his spade on the fifth diamond. Cornell actually played ace and another diamond, finessing the jack, and now the defenders cross-ruffed the red suits and shifted to spades. Cornell took the ace and appears to have had a blind spot when he led a low diamond, allowing East to score his ♦Q and to play a second spade, promoting the ♣7 for down two.

In the other room Reid led ace and another heart against 4♦. Newell won, shifted to spades, and declarer finessed the queen, losing to the king. Back came a third top heart, Newell discarding a spade. Declarer tried to ruff a spade in dummy with the ♦10 and was overruffed, but he now had the rest. Down one; 3 imps to SARA, leading 24-22.

Elsewhere a 14-16 notrump and a silent West saw one East lead a diamond against 3NT; oops.

The dictum that "If both sides try to play the same strain, one of them is crazy" has proved true over the years. While 1NT in both rooms is occasionally acceptable, it never seems to work well in a suit contract. And so it proved today.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ 864
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ32
	♦ 2
	♣ AKQ105
West	East
♠ A1072	♠ K93
♥ J105	♥ A7
♦ 9754	♦ AJ8
♣ 84	♣ J7632
	South
	♠ QJ5
	♥ 9864
	♦ KQ1063
	♣ 9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
		1♣	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥	All Pass

(1)Either a scramble or a shape relay

In the Closed Room East's pass of 2♣x denied good clubs and a major. 2♦ was intended as a scramble but interpreted as a relay to which 2♥ would have been the correct response. Hence the 3-2 fit, which played about as well as such contracts ever do. After a club lead and top heart shift declarer emerged with his five top winners and nothing else.

In the other room Cornell's 1♥ advance seems the best of a bad set of available calls. Bach might have wanted to pass, but it was forcing after all. So he raised to 2♥ and Cornell's 2NT seems a fair shot, too. With Bach's hand, maybe 3♥ would have been enough but he was not envisaging the wasted values and four-card heart suit opposite. And 3♥ would have been too high as well, in all probability. Cornell won the club lead in hand and tried to pitch spades on the top clubs. West ruffed, underled in spades to get another club ruff, and the two red aces meant two down. That was 9imps to SARA, up 33-22.

Minus 300 wasn't the worst E/W score, as Wuhan collected 800 against 2♦x from England/USA after a weak notrump from East.

Both tables missed a chance for a game here.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ 10954
Vul: Both	♥ AK3
	♦ 85
	♣ KJ63

West
♠ 82
♥ Q75
♦ QJ9743
♣ 95

East
♠ K76
♥ J10986
♦ A2
♣ A74

South
♠ AQJ3
♥ 42
♦ K106
♣ Q1082

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
			1♣(2+)
Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Dbl	3♥	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Whatever Cornell's 3♦ bid was designed to elicit, it didn't do the job. Had he relayed to find partner with a maximum in the 12-14 range (those minor-suit tens are surely worth something and trump honors never go out of style) he might have taken a shot at game. In the other room Reid's double of 3♦ worked exceptionally well to persuade his opponents that the critical honors would be poorly placed. It is hard to blame Takayama for going low at his final turn. Both N/S pairs collected their +200 and moved on forlornly, with SARA still leading 33-22.

Only two of the eight tables bid game here.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ K10
Vul: None	♥ 1064
	♦ 92
	♣ J107652

West
♠ 32
♥ AQ98
♦ Q7543
♣ 84

East
♠ QJ654
♥ KJ752
♦ K106
♣ ---

South
♠ A987
♥ 3
♦ AJ8
♣ AKQ93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl
1NT	2♣	2♥	3♥
Dbl	4♣	Pass	5♣

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
2♣(1)	Pass	4♥	Dbl
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

(1)♥+m

5♥ is a relatively cheap save here. I'm not sure if you can ever manage to escape for down one, but even -300 would be fine. Newell got his side to 4♥ fast, but wasn't prepared to do any more. With Reese's dictum of the five level belonging to the opponents, and the knowledge that he might already have pushed them out of their depth, he settled for defense. At both tables the defenders led hearts and declarer soon claimed 11 tricks.

There were two extreme results here: Israel doubled their opponents in 5♣ and managed to ruff out the spades to set up an overtrick for +650. Meanwhile, Jason Hackett and Hydes talked their opponents out of bidding clubs and stole the hand as E/W in 3♦ down a trick.

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ 863
 Vul: E/W ♥ 108
 ♦ AQ10976
 ♣ 86

West
 ♠ KJ104
 ♥ KJ52
 ♦ J
 ♣ AKJ7

East
 ♠ A2
 ♥ A63
 ♦ K8432
 ♣ Q109

South
 ♠ Q975
 ♥ Q974
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 5432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
	3♦	Pass	Pass

Dbl All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
	2♦	Pass	Pass

Dbl Pass 3NT All Pass

Newell received a diamond lead against 3NT and carefully ducked Teramoto's queen. He won the continuation, crossed to dummy to pass the ♠J, then cashed his winners before risking the heart finesse at trick 12 in search of a second overtrick. Right he was; that saved an imp against the 800 in the other room from 3♦x. (Cornell did not have a 2♦ preempt available but might have bid 3♦ anyway.) With the sight of all four hands the defenders would cash three spades, two hearts and two clubs, then lead a plain card through North. East can overruff the nine or ten and exit in trumps to score the ♦8 at the death. In practice, after three rounds of clubs Cornell ruffed low and ducked a heart, pitched a heart on the fourth club, and was allowed to ruff a heart low to escape

for four down. It was 37-22 now.

Two defenses got the play exactly right after the lead of the ♠A. That was worth 10imps for Lengy-Bareket of Israel and Gao-Gui of Wuhan Dongfang.

New Zealand picked up an overtrick in 1NT, and then were rather unlucky only to push the next board.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ Q85
 Vul: None ♥ Q843
 ♦ A54
 ♣ 843

West
 ♠ A42
 ♥ 72
 ♦ QJ1076
 ♣ Q102

East
 ♠ J1063
 ♥ K10
 ♦ 9832
 ♣ KJ7

South
 ♠ K97
 ♥ AJ965
 ♦ K
 ♣ A965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
			1♥
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥		

(1) 6-9 four trumps

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
			1♥
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	4♥

(1) 6-9 four trumps

How would you play 4♥ on the lead of the ♦Q? Takayama won in hand and led a spade to the queen. When it held he pitched a spade on the ♦A and advanced the ♥Q, covered. With trumps 2-2 he could claim.

Bach followed a sharper line by winning the ♦K, then playing ace and another club. The clubs rated to be blocked or 3-3, and if anyone was short the lead suggested it would be West. As expected, East won the club and played back a diamond, so now Bach did not need the ♠A onside. In the other room 4♥ would have been down if East had the ♠A. Bach also led a low heart from dummy at trick five, which must be the right play in isolation in trumps. But there was no swing; Sara still led 37-23.

Three pairs stayed out of this uninspiring game but it cost them each 6 or 7imps.

Bd: 12 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q1093
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ85
 ♦ 43
 ♣ K92

West
 ♠ 74
 ♥ A432
 ♦ K
 ♣ Q108654

East
 ♠ A82
 ♥ J109
 ♦ QJ1086
 ♣ 73

South
 ♠ KJ65
 ♥ 76
 ♦ A9752
 ♣ AJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

(1) XYZ: to play 2♦ or invite game somewhere

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	All Pass

(1) 13+(!)

Reid pulled the wrong opening bid and then had to describe a minimum hand with long clubs, over which he could pass a constructive 2♦ bid. Against 2♦ the defenders led a heart to the queen, followed by the ♠10, ducked all around. Now came a diamond shift to dummy's king as South ducked. When Newell took his ♠A and led out a top trump, the defenders won the ♦A and shifted back to hearts. Eventually all declarer could score was his two aces and three trumps, since South was poised to overruff him in all three suits.

Minus 150 was no tragedy though, since Bach's 2♠ played very nicely on a club lead. He won cheaply in hand, played ace and another diamond, and won the club continuation to lead a heart up. When West won his ♥A and played on side suits rather than trumps, Bach could crossruff his way to ten tricks for an imp. It was 37-24, now.

In the match between Israel and Zhiyijia, Barel and Zack did well to bid to 4♠ and made it easily enough after a club lead. That held the loss to 13 imps when a solo sacrifice by the Israeli East in 5♦x cost 1400. File that away under "Good ideas we need to reconsider."

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ 2
 Vul: Both ♥ K109652
 ♦ 93
 ♣ A1072

West
 ♠ A98
 ♥ J84
 ♦ Q1086
 ♣ KQ6

East
 ♠ Q107654
 ♥ AQ3
 ♦ AK5
 ♣ 9

South
 ♠ KJ3
 ♥ 7
 ♦ J742
 ♣ J8543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
3♥	2♥	2♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
4♣	2♥	2♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
	Dbl	5♣	All Pass

Charitable as the commentators are, we thumb our collective noses at East's action in the Closed Room. It would have met the fate it deserved had Teramoto not been suffering from a spot of verbal diarrhea. His double of 5♣ persuaded South not to lead a singleton in his partner's suit (you can say what you wish about that choice). After two rounds of clubs Newell guessed trumps, then agonized over whether to take the heart or diamond finesse. But both were working. That was worth an imp when 4♣ made ten tricks after declarer played trumps from the top in the other room. 37-25 now for SARA.

Maybe we were too hasty criticizing East's second bid since Yicha for Zhiyijia did exactly the same. Here South led a heart and got his ruff; down one, 12 imps to Israel, and England/USA profited from similar indiscipline to pick up the same swing.

Back To Terence Reese and his favorite dictum.



"Well what did you *think* the bid meant?"

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ K8752
 Vul: None ♥ AQ105
 ♦ J3
 ♣ 104

West
 ♠ A
 ♥ K98742
 ♦ 2
 ♣ KJ872

East
 ♠ 63
 ♥ J63
 ♦ AKQ76
 ♣ 965

South
 ♠ QJ1094
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 109854
 ♣ AQ3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
2♥	4♠	1♦	1♠
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
1♦(♥)	1♠	2♦(♥)	4♥
5♥	Dbl	Pass	5♣
Dbl	All Pass		

Which action do you like least here? There are so many to choose from. In the Open Room Niekawa's opening bid shocks me to my core, but there again I'm heading rapidly to senescence. Thereafter nobody selected anything other than marginally unlucky calls, but Cornell was ready to administer the axe to 5♥. Tanaka won the spade lead and crossed to a diamond honor to lead a club to his jack. When that held he might have tried a heart to the six, but the defenders would still have taken four tricks via the club ruff. In any event, he led a heart to the jack and played a second club. Bach won his ace and forced declarer with a spade, but declarer was in control and simply gave up his three trump tricks.

In the other room Reid concealed his hand type at his second turn, and now Takayama's decision to remove his partner's double was highly undisciplined in the context of his previous action—unless the double of 5♥ was action with pass being forcing—and the bid was not alerted on BBO. The defenders cashed two diamonds and shifted to clubs against 5♠x, declarer rejecting the club finesse and settling for -300. The 12 imps to New Zealand tied up the match at 37-37.

In our second match Israel collected 300 from 5♥x, but against 4♠ Bareket led the ♠A to look at dummy and work out what to do, saw the ♠6 from partner and the ♠9 from declarer...and shifted to a club. That was -420.

After a quiet 2♠ for +140 in each room, SARA headed for the break with a lead, thanks to this.

Bd: 16 North
 Dir: West ♠ A2
 Vul: E/W ♥ QJ6
 ♦ K102
 ♣ AKJ52

West
 ♠ 97
 ♥ 98432
 ♦ QJ93
 ♣ 76

East
 ♠ KQ10643
 ♥ A
 ♦ A87
 ♣ 1098

South
 ♠ J85
 ♥ K1075
 ♦ 654
 ♣ Q43

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbl
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	1♣	2♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Norths described their hand in approximately the same way, but Takayama had more reason to bid on because his partner could easily have had additional playing strength, whereas Cornell was surely going to possess quasi-balanced shape. Both defenses led a top spade, won the ♥A, cleared spades, and saw declarer claim ten tricks. But that was 6 imps to SARA, leading 43-37 with 16 to go.



"You can look...but you better not touch."

NEC Quarter-finals (2nd half): China Dalian Aoxin vs Hackett

by Rich Colker



Hydes



Huo



Jason



Li



Paul



Chen



Senior



Hu

Hackett entered the second half of their NEC Cup quarter-final against China Dalian Aoxin (henceforth China DA) leading 55-50.

declarers tested diamonds and eventually took 11 tricks for a push at 460. Still 55-50, Hackett.

Bd: 17 North
 Dlr: North ♠ AJ3
 Vul: None ♥ 106432
 ♦ 106
 ♣ 962

West
 ♠ Q
 ♥ J87
 ♦ AKQ843
 ♣ AKJ

East
 ♠ K754
 ♥ KQ9
 ♦ 92
 ♣ 10754

South
 ♠ 109862
 ♥ A5
 ♦ J75
 ♣ Q83

Bd: 18 North
 Dlr: East ♠ AKJ95
 Vul: N/S ♥ K1074
 ♦ J
 ♣ 963

West
 ♠ 76432
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 94
 ♣ AK742

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q532
 ♦ A752
 ♣ QJ1085

South
 ♠ Q108
 ♥ AJ86
 ♦ KQ10863
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Huo	Jason	Chen
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) Alerted (unbal?)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Paul	Hu	Senior
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Huo	Jason	Chen
		Pass	1♦
2♣	Dbl	5♣	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Li	Paul	Hu	Senior
		Pass	1♦
1♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The two systems in use may have some implications for their 2NT rebids here but eventually both tables arrived in a quite reasonable 3NT (5♦ may be less susceptible to problems such as those a spade lead might create against 3NT). Both tables received a heart lead to the king and ace and a heart back. Both

In the Open Room the Jason-Hydes defense was right perfect—as it needed to be. Hydes led his heart, dummy's ten holding, and when Chen called for a trump Jason won the ace, returned the ♥Q for a suit-preference ruff, received his spade ruff in return, and soon the player were inscribing -200 on their scorecards.

In the Closed Room 4♥ had lots of play and the defense really never mounted a challenge. Li led the ♣A, ruffed by Senior, who then led a diamond to the jack and ace. A second club ruff followed and now declarer pitched dummy's last club on the ♦K, cashed the ♥A, led the ♥J to the ace, and claimed 10 tricks. That was +620 and Hackett was first on the second-half scoreboard with 13 more imps, their lead now up to 18 at 68-50.

Five of the eight tables played major-suit games making (one in spades, four in hearts) but 4♠ also went down on a club lead. The murkiest result came when Bach-Cornell for New Zealand were doubled in 1♠ for takeout, left in for penalty, and escaped to 2♣x, doubled for 380.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ 9732
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQ4
 ♦ 542
 ♣ J72

West
 ♠ Q54
 ♥ 98
 ♦ Q986
 ♣ K1086

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ K107532
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ A954

South
 ♠ AKJ106
 ♥ J6
 ♦ K1073
 ♣ Q3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	3♣(1)	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

(1) Bergen-like 4-card spade raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

Both tables overbid here, though to slightly different degrees. In the Open Room, where Chen knew his partner had a 4-card raise, he bid an aggressive game (trusting partner to have the majority, if not the totality, of his values outside the heart suit). To our thinking, even that leaves a lot to be desired for game to be reasonable. For example, switch Huo's red suits and there are four top losers. Give Huo a better fit, perhaps ♠xxxx ♥xxx ♦Ax ♣KJxx, and declarer has three top losers and both black-suit queens to worry about. As it was, when dummy appeared 4♠ had six potential losers (one spade,

one heart, two diamonds and two clubs) and the play fully lived up to its potential; down three, -150.

Papa-Senior's auction in the Closed Room looks far more reasonable. (Again, partner did not need to have virtually all of his values in RHO's suit, where they would be useless.) The play followed much the same line as at the other table and Senior finished an unlucky down two, -100, adding 2 imps to the Hackett lead, 70-50.

Each table made a partscore in New Zealand-SARA for the first mentioned team. All the other six pairs went down; the big gainers were Liu-Liu at +400 against 4♥.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ QJ742
 Vul: Both ♥ QJ
 ♦ 52
 ♣ A432

West
 ♠ 1063
 ♥ 1083
 ♦ 94
 ♣ KJ1096

East
 ♠ 95
 ♥ K76
 ♦ KQJ1087
 ♣ 75

South
 ♠ AK8
 ♥ A9542
 ♦ A63
 ♣ Q8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
Pass	Pass	3♦	3NT
All Pass			

Huo-Chen's 4♠ in the Open Room looks like a fine contract—but that is not how things turned out. Huo ducked Jason's ♦K lead, won the ♦Q continuation, and erred by cashing two rounds of spades, ending in hand, to take the heart finesse. When Jason accurately covered the first heart the suit blocked and now Huo lacked the entries to both ruff the suit good and to return to enjoy the winners. So he fell back, hoping the ♣K was onside and when that failed he had to lose one diamond and three clubs to finish down one, -100.

Hu's 3♦ preempt in the Closed Room denied Papa-Senior the chance to find their 5-3 spade fit so Senior

parked the Bentley in 3NT, which proved to be a fine spot (and by “fine” we mean “making”). Senior won the second diamond, ran his spades, finessed the heart, and cashed out for +600. Another 12 imps to Hackett, who led now 82-50. And yes, after one round of diamonds East might have hitched his wagon to a club shift and then a star might have fallen. Lengy-Bareket found this defense for two down; nicely done.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q432
 Vul: N/S ♥ K75
 ♦ 43
 ♣ AK42

West
 ♠ J106
 ♥ AJ102
 ♦ 876
 ♣ J85

East
 ♠ A75
 ♥ 43
 ♦ KJ952
 ♣ 763

South
 ♠ K98
 ♥ Q986
 ♦ AQ10
 ♣ Q109

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
All Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT

Both sides bid to the good 3NT. In the Open Room Hydes, aware of Papa’s penchant for neutral leads, tried the ♦8. Chen won the ten, crossed to the ♣K, and led a spade to the nine and ten. A second diamond went to the queen, followed by a heart to the king, a spade to the king, and Chen exited with a spade. A heart through and a club back left declarer with ten winners (two spades, one heart, three diamonds and four clubs) for +630.

In the Closed Room the defense was far more friendly. Li led an unfortunate ♥10, presenting Senior with an extra trick in that suit and now a club to dummy and a low spade off saw Hu rise with the ace to present Senior with a second overtrick; +660 and 1 1 imp to Hackett, who now led 83-50.

Everyone made 3NT here except for the England/USA declarer on a diamond lead, who misguessed

hearts and then clubs.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ Q3
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQ98
 ♦ QJ103
 ♣ J52

West
 ♠ 10
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AK9875
 ♣ AQ963

East
 ♠ J8765
 ♥ J654
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 1084

South
 ♠ AK942
 ♥ K1073
 ♦ 42
 ♣ K7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
2NT	Dbl	Pass	1♠
3♠	4♥	3♣	3♥
		All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
2NT	Dbl	Pass	1♠
3♣	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	3♥
		All Pass	

Against 4♥ both Wests led a high diamond. In the Closed Room Li, playing upside-down carding, found it easy to read Hu’s ♦6 as a singleton and continued with a suit-preference low diamond for a club return and after four tricks Senior was down one, –50. In the Open Room the Brits were playing standard carding so at trick two Hydes got off lead with the ♠10. Chen rose with the queen, cashed the ♥AQ, noting trumps were 4-1, led a low spade to the nine, cashed the ♠AK, and exited with a diamond. Hydes ducked, Jason ruffed and got off lead with the ♥J to Chen’s king. But with only one trump left in dummy Chen could only manage to take two of the remaining four tricks for a push at –50. Still 83-50, Hackett.

Brock declared 4♥ as South after West had shown the minors. She received a diamond lead and heart shift. She won cheaply in dummy, drew a second trump with ♥A, guessed to finesse in spades, ruffed the third spade high, finessed trumps, then cashed her spade winners. In the three-card ending she exited in diamonds and claimed ten tricks no matter who had the ♣A. Very nice, and since teammates had made +110 this was an 11 imp pickup.

Bd: 23
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 86
 ♥ AK10972
 ♦ 87
 ♣ AQ9

West
 ♠ Q9
 ♥ 843
 ♦ KJ1065
 ♣ J73

East
 ♠ 10754
 ♥ QJ5
 ♦ 943
 ♣ K82

South
 ♠ AKJ32
 ♥ 6
 ♦ AQ2
 ♣ 10654

Both Souths played 4♠ here on a diamond lead. The two declarers' lines of play differed markedly (one ruffed a diamond in dummy, the other set up hearts), but both emerged with 10 tricks for a push at +620. Still 83-50, Hackett.

Bd: 24
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ QJ4
 ♥ K8742
 ♦ 75
 ♣ Q109

West
 ♠ 98762
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A8
 ♣ KJ874

East
 ♠ K53
 ♥ J96
 ♦ KQJ942
 ♣ 2

South
 ♠ A10
 ♥ A1053
 ♦ 1063
 ♣ A653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

In the Open Room Chen led the ♠A against 2♦ and quickly switched to a trump. Jason won in hand and tabled the ♣2, rising with the king when Chen ducked (Chen's lead of the ♠A suggested he might have had all of them and led the spade because the king figured to be on his left). Jason now ran all but one of his remaining trumps and along the way the defense pitched spades, so Jason emerged with an overtrick when his ♠3 took a trick; +110.

Against Hu's 2♦ contract in the Closed Room Senior

led a trump. Hu won in hand, led a club, and he too guessed to fly with the king when Senior ducked. A spade to the king lost to the ace and Senior accurately played a second trump. Hu ruffed, drew the last trump, and got out with a heart to the queen and king but could do no better than score his remaining diamonds for down two, -100; 5 moreimps to Hackett, whose lead was now 88-50.

Jason was the only declarer to bring home a diamond partscore here.

Bd: 25
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ Q43
 ♥ QJ1074
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ K85

West
 ♠ 96
 ♥ A95
 ♦ 874
 ♣ AQJ43

East
 ♠ AKJ7
 ♥ K62
 ♦ K103
 ♣ 1062

South
 ♠ 10852
 ♥ 83
 ♦ AJ952
 ♣ 97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	Pass	1♣	1♦
2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

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

Chen found the killing lead of a low diamond (deciding he couldn't really play for partner to get in twice to lead the suit through). Jason won the queen with the king, led a club to the queen, ducked, returned to hand with the ♥K, and passed the ♣10 to the king. Back came a diamond, and the defense cashed out for down one, -100.

Senior, a devout student of Papa's neutral-lead philosophy, led the ♥8 and now 3NT was cold (with the help of the spade finesse). Plus 600 was 12imps back to China DA, trailing now 88-62.

Other than at this table, both pairs made the notrump game in New Zealand-SARA, but nowhere else.

Bd: 26 North
 Dir: East ♠ A1064
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ5
 ♦ K73
 ♣ 985

West
 ♠ K832
 ♥ 98
 ♦ 952
 ♣ KJ106

East
 ♠ J95
 ♥ KJ10642
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AQ3

South
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ 73
 ♦ AQJ864
 ♣ 742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
		1♥	2♦
Dbl	Rdbl	2♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Against 2♥ in the Open Room Chen led a club, dummy's jack held, and Jason passed the ♥8. On the next heart Huo rose with the ace and led a diamond to partner, who fell from grace by switching to the ♠Q. Jason had no trouble covering and now could claim 10 tricks for +170.

In the Closed Room Papa-Senior's 3NT had play but with East having bid hearts twice its chances of success had to be rated rather poor. Hu led the ♣A and followed up with the queen. Li overtook and cashed the suit out, Hu pitching the ♥J on the fourth club. This must have been discouraging (upside-down signals?) since Li now switched to the ♠3, giving Paul a chance to bring home the bacon by riding this around to dummy's queen. Instead, he reasonably played for a squeeze against Hu. (Had Li led a heart Paul would have had no option but to play for the squeeze.) He rose with the ace and ran all the diamonds. In the two-card ending, dummy had the lead with the ♠Q and a heart, declarer had the ♥AQ. Had Hu held both major-suit kings he would have been squeezed to give up either the ♠K or his heart guard. Of course had Hu held those cards no squeeze would have operated had Li simply not cashed the third (and fourth) clubs but shifted to a heart at trick three. (Easier said than done.) Who do you trust? Poor Papa bear. (We bet you haven't heard that before.) That was 2 imps back to Hackett, leading now 90-62.

For New Zealand Newell brought home 3NT as North on the friendly ♥J lead. We might even have been up to it ourselves after that start.

Bd: 27 North
 Dir: South ♠ J105
 Vul: None ♥ 9
 ♦ 952
 ♣ AK10963

West
 ♠ KQ8643
 ♥ KQ7
 ♦ 6
 ♣ Q72

East
 ♠ A
 ♥ J8652
 ♦ KQJ843
 ♣ J

South
 ♠ 972
 ♥ A1043
 ♦ A107
 ♣ 854

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Huo's defense of (the makeable) 4♥ is difficult to understand, given that Jason had shown length in both red suits during the auction. Chen led the ♣4 to the king and at trick two Huo tried to cash the ♣A. Jason ruffed, played a heart to the king, and when he led a spade to the ace the contract was no longer makeable against best defense (he needed to play either a club or a diamond). In hand, Jason led a slightly sneaky ♦J. Chen was having none of that. He rose with the ace, and now had to play ace and a second heart to ensure the contract's defeat (South has to score another trump trick). Instead, he led a third club to dummy's queen and Jason was back in control. He just needed to ruff a spade to hand and run diamonds through South, who would be helpless to score more than his ♥A. But Jason led a low heart to the jack and ace and now the defense was back in control. Chen got out with a spade (any card works) to dummy's king and Jason cashed dummy's high heart and spade winners but had to concede the setting trick to Chen's last trump for down one, -50.

In the Closed Room Li-Hu chose an unmakeable 3NT contract over the cold 4♥. The winning defense

would have been the ♣K lead, a red card to South, and a second club—death! Instead, Papa reasonably led the ♥9. Senior won the ace and switched to the ♠7. (Wish you'd bid those clubs now?!) Hu won the ace and now had a mess to untangle. He tabled the ♦K and—it held! He crossed to dummy with a heart, tested the spades, and quickly claimed nine tricks for +400; 10 moreimps to China DA, trailing now by “only” 18 at 90-72.

Bd: 28
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ KJ5
 ♥ AKJ83
 ♦ A
 ♣ AQ86

West	East
♠ AQ8	♠ 109732
♥ Q764	♥ 1095
♦ 5	♦ 1074
♣ KJ1094	♣ 53

South
 ♠ 64
 ♥ 2
 ♦ KQJ98632
 ♣ 72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1♣	Dbl	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
1♣	Dbl	1♥(♠)	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Is Huo a trusting soul or what? The play in 6♦ was straight forward and Chen soon scored up +1370. In the Closed Room Papa-Senior settled in 5♦ (trust, Paul, trust) which presented even less of a problem in the play (if something of a problem when it came to scoring up); +620. China DA added 13 moreimps to their total and trailed Hackett by a mere 5imps now at 90-85. Just four boards to go.

Only one other pair missed slam here.

Bd: 29
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q763
 ♥ KJ63
 ♦ 875
 ♣ KQ

West

♠ AK982	East
♥ Q9	♠ J105
♦ 92	♥ 87542
♣ A1093	♦ J104
	♣ 86

South
 ♠ 4
 ♥ A10
 ♦ AKQ63
 ♣ J7542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Against Huo's 3NT in the Open Room Jason led the ♠J. Hydes overtook, cashed his other top spade and got out with the ♠8. Huo cashed the diamonds, pitching a spade and the ♣K (in case a defender felt pressure to divest himself of the ♣A), then played ace and a heart. When the ♥Q appeared he was home free; +600.

Papa-Senior's 2♦ wasn't exactly a stretch for a pair who held 25 hcp between them. We'll spare you the details of the play except to say that he made it (okay, with a couple of overtricks) and scored up +130. Another 10imps to China DA who now had the lead (after having trailed by 38 at one point) at 95-90. Three boards to go.

The results were all over the place here: partscores in England/USA-Wuhan, games in New Zealand-SARA, and Zhiyijia defeating 5♦ in one room while making 950 on the ♣8 lead in the other. That put them back in front against Israel by 3imps.

Bd: 30
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ ---
 ♥ AQ8765
 ♦ K83
 ♣ A1086

West	East
♠ 652	♠ QJ74
♥ 104	♥ K3
♦ AQ1065	♦ 972
♣ K92	♣ J743

South
 ♠ AK10983
 ♥ J92
 ♦ J4
 ♣ Q5

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Huo</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Chen</i>
<i>Li</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hu</i>	<i>Senior</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

oth Easts led the $\diamond 2$ to the ace and the $\diamond Q$ was returned. Both declarers won and tabled a low heart. In the Closed Room Hu won his king and Papa eventually settled for +420. In the Open Room Jason ducked when the heart was led and now Huo came home with an overtrick. Another imp for China DA, who led by 6 at 96-90. Two boards to go.

Bd: 31	North		
Dlr: South	\spadesuit AQ5		
Vul: N/S	\heartsuit KJ		
	\diamond 953		
	\clubsuit AK984		
West		East	
\spadesuit K10982		\spadesuit 643	
\heartsuit 95		\heartsuit Q10642	
\diamond K1062		\diamond J	
\clubsuit J10		\clubsuit Q753	
	South		
	\spadesuit J7		
	\heartsuit A873		
	\diamond AQ874		
	\clubsuit 62		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Huo	Jason	Chen
$1\spadesuit$	Dbl	$2\spadesuit$	$1\diamond$
Pass	3NT	All Pass	$3\heartsuit$
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Li	Paul	Hu	Senior
$1\spadesuit$	$2\clubsuit$	$2\heartsuit$	$1\diamond$
Pass	3NT	All Pass	Pass

A spade was led against 3NT in both rooms. In the Open Room Huo covered with the jack, ducked Hydes's king, won the spade return, and played a diamond to the jack, queen and king. In again with the third spade Huo passed the $\diamond 9$ to the ten and Hydes quickly cashed two spades; down one, -100.

In the Closed Room Papa also played dummy's jack but won the king with the ace to lead a diamond, losing to the king as in the other room. A second spade came back. Papa ducked and curiously Li switched to the $\heartsuit 9$. Papa won the king, passed the $\diamond 9$ to the ten, and now had nine tricks since Li's spades had not been set up. To make matters worse, when Li exited with a club Papa cashed the $\spadesuit Q$ and ran his winners, squeezing Hu between hearts and clubs for an overtrick; +630. That was 12 imps back to Hackett, who regained the lead going into the final board, 102-96.

3NT made at every table in the other three matches. So why was that? Because when the diamonds go

pear-shaped on you, rise with the $\diamond A$ on the second round and set up clubs instead. The fall of the jack-ten means you can take four clubs, a diamond and two tricks in each major.

Bd: 32	North		
Dlr: West	\spadesuit K7532		
Vul: E/W	\heartsuit 854		
	\diamond AJ765		
	\clubsuit ---		
West		East	
\spadesuit Q96		\spadesuit 84	
\heartsuit Q9		\heartsuit A73	
\diamond K842		\diamond 1093	
\clubsuit K762		\clubsuit J8543	
	South		
	\spadesuit AJ10		
	\heartsuit KJ1062		
	\diamond Q		
	\clubsuit AQ109		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Huo	Jason	Chen
Pass	$1\spadesuit$	Pass	$1\clubsuit(1)$
Pass	$3\heartsuit$	Pass	$2\heartsuit$
All Pass			$4\heartsuit$
(1) Precision			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Li	Paul	Hu	Senior
$1\spadesuit$	Dbl	$2\spadesuit$	$1\diamond$
Pass	3NT	All Pass	$3\heartsuit$

Against $4\heartsuit$ in the Open Room Hydes led the $\clubsuit 6$. Chen won the queen, pitching a spade from dummy, then led the $\clubsuit 10$, covered and ruffed. Next he led a trump off dummy and inserted the jack. Hydes won, got out with the $\heartsuit 9$ to Jason's ace, and back came a club. Chen won, drew the last trump, led the $\diamond Q$, covered, and now Chen did not need to guess the $\spadesuit Q$; +450.

In the Closed Room Li led the $\diamond 4$. Senior ducked to his queen, ruffed a club, and took the heart finesse, losing to the queen. Back came the $\diamond 2$ and this time Senior won the ace (why?) pitching a club, knocked out the $\heartsuit A$, and inserted the $\clubsuit Q$ on the club return for just 10 tricks; +420. But that was enough. China DA picked up 1 imp on the final deal, but lost the match by 9 imps, 102-97. Congratulations to Team Hackett, who advanced to the 2017 NEC Cup semi-finals after their second great escape in a row. They had needed two game swings in the last three deals to defeat England/Norway yesterday; would anyone be prepared to bet against the team of destiny?

NEC Semi-finals (1st half): England/USA vs Zhiyijia

by Barry Rigal



Yin



McCallum



Deng



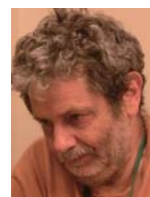
Brock



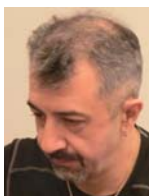
J. Liu



Y. Liu



Myers



Tuncok

The first deal out saw a battle of wits in 4♥.

Bd: 1
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ KQJ742
♥ Q4
♦ J4
♣ 532

West
♠ A105
♥ A10975
♦ 1052
♣ 104

East
♠ 963
♥ KJ86
♦ KQ
♣ AQ97

South
♠ 8
♥ 32
♦ A98763
♣ KJ86

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yin	McCallum	Deng	Tuncok
	3♠	Dbf	Pass

4♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	J. Liu	Myers	Y. Liu
	2♠	Dbf	Pass
3♥(1)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) constructive

McCallum's preempting style is straight from the school of "Think of a number and double it." Partnership style is not to pass weak hands with five-card suits non-vulnerable, so this was far too shapely for a two-level preempt. Deng did well to double and get his side to 4♥, where after a spade lead won in hand declarer could see little prospect but to eliminate diamonds. When Tuncok won and returned the suit, the fall of the jack let Yin guess to draw trumps in two rounds, pitch a spade on the ♦10, and finesse clubs. South was endplayed on winning that

trick either to lead a club into the tenace or to give a ruff-sluff to let declarer ruff in hand and pitch another spade from dummy.

In the other room Jing Liu led a top spade. Declarer won and played a diamond. Yingbao Liu ducked and won the next, returning the suit to let North ruff and kill the discard. Declarer overruffed North, drew trump in two rounds, and passed the ♣10 for the same endplay. When a diamond came back Brock could pitch a spade from hand and ruff in dummy, and her hand was high except for her spade loser. No swing and nicely done.

In our other semi-final match Reid won the spade lead as West and immediately finessed in hearts; now he was down at once and the defenders could break up the endplay in clubs to collect five tricks. The diamond play from the other room saw Paul Hackett collect 11 tricks.

Bd: 2
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ A1064
♥ Q754
♦ 643
♣ J4

West
♠ J85
♥ AJ
♦ QJ7
♣ Q9853

East
♠ 72
♥ K1086
♦ A1085
♣ A102

South
♠ KQ93
♥ 932
♦ K92
♣ K76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yin	McCallum	Deng	Tuncok
		1♦	Pass

2NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
		1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Yingbao's spade lead let the defenders cash the first four tricks and squeezed East into pitching two clubs. North shifted to a club and declarer led a heart to the jack—his best play for the contract, in isolation. The defenders cashed out their club winner and declarer claimed down two.

In the other room even after a heart lead at trick one 2NT was far from cold. Yin won the trick in hand and led a club to the ten and king (it doesn't seem to help to duck today). The defenders cashed out spades, declarer pitching diamonds from both hands, and played a second heart. Declarer could now cash out clubs and hearts for eight tricks and 6 imps.

Hackett increased their lead by 4 imps when they stopped in 1NT and made it while setting 2NT in the other room.

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ AK83
Vul: E/W	♥ 1096
	♦ 8532
	♣ J4

West	East
♠ J107642	♠ Q5
♥ A3	♥ 754
♦ ---	♦ KJ4
♣ 109763	♣ KQ852
South	
♠ 9	
♥ KQJ82	
♦ AQ10976	
♣ A	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
			1♣(16+)
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥(1)
Pass	3NT(2)	Pass	4♣(1)
Pass	4♥(3)	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT(4)	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦(5)	All Pass	

- (1) Relays
- (2) 4342
- (3) 3 controls
- (4) Spade control
- (5) No diamond control

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
			1♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Dbl	6♦
All Pass			

There are not many players left who would pass a strong club with the West cards, but we found one today. After McCallum's balanced minimum positive response of 2♦, Tuncok's symmetric relay found North's precise shape at the second bid (normally it takes 2-3 relays), then a control ask and Variable Cue-bidding established dummy did not have the ♦K, so they could stay out of slam. 11 tricks made when McCallum won the spade lead in hand, led a diamond to the ace, then needed to come back to hand with a heart to play a trump up and not run into a heart ruff. Today the cards forgave.

Of course looking at all four hands you would make ♦6. You would take two finesses in trumps using the ♥10 as an entry. But declarer did not have x-ray vision and simply finessed the queen at his first turn; 10 imps to England/USA instead of 11 the other way.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ A
Vul: Both	♥ 932
	♦ Q87543
	♣ 953

West	East
♠ 10987643	♠ 2
♥ KQ	♥ AJ8765
♦ ---	♦ AK962
♣ K762	♣ Q
South	
♠ KQJ5	
♥ 104	
♦ J10	
♣ AJ1084	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

For the second deal in a row West for Zhiyijia took no action with a hand that you or I would have rather

eaten a bug than pass (and please don't ask what McCallum would have done with it—but I'm guessing 4♠). Whether you agree with either of the last bids found by East and West in the Open Room, the fact remains they play a partscore that went down, while in the other room Brock found a way out of spades by preempting in that suit, then raising hearts when her partner bid them. How old fashioned: trusting partner.

Myers won the diamond lead in hand and played the ♣Q. Yingbao won, crossed to his partner's ♠A and a trump back allowed declarer to ruff one diamond and throw one on the ♣K. That was 10 tricks and 12imps. England/USA led 22-6.

Reid-Newell played a heart partscore, while Michael Cornell as North found his way to a perfectly acceptable strain if you just look at the N/S cards. Alas for him, 3♦x wasn't much fun on the Hawaii 5-0, and when he lost two hearts, four diamonds and a club he was 800 in the glue.

The next board was a mundane vulnerable game, marked only by the fact that the same West who had passed on the two previous deals chose to double a third-in-hand 1♠ at favorable vulnerability with a 1-5-4-3 nine-count. Truly, vulnerability (as well as conscience) doth make cowards of us all.

Bd: 6 North
 Dlr: East ♠ AQ9
 Vul: E/W ♥ A1042
 ♦ 842
 ♣ 1097

West
 ♠ K10654
 ♥ Q97
 ♦ K
 ♣ AK64

East
 ♠ J82
 ♥ K653
 ♦ 65
 ♣ Q852

South
 ♠ 73
 ♥ J8
 ♦ AQJ10973
 ♣ J3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
		Pass	3NT
Dbl	5♣	Pass	5♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
		Pass	3♦
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

Another difference in styles. Tuncok could not open

3♦ as South with that hand (take away the ♦A and make it a major-suit card and now we are talking). When 3NT got doubled McCallum might have contented herself with a pass-or-correct action at the four level but she had tried being cautious once and found she didn't like it. 5♦ undoubled drifted the two down that you or I might expect. But since 3NT in the other room rated to make if the ♦K was onside, and could have been made today by a very tall declarer, the loss of twoimps was cheap at the price for England/USA. They led 22-8.

Both Wests then played 1♠, Brock having opened it, Yin having gone via a strong club and 1♠ rebid. Both won the opening lead and collected +110 by playing ♠KQ7543 facing ♠102 by leading low to the 10 and having their LHO duck from ♠J98.

Let's revisit the wonderful world of McCallum preempts. Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy ride.

Bd: 8 North
 Dlr: West ♠ J74
 Vul: None ♥ K98
 ♦ K10532
 ♣ 98

West
 ♠ KQ9832
 ♥ J6532
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 4

East
 ♠ A106
 ♥ 1074
 ♦ J
 ♣ J107652

South
 ♠ 5
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ A98764
 ♣ AKQ3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♣(KCB)
4♦	4♥(1)	Pass	6♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
2♠	Pass	4♠	Dbl
All Pass			

If you had to guess who would preempt on this deal you might have guessed it would be West, though not if you've been reading this set carefully till now. No, it was McCallum who stepped in with her hand of power and quality when West bided his time at his third opportunity of the set. Yes, the first two hadn't gone well, but a man has to stick with his principles. After the 2♦ opening Tencok must have expected a trump loser or two but he was prepared to launch Keycard Blackwood. When West came in to show

the majors McCallum could show one keycard and that was enough for South to bid slam and for declarer to claim at trick two. (Rumor has it that the N/S step responses to keycard start with: "Zero and you will be sorry you asked." In context, North had a moose.)

In the other room E/W jammed the works to 4♠ quickly and North had no reason to expect partner to have six cards in his long suit. Plus 300 was not a great return but did anyone do anything silly here? Or what about in the New Zealand-Hackett match where Senior opened 3♣ in third seat as East. Bach overcalled 3NT and played there, down two when the defenders meanly led spades. That was 14 away when Hackett-Hydes did well to reach slam in the face of their opponents major-suit intervention.

Whatever your answer to that question, you may have a more definite opinion on the next deal, though apportioning blame must be a matter of determining partnership agreement.

Bd: 9
Dlr: North
Vul: E/W

North
♠ AKQ
♥ 1075
♦ A10863
♣ 72

West
♠ J9643
♥ 4
♦ K72
♣ AQ106

East
♠ 85
♥ AKQ9863
♦ J5
♣ K9

South
♠ 1072
♥ J2
♦ Q94
♣ J8543

Open Room

West <i>Yin</i>	North <i>McCallum</i>	East <i>Deng</i>	South <i>Tuncok</i>
	1♦(1+)	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Brock</i>	North <i>J. Liu</i>	East <i>Myers</i>	South <i>Y. Liu</i>
1♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

4♥ on a diamond lead was scary, but with the ♦Q onside and hearts 3-2 nothing could stop 10 tricks. That may have been just a touch fortunate but in the other room the system accident led to East declaring an undignified spot. He played with great pertinacity and scrambled six tricks, but that was still 14 imps to England/USA, leading 47-9.

After Jason Hackett opened 1♦ Newell elected to double, which got his partner to 4♠x; down one for -200 was especially unfortunate when it turned out Senior-Hackett had missed 4♥ in the other room and had played a partscore.

A quiet game followed, both E/W pairs recording a vulnerable game instead of defending 3♠x for a likely 800 or 1100. Then we were back in the world of preempting in the 21st century.

Bd: 11
Dlr: South
Vul: None

North
♠ 10762
♥ A3
♦ AK2
♣ J1054

West
♠ AQ4
♥ Q965
♦ Q1076
♣ A8

East
♠ KJ85
♥ K2
♦ J984
♣ Q63

South
♠ 93
♥ J10874
♦ 53
♣ K972

Open Room

West <i>Yin</i>	North <i>McCallum</i>	East <i>Deng</i>	South <i>Tuncok</i>
			2♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Brock</i>	North <i>J. Liu</i>	East <i>Myers</i>	South <i>Y. Liu</i>
			Pass

1NT All Pass

Brock won the spade lead in dummy to lead a diamond to her queen. North won and shifted to a top club and got in again with the ♦A to play the ♣10 through, setting up six tricks for the defenders. Nicely done for a normal result.

By contrast, Tuncok had more than enough for a non-vulnerable weak two. That ended the auction and the defenders played ace and another club. Declarer won and played two rounds of trumps, letting East win and give his partner the ruff. Two more spade tricks meant down one, but a gain of an imp to make it 49-9 to England/USA.

Bd: 12
Dlr: West
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AK76
♥ 1072
♦ 7
♣ QJ832

West
♠ ---
♥ AQ983
♦ KQ1092
♣ K106

East
♠ QJ1094
♥ 54
♦ J64
♣ A97

South
♠ 8532
♥ KJ6
♦ A853
♣ 54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	3♠
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

3♦ in the Open Room handles very nicely after a top spade lead, ruffed. Declarer can keep control despite the 4-1 trump break and simply finesse hearts, then ruff out the suit and draw trumps, discarding if forced. That comes to eleven tricks, losing a diamond and a spade. At the table West followed an esoteric line that involved leading the ♥Q from hand at some point and losing a different three tricks (a club heart and trump). But it was still a plus score.

Meanwhile, Brock had passed up the opportunity to double 3♠. Myers would have passed and led a trump and declarer is scrambling to get out for 500; best defense collects 800. In 4♥, declarer ruffed the spade and tried the ♦K, curiously ducked all around. Next came the ♦10. North ruffed and led a low club. If Brock runs this to her hand she can then cross to the ♣A, draw two rounds of trump, then revert to diamonds and make her game. But she rose with the ace to play trumps and was back down to down one and a loss of 5 imps instead of a gain of 7. It was 49-14 to England/USA.

Both pairs played heart partscores in the other match.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ AQ762
Vul: Both	♥ 84
	♦ J5
	♣ A1087

West	East
♠ 53	♠ J8
♥ KQJ1053	♥ 2
♦ K10	♦ A97432
♣ K95	♣ QJ63

South
♠ K1094
♥ A976
♦ Q86
♣ 42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
	1♠	Pass	2NT(limit+)
3♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
	1♠	Pass	2NT(1)
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

It is not so easy to beat 3♥ (a club ruff is needed) and after a diamond lead it proved impossible. Yin rose with the ace to play hearts and had a sure entry back to hand to complete drawing trumps. Then he could set up clubs for nine tricks. But 3♠ was equally easy to make: declarer has seven spades and two aces. So Zhiyijia continued their recovery and the match score stood at 49-21.

(Digressing, isn't it somewhat inconsistent to make a call that forces your side to the three level, but then lets your opposition out below that point? I'd have thought that playing that pass as a better hand than 3♠ has more to recommend it but my opening bids aren't quite as "wide-ranging" as some.)

New Zealand made 3♠ and defeated 4♠ to get into double digits for the set.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q7
Vul: None	♥ Q1054
	♦ K732
	♣ 1084

West	East
♠ K632	♠ A8
♥ AKJ8	♥ 62
♦ J	♦ 109654
♣ J972	♣ AKQ3

South
♠ J10954
♥ 973
♦ AQ8
♣ 65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A sensible sequence in both rooms led to the same contract (and we haven't said those words very often so far in this set have we?). Yingbao fished out the ♠5 on lead, queen, ace. Myers simply took the heart finesse and when it lost he was doomed. Tuncok

tried the Rusinow ♠10 to the queen and ace, and declarer spotted a nice extra chance when he led to the ♥8 first. Now back came a spade. He won and cashed four clubs, then led a heart to the jack. Alas, when that lost, the defenders could take their diamonds and lock declarer in dummy with a heart to concede the rest for down two. The loss of 2 imps made it 51-21. But a nice try nonetheless.

Bd: 15
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ J1042
	♥ 109
	♦ A874
	♣ J63

West	♠ KQ8
	♥ KQ7
	♦ QJ52
	♣ Q72

East	♠ A97653
	♥ A6
	♦ K96
	♣ 94

South	♠ ---
	♥ J85432
	♦ 103
	♣ AK1085

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
1NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Pass

Both tables reached the excellent game that can be defeated if the defenders get around to leading clubs at once. McCallum was always leading a heart, but you can sell me on the idea that Jing might have considered leading a club with a partner who could not preempt nor double 4♥. No, out came a heart and that was another flat board.

Both tables made ten tricks in the second match but Newell Reid were in 3♠.

Bd: 16
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ 1097
	♥ 953
	♦ KQ4
	♣ K632

West	♠ Q
	♥ KQ108
	♦ 10952
	♣ A1098

East	♠ AK654
	♥ 762
	♦ J76
	♣ 74

South	♠ J832
	♥ AJ4
	♦ A83
	♣ QJ5

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J. Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y. Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

The defenders have the wherewithal for seven tricks against 1NT but not the communications. Myers led a spade to his partner's queen for the natural shift to the ♥K, ducked all around. Now the ♣10 went to the jack and the winning play is not that easy to see. North must play the top club from dummy, win the club return, and run diamonds ending in hand to throw West in with the fourth club. Instead, declarer gave up a spade to East. If West pitches a diamond then East can cash his last spade and set up hearts and the defense should prevail. But Brock pitched a club on the second spade. If East had cashed his last spade that would have set up the seventh winner for North; if he didn't, declarer would take three tricks in each minor and the ♥A and the defenders could never get that third spade trick.

It looks easy to defeat 2♦ on repeated trump plays. McCallum led the ♥9 to Tuncok's ace and the spade shift went to declarer's queen. When he ducked a club to South the low trump went to McCallum's queen. Reluctant to play another diamond, she reverted to hearts. Declarer won, played the ♣A and ruffed a club, then cashed two spades pitching heart winners from hand instead of the club loser. Next came the fourth spade, ruffed and overruffed, and a diamond back meant that declarer was left with a club loser not a heart winner for down one.

A flat board after all that, and a 51-21 lead for England/USA at the half, while Hackett led 59-14.



We didn't say a word!

NEC Semi-finals: 2nd half

by Barry Rigal



Reid



P. Hackett



Senior



Newell



Hydes



Cornell



Bach



J. Hackett

With both matches looking relatively comfortable for England/USA and Hackett the roving reporters would be trying to focus on the swing deals to the exclusion of the less dramatic hands...if we could find any, that is. In each match the trailing team never threatened to make any impression on the leader. Hackett added another 8imps to their lead, England/USA gave back 5, but neither match ever threatened to be close.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ KQJ9532
 Vul: E/W ♥ 7
 ♦ AK9
 ♣ 107

West	East
♠ 1076	♠ 84
♥ J64	♥ Q953
♦ Q5	♦ 7432
♣ KJ852	♣ Q96

South
 ♠ A
 ♥ AK1082
 ♦ J1086
 ♣ A43

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hu	McCallum	Chen	Tuncok
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠(2)	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

(1) Relay; (2) Setting spades

If it weren't for **\$TRESS** we'd have no energy at all.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brock	J.Liu	Myers	Y.Liu
Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass	1♠(1)
Pass	2♠(2)	Pass	2NT(1)
Pass	3♠(3)	Pass	4♦(4)
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT(KC)	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

(1) Relay
 (2) Short hearts
 (3) 7-1-(3-2)
 (4) End signal

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Reid	Paul	Newell	Senior
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Cornell	Jason	Bach
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Dbl	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Above are four auctions, ranging from the extremes of pessimism (did Hackett-Senior disagree on whether 3♠ was forcing?) through the Cornell-Bach auction, where South's failure to cuebid 4♥ must be based on a factor outside my ability to guess.

Then we have the auction of Zhiyijia, where after a strong club South received a spade positive, relayed for shape, then suggested playing game. North with extras took over and used keycard, then settled for the small slam.

By contrast, Karen McCallum relayed for shape as North and asked her partner with her 3♠ bid if he wanted to look for slam. Tuncok (with a better hand than he might have had by 6 points) said yes. McCallum used keycard, then over 5♠ (sign-off facing zero keycards) Tuncok showed the ♥K and McCallum now bid the grand slam hoping to ruff out hearts or to fall back on a finesse if entries or breaks did not permit that.

Tuncok had reached the grand slam from South and when the defenders led a heart he could ruff out that suit. On a trump or club lead he would have needed a miracle in hearts or the ♦Q favorably located. The way the cards lay, all roads led to 13 tricks.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ K852
 Vul: N/S ♥ A85
 ♦ K54
 ♣ K64

West East
 ♠ 973 ♠ Q10
 ♥ KQJ72 ♥ 10
 ♦ A863 ♦ 72
 ♣ 3 ♣ AQJ109752

South
 ♠ AJ64
 ♥ 9643
 ♦ QJ109
 ♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
	1♦(1)	4♣	All pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J.Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y.Liu</i>
	1♦	5♣	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Senior</i>
	1♠	4♣	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Bach</i>
	1♣	4♣	Dbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

This one comes down in part to what an opening bid promises. Of note is that Yingbao Liu wasn't prepared to double 5♣. But if partner had acted over 5♣, he would surely have been giving his partner what he needed.

Tuncok didn't have such an easy call; if his partner would act any time she had a four-card major,

defending might be his best score possible. Each club contract made eight tricks so Zhiyijia gained 2 imps.

Senior had an easy 4♠ bid over his partner's four-card major opening. Not a great hand for the methods when the cards lay as they did. Hackett took the first heart, drew trumps, and drove out the ♦A, letting West cash out the hearts. East collected the ♣A in due course.

Cornell ducked the first spade, perhaps hoping East had a 2-1-3-7 shape when he might be able to come close to ten tricks. Alas for him, after the ace and another club West could get a ruff, dislodge the ♥A, ruffed by East, and a third club meant the defenders still had two further tricks to come for down three.

Bd: 26 North
 Dir: East ♠ J8
 Vul: Both ♥ 3
 ♦ A10852
 ♣ KQ872

West East
 ♠ Q4 ♠ K10752
 ♥ AQ42 ♥ J10965
 ♦ J3 ♦ K76
 ♣ A10653 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ A963
 ♥ K87
 ♦ Q94
 ♣ J94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
		2♥(♥+♠)	Pass

4♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J.Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y.Liu</i>
1♣	1♦	1♠	2♣
Pass	2♦	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Newell</i>	<i>Senior</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦(♥)	2NT	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Bach</i>
1♣	1♦	1♠	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
3♥	All Pass		

Four very different auctions, showing how easy or difficult it might be to reach the heart game. Two tables, one in each match, could open with a bid that promised hearts and send their partner off the deep end at once. Chen's two-suiter persuaded Hu to bid game, and now McCallum might have come in at a different vulnerability—or if her side had not been protecting a lead.

When Reid opened 1♦ in third seat it did not promise more than four. Senior heard Paul Hackett show the minors and had enough defense not to want to save. That was the right decision in the abstract, but there was no defense to 4♥ today.

Brock did well facing a passed hand to raise 2♥ to 3♥ voluntarily, but she did have aces and a fitting card in Myers's first suit. That made East's decision an easy one.

And finally, at the one table that missed game Jason respected his partner's decision, though he must have been a little tempted to overrule his partner and bid 4♥ at his final turn.

Bd: 28
 Dlr: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J10
 ♥ K762
 ♦ 1074
 ♣ J1082

West
 ♠ Q7632
 ♥ QJ4
 ♦ A3
 ♣ Q95

East
 ♠ K985
 ♥ 9
 ♦ K95
 ♣ AK764

South
 ♠ A4
 ♥ A10853
 ♦ QJ862
 ♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	2NT
Dbl	3♥	Dbl	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J.Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y.Liu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	2NT
Dbl	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hydes</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
1♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass

Again, three of the four tables bid the hand to the par spot; one had an interesting accident. Again, Reid-Newell's transfer opening identified the fit early. Reid showed 8-12 with 4+ spades, Newell relayed, found partner with a fifth spade and a balanced hand, and that was enough to get to game without any worries.

Jason Hackett found the spade fit and judged that his extra shape meant one side or the other could make something, so he might as well go for the big prize.

In the other matches both Souths showed the red suits, both Wests doubled, and now backing into the fourth suit is always somewhat difficult. Chen's takeout double should have done the job but should West have bid 4♠ at his second turn? And should East have raised to game, knowing he was facing a maximum pass? It was somewhat easier for Myers, who had heard Brock volunteer a spade suit, and who knew partner wasn't loaded in hearts or she might have doubled 3♥.

Bd: 31
 Dlr: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ A9765
 ♥ A943
 ♦ QJ8
 ♣ 8

West
 ♠ J1032
 ♥ KQ6
 ♦ 10943
 ♣ J7

East
 ♠ K84
 ♥ 1082
 ♦ AK5
 ♣ KQ52

South
 ♠ Q
 ♥ J75
 ♦ 762
 ♣ A109643

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hu</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>J.Liu</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Y.Liu</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Open Room

West <i>Reid</i>	North <i>Paul</i>	East <i>Newell</i>	South <i>Senior</i>
Pass	1♠	1NT	2♣
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Hydes</i>	North <i>Cornell</i>	East <i>Jason</i>	South <i>Bach</i>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	1NT(♣)
All Pass			

Most of the hands featured here have demonstrated that it was a good idea to bid more, not less. Our final deal perhaps illustrates the reverse. Not that this was true in the Closed Room of our first match where 2♥ received a top diamond lead (yes an initial trump might have worked better).

Myers shifted to trumps, declarer won and cross-ruffed the next six tricks, cutting loose with a top diamond. Myers was on lead and played a low trump to his partner's king. Now the fourth spade lets East discard his diamond and the defenders have the rest, but when Brock played back a diamond, declarer had their eighth trick.

At the other table Tuncok led a low club against 3NT to the eight and queen. Declarer cleared diamonds; McCallum won the third and led back a low heart after much deliberation. Declarer put up the ten; good idea, wrong moment. Now when he finessed in spades South won his bare queen, cashed the ♣A, and led a heart to allow North to cash three hearts and a spade. That was down three.

In the other match Cornell decided to pass out 1NT rather than run the risk of being doubled. So Bach played 1NT on a diamond lead to the queen and king and a low club shift to West's jack. The defense reverted to diamonds, setting up the whole suit for the defense. Bach covered the second diamond, so Hydes cashed the third and fourth rounds of the suit. Now a spade through the ace left declarer with three aces and nothing else.

Down 400 was painful, but Senior didn't enjoy 2♣x much either. He ducked the ♥K and a shift to spades saw him win the ace and run the ♣8 around to Reid's jack. Declarer ruffed the second spade, led a diamond to the jack and king, ruffed a third spade, then led the ♥J to the queen and ace to ruff another spade to hand. Finally he got out with the ace and another club to East, who had a heart and diamond to cash at the end for down 500. That meant a surprise 3 imps to New Zealand.

Team Rosters: 21st NEC Cup (KO Stage)

#	Team Name	Members
1	China Dalian Aoxin:	Huo Shiyu, Chen Jun, Li Xiaoyi, Hu Linlin
2	Israel:	Michael Barel, Yaniv Zack, Ilan Bareket, Assaf Lengy
3	England/USA:	Sally Brock, Barry Myers, Karen McCallum, Cenk Tuncok
4	New Zealand:	Martin Reid, Peter Newell, Michael Cornell, Ashley Bach
5	SARA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Hideki Takano, Takeshi Niekawa, Shugo Tanaka, Masaaki Takayama
6	Hackett:	Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Brian Senior, Alex Hydes
7	Wuhan Dongfang Bridge Club:	Lian Ruoyang, Gui Shengyue, You Jianyong, Gao Fei, Yang Cai
8	Zhiyijia:	Deng Zhuodi, Liu Jing, Liu Yinghao, Yin Jiashen, Hu Junjie, Chen Yichao



21st NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Saturday (Feb. 11)	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. 12)	10:00-17:30	Yokohama Open Pairs	501, 502
	18:00-20:00	Closing Ceremony	503

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 10 th
Yokohama Swiss Teams	Saturday 11 th
Yokohama Open Pairs	Sunday 12 th

should register in advance in the Secretariat (Room 411)

The registration deadline for each event is the previous evening