



# THE 7<sup>th</sup> ASIA PACIFIC BRIDGE CONGRESS FUKUOKA 2012



Thursday, August 30, 2012

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Bulletin Number 6

## Team Rankings

Rank	Group A	VPs
1	Pan-China Construction Group	167
2	Beijing Jinghua	165
3	Beijing BEIH	163
4	China Geely Automobile	156
5	Japan SAYN	154
6	CBLT1	148
7	Singapore RYLAI	145
8	Japan NON PROBLEM	141
9	Japan City Bridge	136
10	China Hong Kong Spark	121
11	Japan KM AT	119
12	Australia Yarralumla Yabbies	118
13	Japan welcome Kyushu	116
14	Japan C'est si bon	94
15	Kuwait	70

Rank	Group B	VPs
1	Japan well fitted	185
2	SHENZHEN NANGANG	165
3-5	AUSTRALIA KLINGER	164
3-5	Beijing Evertrust Group	164
3-5	HYX CHINA	164
6	China Hong Kong VICO	145
7	Singapore SMJ	143
8	Japan Papas&Puppies	129
9	Japan MIURA	128
10	Japan TANAKA	123
11	Korea GLPD	113
12	CBLT2	112
13	Japan Gahhahha Honpo	110
14	Beijing Dazhong Investment	104
15	Japan sacrum	84

Rank	Women	VPs
Off Day Wednesday		

Rank	Youth	VPs
1	Beijing Yindi Junior	160
2	CHN RDFZ 1	154
3	CHN RDFZ 2	142
4	Shanghai Weiyu Bridge Club	121
5	Japan Youth A	120
6	Chinese Taipei Youth	111
7	Japan Youth K	95
8	Japan Youth B	32

Rank	Seniors	VPs
1	Japan Lycan	157
2	Japan YAMADA	154
3	MAGIC EYES THAI	142
4	AUSSIES	138
5	Japan NOSE	120
6	Japan PSbridge	105
7	Chinese Taipei Senior	78
8	China Shanxi elderly	64



## Today's VuGraph Matches

Match 10
SHENZHEN NANGANG vs Korea GLPD
HYX CHINA vs Japan well fitted
Match 11
Pan China Construction vs China Hong Kong Spark
Beijing Evertrust Group vs China Hong Kong VICO
Match 12
SHENZHEN NANGANG vs Australia KLINGER
Japan City Bridge vs China Geely Automobile

PCs with Internet access will be available for player use in the Navis A Room (where line-ups are submitted, opposite the playing area)

## APBF Bridge Congress on the Web

Follow the action at the 7<sup>th</sup> APBF Bridge Congress by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/apbf2012/tabid/264/Default.aspx>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

## Conditions of Contest

The General Conditions of Contest for the 2012 APBF Congress are on the JCBL website at:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/Portals/0/apbf2012/english/information/General Conditions of Contest 2012 APBF Congress.pdf>

The Supplementary Regulations for the 2012 APBF Congress are on the JCBL website at:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/Portals/0/apbf2012/english/information/SupplementaryRegulations.pdf>

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## Special Notes

Self-Alerting Calls:

- All natural 1NT openings
- Stayman 2♣
- All Doubles
- All bids over 3NT except higher-level openings
- Cue-bids of the opponents' suit

Line Ups (very important):

Line ups for the next match are due NO LATER than 10 minutes AFTER the end of the previous match

Smoking:

There is NO SMOKING in the Hilton Sea Hawk

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## Appeals Committee Members

Chair:	Tadashi Teramoto	(Japan)
Members:	Fu Zhong	(China)
	Denny Sacul	(Indonesia)
	Alan Sze	(China Hong Kong)
	Poon Hua	(Singapore)
	Julia Hoffman	(Australia)

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## Happy Talk

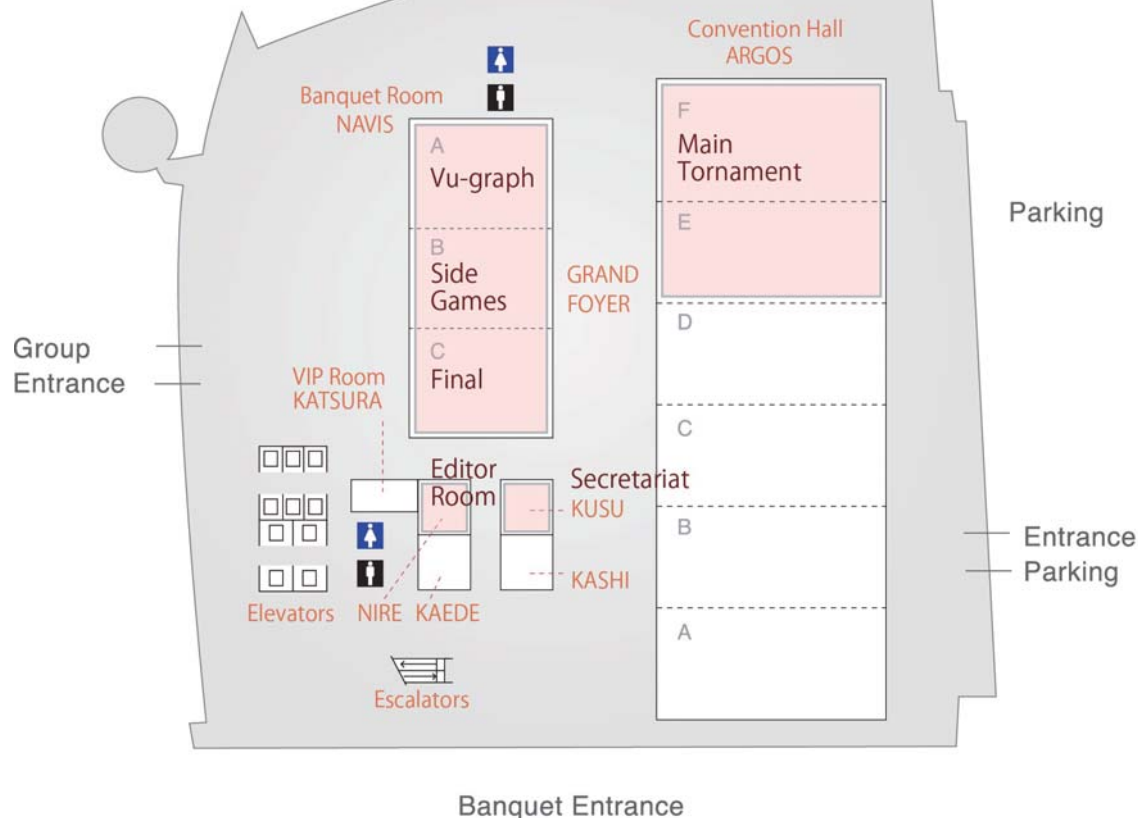
If today's bulletin has any typos, blame the onsite organizers for being over-generous to the editors with their hospitality last night. A good time was had by all. We hope to provide the (censored) photographs of Richard "Samurai" Grenside and Sue "Geisha" Grenside tomorrow — unless suitable payoff is forthcoming.

# APBF Congress: General Schedule of Events

APBF Congress Championships			Side-Games	
DATE	TIME	EVENT	TIME	EVENT
8/30 (Thu)	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Team Regional (Nintendo 3DS & Wii Cup) (Q1/Q2) [Open/Δ1000MP]
8/31 (Fri)	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Team Regional (Nintendo 3DS & Wii Cup) (F1/F2) [Open/Δ1000MP]
			10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs [Open/Δ1000MP]
9/1 (Sat)	09:00-:00	APBF Teams Semi-Finals (KO) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Mayor's Cup (Q1/Q2) [ Open Teams ]
			10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs Sectional (Δ100MP /Δ20MP)
9/2 (Sun)	09:00-17:30	APBF Teams Final (KO) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Mayor's Cup (F1/F2) [ Open Teams ]
			10:00-17:30	TV Nishinippon Cup [ Open Pairs ]
			10:00-17:30	Team Sectional (Δ100MP)
	18:30-22:00	Victory Banquet & Awards Ceremony		

## APBF Area Floor Plan

### LEVEL 1



## APBF Congress: Detailed Schedule (Championship Events)

Date/Time		Open	Women	Senior	Youth
Aug. 30 Thu.	10:00 12:20	Round 10	Round 6	2nd Rd. 2	2nd Rd. 2
	14:00 16:20	Round 11	Round 7	2nd Rd. 3	2nd Rd. 3
	16:40 19:00	Round 12	Round 8	2nd Rd. 4	2nd Rd. 4
Aug. 31 Fri.	10:00 12:20	Round 13	Round 9	2nd Rd. 5	2nd Rd. 5
	14:00 16:20	Round 14	Round 10	2nd Rd. 6	2nd Rd. 6
	16:40 19:00	Round 15	Round 11	2nd Rd. 7	2nd Rd. 7
Sept. 1 Sat.	9:00 11:15	Semifinal 1			
	11:30 13:45	Semifinal 2			
	15:15 17:30	Semifinal 3			
	17:45 20:00	Final 1			
Sept. 2 Sun.	9:00 11:15	Final 2			
	11:30 13:45	Final 3			
	15:15 17:30	Final 4			
	19:00 22:00	Victory Banquet			

### Wednesday Even Chance Teams

#### 14 Teams

Rank	Name1	Name2	Name3	Name4	Total
1	Sanae Kanekawa	Tomoko Ito	Kiyoko Yamamoto	Keiko Sugawa	122
2	Shoko Nakanishi	Wakako Yachi	Keiko Fujita	Michio Kawai	96
3	Park Jungyoon	Park Myungkee	Yoko Taniguchi	Tomoko Tsujimaru	93
4	Suzuko Hashizume	Yasuyo Uegaki	Masanori Uehara	Yoshiko Hanya	88
5	Kiyoshi Himeno	Sumiko Himeno	Ritsuko Kajizuka	Junko Miyazaki	85



Winners: Even Chance Teams

### Thank You from the Australian Women

The Australian girls would like to thank the Japanese girls for organizing a wonderful outing to Arita. We very much enjoyed learning how porcelain pottery is made and viewing some astounding examples of fine pottery first at Fukagawa Porcelain and then at China on the Park. After a splendid lunch we made a significant contribution to the Japanese economy with many purchases. Our very particular thanks to Yoko and Noriko who organized Bus No.1 with spectacular efficiency.

Thank you again Greer, Helen, Inez, Jeannette, Marcia, Margaret, Nadia, Sue and Val

## Today's Open Teams Programs

Open A		Open B	
Match 10			
1 CBLT1	- 2 Pan-China Construction	1 Japan MIURA	- 2 Beijing Dazhong Inv.
3 Beijing BEIH	- 4 Japan C'est si bon	3 SHENZHEN NANGANG	- 4 Korea GLPD
5 Japan NON PROBLEM	- 6 Japan welcome Kyushu	5 CBLT2	- 6 Japan sacrum
7 China Hong Kong Spark	- 8 Singapore RYLAI	7 Japan Gahhahha Honpo	- 8 Australia KLINGER
9 Beijing Jinghua	- 10 Japan SAYN	9 HYX CHINA	- 10 Japan well fitted
11 Kuwait	- 12 Australia Yarralumla	11 China Hong Kong VICO	- 12 Singapore SMJ
13 Japan City Bridge	- 14 Japan KM AT	13 Japan Papas & Puppies	- 14 Japan TANAKA
China Geely Automobile	- BYE	Beijing Evertrust Group	- BYE
Match 11			
1 Pan-China Construction	- 2 China Hong Kong Spark	1 Beijing Dazhong Inv.	- 2 Japan Gahhahha Honpo
3 Japan C'est si bon	- 4 Japan NON PROBLEM	3 Korea GLPD	- 4 CBLT2
5 Japan welcome Kyushu	- 6 Beijing BEIH	5 Japan sacrum	- 6 SHENZHEN NANGANG
7 Singapore RYLAI	- 8 CBLT1	7 Australia KLINGER	- 8 Japan MIURA
9 Japan SAYN	- 10 Japan City Bridge	9 Japan well fitted	- 10 Japan Papas & Puppies
11 China Geely Automobile	- 12 Kuwait	11 Beijing Evertrust Group	- 12 China Hong Kong VICO
13 Japan KM AT	- 14 Beijing Jinghua	13 Japan TANAKA	- 14 HYX CHINA
Australia Yarralumla	- BYE	Singapore SMJ	- BYE
Match 12			
1 Japan NON PROBLEM	- 2 Pan-China Construction	1 CBLT2	- 2 Beijing Dazhong Inv.
3 China Hong Kong Spark	- 4 Japan C'est si bon	3 Japan Gahhahha Honpo	- 4 Korea GLPD
5 CBLT1	- 6 Japan welcome Kyushu	5 Japan MIURA	- 6 Japan sacrum
7 Beijing BEIH	- 8 Singapore RYLAI	7 SHENZHEN NANGANG	- 8 Australia KLINGER
9 Kuwait	- 10 Japan SAYN	9 China Hong Kong VICO	- 10 Japan well fitted
11 Japan City Bridge	- 12 China Geely Automobile	11 Japan Papas & Puppies	- 12 Beijing Evertrust Group
13 Beijing Jinghua	- 14 Australia Yarralumla	13 HYX CHINA	- 14 Singapore SMJ
Japan KM AT	- BYE	Japan TANAKA	- BYE

## Today's Women, Senior & Youth Teams Programs

Women		Senior		Youth	
Match 6		Match 2 (Round 2)			
1 Japan Sugino - 2 Shenyang Olystar	1 Chinese Taipei - 2 Japan Lycaon	1 Beijing Yindi - 2 Japan Youth K			
3 Japan Misotoma - 4 Japan Shimamura	3 China Shanxi eld - 4 . Japan YAMADA	3 CHN RDFZ 1 - 4 Japan Youth B			
5 Australia BOURKE - 6 Japan Takeuchi	5 AUSSIES - 6 Japan NOSE	5 Japan Youth A - 6 CHN RDFZ 2			
7 Korea Alpha - 8 Australia Women	7 Japan PS bridge - 8 MAGIC EYES THAI	7 Shanghai Weiyu - 8 Chinese Taipei			
9 Japan Evolution - 10 Japan Merci					
Japan Naito - BYE					
Match 7		Match 3 (Round 2)			
1 Shenyang Olystar - 2 Japan Naito	1 Japan PS bridge - 2 Japan Lycaon	1 Chinese Taipei - 2 Beijing Yindi			
3 Japan Shimamura - 4 Japan Takeuchi	2 Japan YAMADA - 4 Japan NOSE	3 Japan Youth A - 4 CHN RDFZ 1			
5 Japan Merci - 6 Australia Women	3 AUSSIES - 6 China Shanxi eld.	5 CHN RDFZ 2 - 6 Japan Youth B			
7 Japan Misotoma - 8 Korea Alpha	4 MAGIC EYES THAI - 8 Chinese Taipei	7 Shanghai Weiyu - 8 Japan Youth K			
9 Australia BOURKE - 10 Japan Evolution					
Japan Sugino - BYE					
Match 8		Match 4 (Round 2)			
1 Japan Merci -2 Shenyang Olystar	1 Japan Lycaon - 2 Japan NOSE	1 Japan Youth A - 2 Beijing Yindi			
3 Australia Women - 4 JapanShimamura	3 Japan PS bridge - 4 Japan YAMADA	2 Chinese Taipei - 4 CHN RDFZ 1			
5 Japan Naito - 6 Japan Takeuchi	5 Chinese Taipei - 6 AUSSIES	3 CHN RDFZ 2 - 6 Japan Youth K			
7 Australia BOURKE - 8 Japan Sugino	7 MAGIC EYES THAI - 10 China Shanxi eld.	4 Japan Youth B - 8 Shanghai Weiyu			
9 Japan Evolution - 10 Korea Alpha					
Japan Misotoma - BYE					



# Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

*(An explanation for foreign players)*

Unlike the NEC Cup, which is an international event, and the Yokohama Swiss Teams, in which all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup are rated as Japanese regional or national events, for which JCBL regulations for domestic events apply strictly. We ask for your compliance with the regulations explained below. If you have any questions about what is allowed, please ask the JCBL staff. Please note that use of unauthorized conventions may be penalized. We thank you for your cooperation.

All side games at the NEC Bridge Festival (the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup) are restricted to "List C" conventions as described below. The use of the Multi-2♦ is strictly prohibited and will be subject to penalty.

## LIST C (Television Nishinippon Cup — Sunday)

### Opening Bids

1. 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. 2♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
  - a) a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - b) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
3. 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
  - a) at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
  - b) a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - c) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
4. 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.
5. Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
6. Opening 3NT bid indicating:
  - a) any solid suit or
  - b) a broken minor suit.
7. Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
8. Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

### Responses and Rebids

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

7. All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
8. Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
9. 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

1. Any conventional balancing calls.
2. Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
3. Notrump overcall for either:
  - a) 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.)
  - b) three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
4. Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
5. 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.
6. Comic 1NT overcall.
7. Defense to:
  - a) conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
  - b) natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
  - c) opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
8. Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
9. Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

### Carding

1. 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 (Fukuoka Mayor's Cup — Saturday and Sunday)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

# Welcome



*Yokohama, Japan*



## YEH BROS CUP BRIDGE INVITATION

22nd - 26th APRIL 2013

Hosted by Japan Contract Bridge League

Sponsored by Mr. Yeh Chen

Venue: PACIFICO YOKOHAMA Conference Center, Yokohama, Japan



## NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL

16th - 21st APRIL 2013

Hosted by Japan Contract Bridge League

Venue: PACIFICO YOKOHAMA Conference Center, Yokohama, Japan

Contact : Japan Contract Bridge League [info@jcbl.or.jp](mailto:info@jcbl.or.jp)



# Bangkok

## Bridge Festival Championships

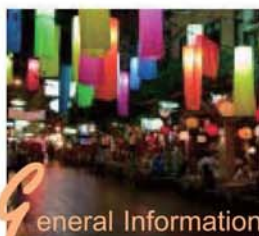
January 29 - February 3, 2013

January is the best time to visit Bangkok, "The City of Angels". Come and enjoy world class bridge; beautiful sights, shopping and good food. All within walking distance from the Montien Hotel where all accomodation and bridge events will be held.

### PROGRAM

Day 1 : Tue. January 29<sup>th</sup> : Registration  
 Day 2 : Wed. January 30<sup>th</sup>  
 09.00 - 12.00 : Registration  
 13.00 - 18.00 : BBF Pairs Championships  
 19.30 - 11.30 : Finals and Consolation  
 Day 3 : Thu. January 31<sup>st</sup>  
 13.00 - 19.00 : BBF Open Teams Championships  
 20.30 - 24.00 : BBF Swiss Pairs  
 Day 4 : Fri. February 1<sup>st</sup>  
 09.30 - 12.30 : Sunshine Pairs  
 13.30 - 19.30 : BBF Open Teams Championships  
 20.30 - 24.00 : BBF Continuous Pairs  
 Day 5 : Sat. February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 13.00 - 19.00 : BBF Open Teams Championships  
 20.30 - 00.00 : Happy Hours Pairs  
 Day 6 : Sun. February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 13.00 - 18.30 : BBF Open Team Semi Finals and Finals  
 14.00 - 18.00 : Consolation Swiss Teams  
 19.30 : Victory Dinner

**P**rizers : Cups and gifts will be awarded to the first three placings in each event, as well as 6 prizes for the best accumulated scores in all side events.



### General Information

**Smoking** : Smoking is prohibited inside all hotels and restaurants in Bangkok  
**Weather** : Usually dry and pleasant summer weather  
**Shopping** : Many, shops nearby  
**Restaurants** : Many, many restaurants of all nationalities within walking distance

### Cost of Accomodation

Double Room US\$ 75.00 per room  
 Including breakfast  
 Airport transfer to Hotel : Baht 1,400 per 2 persons  
 Baht 1,900 per 4-6 persons

As January is the peak season, rooms must be reserved with Open Teams Registration perference.

### Deposits of US\$ 400 (room 200, open team 200)

to be transferred to :

A/C Name : TWBF SWIFT : BKKBTHBK  
 A/C No. 101 - 856269 - 2  
 Bangkok Bank PCL., Head Office, 333 Silom Road,  
 Bangkok 10500, THAILAND

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS ; DECEMBER 24, 2012**

### Bridge Tournament Entry Fees

BBFC Open Teams	US\$ 400	(per team)
BBFC Open Pairs	US\$ 11	(per player)
Consolation and Finals	US\$ 9	(per player)
Speed Ball Pairs	US\$ 10	(per player)
Swiss Pairs	US\$ 10	(per player)
Continuous Pairs	US\$ 10	(per player)
Happy Hour Pairs	US\$ 14	(per player)



**The Montien Hotel,**  
 Surawongse Road,  
 Bangkok is a five star hotel, right in the heart of Bangkok's commercial district, easily accessible to any parts of the city - skytrain, shops and restaurants.

### REGISTRATION FORM

**BANGKOK BRIDGE FESTIVAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
 BANGKOK, THAILAND : January 29 - February 3, 2013

Surname _____		First Name _____	
Address _____			
City _____		Country _____	Post Code _____
Arrival (Date/Time) _____		Flight number _____	
Departure (Date/Time) _____		Flight number _____	
E-mail _____		Fax _____	
Room Reservations : <input type="checkbox"/> SGL <input type="checkbox"/> DBL		No. of Nights _____ No. of Rooms : _____	
I will share my room with : Surname _____ First Name _____			
I will participate in : <input type="checkbox"/> Open Teams <input type="checkbox"/> BBF Pairs <input type="checkbox"/> Speed Ball			
<input type="checkbox"/> IMP Pairs <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Pairs <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Hour			
PAYMENTS : Deposit : No. of Rooms : <input type="checkbox"/> Open Teams : <input type="checkbox"/>			

Organising Committee : Contract Bridge League of Thailand

Esther C. Sophonpanich : Chairperson of the Organising Committee, Email : chodchoy7@gmail.com

Sunisa Vatanasuk : Honorary Secretary, Email : sunisav@truemail.co.th



**34<sup>th</sup>**

COME &  
JOIN US!

# **ASEAN BRIDGE CLUB OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Bali, 5-9 December 2012**

WARMING UP FOR THE WORLD BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP 2013



**VENUE** Sanur Beach Hotel - Bali - Indonesia

## **Organizing Committee**

Postal Address: Stadion Gelora Bung Karno Senayan - Jakarta 10270

Telp: +6221 5738514 / 5738515, Fax + 6221 5741288

Email: [oc@aseanbridge34bali.com](mailto:oc@aseanbridge34bali.com), [accomodation@aseanbridge34bali.com](mailto:accomodation@aseanbridge34bali.com)

Website: <http://aseanbridge34bali.com>



# The APBF Teams Round Robin: Beijing Jinghua vs Beijing BEIH

by Barry Rigal

## Match 7:

To avoid the many identification problems we might face in reporting this match the teams will be referred to as Jinghua and BEIH, the players as Jing and Haitao, and Jie and Xiaoyi. After sorting out the line-up problems in the Closed Room (the editors had the opportunity to go into their Abbott and Costello routine — “Hou’s on West!”

After an overtrick imp to Jinghua, a no-swing deal produced an interesting valuation decision in the Closed Room.

Bd: 2  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ KQ743  
♥ Q106  
♦ Q42  
♣ Q2

West  
♠ A2  
♥ J97532  
♦ K83  
♣ 95

East  
♠ J6  
♥ 8  
♦ J9765  
♣ KJ843

South  
♠ 10985  
♥ AK4  
♦ A10  
♣ A1076

## Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu Jing</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Zhuo</i>	<i>Kang</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	3♠
		All Pass	

## Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Li Xiaoyi</i>	<i>Li Jie</i>	<i>Liu Haitao</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			3NT

Both contracts took ten tricks, but 3NT would have had extra chances if the spades had been unfavorable, so kudos to Xiaoyi for avoiding the 5-4 fit. Still 1-0 to Jinghua.

Bd: 3  
Dlr: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ 72  
♥ QJ108754  
♦ 2  
♣ KQ5

West  
♠ QJ43  
♥ K  
♦ QJ3  
♣ AJ743

East  
♠ A865  
♥ A9  
♦ K974  
♣ 982

South  
♠ K109  
♥ 632  
♦ A10865  
♣ 106

## Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu Jing</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Zhuo</i>	<i>Kang</i>
1NT	3♥	3NT	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

## Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Li Xiaoyi</i>	<i>Li Jie</i>	<i>Liu Haitao</i>
1NT	3♥	Dbl	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
			All Pass

4♠ played miserably when the defenders got their ruff from the short trumps and the club honors were worth two tricks. Plus 200 looked a pretty good result with the N/S cards, but can you blame East for leading the ♥A against 4♥x? I can't. (But our ignorant editor — ignorant of the deal that is — led his *low* trump at trick one. Nobody loves a Smart Alec.) When the ♠A turned up onside that was a spectacular +590 and 9 imps to Jinghua. We'd gloat over the consequence of opening 1NT with a singleton but in the context of a strong club base where the choice is 1♦ or 2♣ we can see the logic — and it was done in both rooms after all. 10-0 Jinghua.

Are we looking for cautionary tales involving notrump bids and singletons? Very well then.

Bd: 6  
Dlr: East  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ KQ6  
♥ A762  
♦ AK542  
♣ 4

West  
♠ ---  
♥ QJ9854  
♦ Q  
♣ AQJ1053

East  
♠ A1097  
♥ 3  
♦ 1083  
♣ K9876

South  
♠ J85432  
♥ K10  
♦ J976  
♣ 2

## Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu Jing</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Zhuo</i>	<i>Kang</i>
1♥	1NT	Pass	2♣
3♣	3♦	5♣	5♦
6♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

## Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Li Xiaoyi</i>	<i>Li Jie</i>	<i>Liu Haitao</i>
4♣	4♥	Dbl	4♠
4NT	Dbl	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

I can't imagine Xiaoyi was happy with his -750, but at



least he led the  $\diamond A$  to hold declarer to 11 tricks. In the other room, where the stakes were higher (and  $5\diamond x$  would surely have made on the singleton heart lead), Sun led a top spade and was no doubt a much sadder if not necessarily wiser man when declarer wrapped up his +1540. I suspect that at this stage Jinghua might not have expected to be 23-0 up given the poor results at one table or the other on Boards 2 and 6.

An overtrick imp from a cautious safety play by a Jinghua declarer got BEIH on the board. Then came:

Bd: 8  
Dir: West  
Vul: None

North  
 $\spadesuit$  8432  
 $\heartsuit$  Q975  
 $\diamond$  94  
 $\clubsuit$  K95

West  
 $\spadesuit$  AQ76  
 $\heartsuit$  AK104  
 $\diamond$  6  
 $\clubsuit$  10743

East  
 $\spadesuit$  KJ9  
 $\heartsuit$  863  
 $\diamond$  AQ108752  
 $\clubsuit$  ---

South  
 $\spadesuit$  105  
 $\heartsuit$  J2  
 $\diamond$  KJ3  
 $\clubsuit$  AQJ862

Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Sun	Zhuo	Kang
2 $\diamond$ (1)	Pass	Pass	3 $\clubsuit$
All Pass			

(1)\_Three-suiter short diamonds

Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
Hou	Li Xiaoyi	Li Jie	Liu Haitao
1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	2 $\diamond$	Pass
2NT	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass
3NT	Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass

Sometimes the inability to describe your hand precisely can be a strange advantage. Look at this hand, where in the Open Room West showed his hand and sold out to 3 $\clubsuit$  down two and in the Closed Room Hou invented a heart suit and found himself in 4 $\heartsuit$ . Try and defeat that after a spade lead. At double-dummy only a trump lead sets the game. The winning line is to win the spade in hand, take a club ruff, cash the  $\diamond A$ , and then unblock spades. South ruffs in and plays a trump. You win, ruff the second club, ruff a diamond, cash the  $\spadesuit A$ , then exit in clubs. South can win and play a plain card, but you ruff low and North must overruff and lead from his Q9 of trumps into your tenace.

Declarer could not see through the cards, of course. He won the spade, finessed in diamonds, and when that lost a spade back doomed him. Down one and 4 imps to Jinghua to make it 27-1. Time for BEIH to get a lucky break of their own.

Bd: 9  
Dir: North  
Vul: E/W

North  
 $\spadesuit$  10  
 $\heartsuit$  842  
 $\diamond$  A10843  
 $\clubsuit$  AKQ5

West  
 $\spadesuit$  53  
 $\heartsuit$  K63  
 $\diamond$  Q972  
 $\clubsuit$  J983

East  
 $\spadesuit$  J9642  
 $\heartsuit$  J1095  
 $\diamond$  5  
 $\clubsuit$  1064

South  
 $\spadesuit$  AKQ87  
 $\heartsuit$  AQ7  
 $\diamond$  KJ6  
 $\clubsuit$  72

Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Sun	Zhuo	Kang
1 $\diamond$	Pass	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3 $\diamond$	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
Hou	Li Xiaoyi	Li Jie	Liu Haitao
1 $\diamond$	Pass	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 $\diamond$
Pass	5 $\clubsuit$	Pass	6 $\diamond$
All Pass			

Both auctions have something to recommend them, but while 6 $\diamond$  looks a better spot, protecting the  $\heartsuit K$  is not irrelevant. In 6NT the opening heart lead let Kang win cheaply and bring the diamonds in without loss, after which he had 13 tricks. What's the problem? Well, in the other room Sun went after his 12 tricks on the Rusinow  $\heartsuit 10$  lead in entirely logical fashion: cash the  $\diamond AK$ , pitch the heart losers on the top spades, ruff the fourth club in dummy. He won the  $\heartsuit A$  and cashed the  $\diamond KA$ ...oops! Never mind. So long as three spades and three clubs stood up declarer was almost home. He could take the spades, pitching hearts, ruff a heart to hand, cash the clubs, ruff the fourth, and be in dummy for the trump coup (and if the  $\heartsuit K$  was doubleton with West, say,  $5=2=4=2$  he wouldn't need the third club to live). No joy in Muddville. When the third spade got ruffed the heart loser wouldn't go away and he was down one; 14 imps to BEIH.

Bd: 10  
Dir: East  
Vul: Both

North  
 $\spadesuit$  Q  
 $\heartsuit$  AK9532  
 $\diamond$  109  
 $\clubsuit$  AQ52

West  
 $\spadesuit$  J75  
 $\heartsuit$  6  
 $\diamond$  AQJ8642  
 $\clubsuit$  84

East  
 $\spadesuit$  AK962  
 $\heartsuit$  87  
 $\diamond$  K3  
 $\clubsuit$  KJ76

South  
 $\spadesuit$  10843  
 $\heartsuit$  QJ104  
 $\diamond$  75  
 $\clubsuit$  1093



# Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu Jing</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Zhuo</i>	<i>Kang</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♠	3♥	Dbl	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

# Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Li Xiaoyi</i>	<i>Li Jie</i>	<i>Liu Haitao</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Rdbl	3♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

In 3♠ Zhuo received the most testing defense of repeated heart leads and he ruffed to play a club towards his hand. When North won to play a third heart he ruffed in dummy and now had to lose two trump tricks. By contrast, after a top heart lead against 4♠ Xiaoyi overtook and cashed the ♣A. When his partner discouraged he reverted to hearts — too late. Declarer ruffed, led a low trump to his ace, felling the queen, unblocked trumps, came to the ♦K, played two more rounds of trumps to South and could claim the balance. That was 10 imps to BEIH and the match score was now 27-25.

We are all familiar with the signs of verbal diarrhoea at the table (too often accompanied by mental constipation). Not necessarily here, but would you really feel obliged as East to act directly over a precision 1♦ or a 13-15 notrump? Apparently so.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ A1093
Vul: None	♥ Q85
	♦ 98
	♣ AK32

West  
♠ J85  
♥ J10  
♦ KJ6  
♣ QJ974

East  
♠ K762  
♥ AK64  
♦ 7532  
♣ 8

South  
♠ Q4  
♥ 9732  
♦ AQ104  
♣ 1065

# Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu Jing</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Zhuo</i>	<i>Kang</i>
			Pass
Pass	1NT	2♣(MAJs)	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

# Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Li Xiaoyi</i>	<i>Li Jie</i>	<i>Liu Haitao</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Jie pretended he had hearts. Zhuo pretended he had both majors. Which do you like least? For sure the first route worked better since with the minor-suit cards lying so well 1NT played just fine — especially on the Rusinow lead of the ♠9 which blew one of the

defenders' tricks. Hou came to eight tricks, which went perfectly with the result from the other room. There Jing let Zhuo suffer in 2♥ rather than having to himself play 2♠ — a contract that would surely have been easier to handle today. But might East have passed 2♦, anyway? The defenders led a club to the king and shifted to spades. Zhuo guessed this suit, then returned a spade. South won, then played a trump, letting declarer win in hand and play a diamond up. When he put up the king he had three trump tricks and one trick in each side suit, but no more. 6 imps to BEIH gave them the lead 31-27.

They added an overtrick imp to their lead, then both sides had some sort of chance here.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ A10
Vul: None	♥ QJ10
	♦ J9654
	♣ 743

West  
♠ K765  
♥ K72  
♦ 8  
♣ AKJ82

East  
♠ J9832  
♥ A865  
♦ K7  
♣ 65

South  
♠ Q4  
♥ 943  
♦ AQ1032  
♣ Q109

# Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu Jing</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Zhuo</i>	<i>Kang</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Dbl
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

# Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>Li Xiaoyi</i>	<i>Li Jie</i>	<i>Liu Haitao</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Dbl
2♠	4♦	4♠	All Pass

Both tables led the ♥Q against 4♠, and with the ♦A likely wrong at both tables declarer's decision to play trumps left him hopelessly placed when that lost to the ace. It is probably Monday-morning quarter-backing to remark that at double-dummy one can succeed by playing four rounds of clubs pitching hearts from dummy. Whoever ruffs gives up their trump trick, but it seems that this is more remote a chance than just playing on trumps at once. BEIH gained 2 imps when Liu went two down while Hou held his losses to -50. 33-28 now.

The score had advanced to 35-28 when both E/W pairs did well here.



Bd: 17  
Dlr: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ Q832  
♥ 102  
♦ AJ76  
♣ QJ4

West  
♠ K109  
♥ A97654  
♦ K  
♣ K85

East  
♠ AJ654  
♥ KJ8  
♦ 108  
♣ 1092

South  
♠ 7  
♥ Q3  
♦ Q95432  
♣ A763

Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Sun	Zhuo	Kang
1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass	2♣(Drury)	Pass

Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
Hou	Li Xiaoyi	Li Jie	Liu Haitao
1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both tables reached game, but in different suits and from different sides. Had Sun led a top club (as most of us would) declarer would have needed to guess spades without much of a clue. As it was, Sun led a heart, solving one guess for declarer, and letting him draw two trumps ending in dummy to lead a spade to the ten. If that lost the defenders would have to be able to cross with a diamond and play a club through to beat him (three cards misplaced). As the cards lay, he was safe for +420. In the other room Liu's low diamond lead let Xiaoyi shift to a club, but he led low and South ducked declarer's ten — a strange play, indeed, though maybe he was angling for a ruff and hoping his partner had a doubleton and that this would dissuade declarer from taking a safety play in trumps. Jie actually ruffed a heart, played the ♠K and ♠10, overtaken with the jack, the ♠A, then tried to run hearts from the top. North ruffed in but the defenders had only one club to cash; no swing.

With one deal to go, it was 37-28.

Bd: 20  
Dlr: West  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ 742  
♥ Q8  
♦ J764  
♣ Q965

West  
♠ K105  
♥ J74  
♦ Q102  
♣ AK73

East  
♠ Q93  
♥ K9653  
♦ A98  
♣ J8

South  
♠ AJ86  
♥ A102  
♦ K53  
♣ 1042

Open Room (BEIH N/S)

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Sun	Zhuo	Kang
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room (Jinghua N/S)

West	North	East	South
Hou	Li Xiaoyi	Li Jie	Liu Haitao
1♦	Pass	1♠(♥)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

When Sun led a diamond against 1NT the defenders were in position to set up a long card in that suit if declarer misguessed hearts. Jing won the second diamond, led a heart to the king, then won the third diamond in dummy to lead a heart to the jack and queen. Now he had two tricks in each side suit but no heart tricks at all. That was down one, -100, while 2♥ on a club lead won by dummy's jack meant declarer needed to guess either hearts or, failing that, either diamonds or spades (since he had a discard for dummy's third card in one of those suits). He also misguessed hearts by leading to the jack, but pitched a spade on the club winner and took the double finesse in diamonds against North to collect +110. That gave his side a 43-28 win; a nice comeback from down 27-1.



## Last Day of Special Exhibition

If you haven't yet visited the rare and precious playing cards, karuta (a Japanese card game), and traditional art objects on display in the NAVIS Room, located near the player lounge area, then you'd better saddle up your trusty steed and pony on over there pronto because **today is your last chance**. The Kyushu Branch of JCBL and the 2012 APBF Fukuoka Committee are sponsors of the exhibit containing items from Kenichi Maeda's private card collection and *objets d'art* from

the Omuta City Miike Memorial Museum.

Last Chance. Be there, or be square!



# The APBF Teams Round Robin: Beijing Jinghua vs CBLT1

by Rich Colker

## Match 8:

We must start with some editorial explanation. The most of players on Team CBLT1 (from Thailand) have exceptionally long last names. One member, for example, has a last name with 15 letters, another with 17. Fearing that repeated typing of those names would cause hand paralysis and that the resulting bidding diagrams would not fit the bulletin format (unless we reduced the type size to until the names were unreadable, we will present each player's whole name on their first citation but thereafter use an abbreviated form — usually their shorter first name.

On Board 1 both N/S pairs bid easily to a good 3NT and CBLT1 scored up an overtrick to take the lead 1-0. On Board 2 both N/S pairs bid accurately to a grand slam (Beijing to 7NT, CBLT1 to 7♠) and claimed at trick 1 or 2 for a push. Then on Board 3 both E/W pairs played a notrump part-score and again CBLT1 rang up an overtrick for another imp. So when Board 4 was placed on the table CBLT1 led 2-0.

Bd: 4  
Dlr: West  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ KJ9843  
♥ A109  
♦ 4  
♣ AQ7

West  
♠ 765  
♥ J65  
♦ 9853  
♣ 1032

East  
♠ 102  
♥ Q432  
♦ AQ76  
♣ K94

South  
♠ AQ  
♥ K87  
♦ KJ102  
♣ J865

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Arnond	Hu
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

### Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	2♦	Dbl
All Pass			

Hu Linlin's 2NT was natural and game forcing and when Liu Jie rebid spades to show six, Hu had no trouble raising him to game. East, Arnond Rotrugsa, led the ♥2 and to Nopanai Niyomchoke's jack and declarer's ace. Liu Jie led a diamond toward dummy and Arnond rose with the ace and switched to a trump. Declarer won the ace, cashed the queen, took the losing club finesse, ruffed the diamond return and claimed 11 tricks; +650.

Zhuo Di's double of 1♠ was not the worst we've ever seen, though it may have been a bit pushy by some

people's standards. When Piya Thongdhammachat's redouble came back around to Zhou he set about bidding his four-card suits up the line, starting with diamonds, and had when that came back around to him doubled he had no reason to look any further. The rest is brutal, as Piya's partner Chalernpol Wongwaiwit (Chal) can testify, so you may want to send children from the room before reading any further. Piya led the ♠A and continued with the queen, Chal overtaking and continuing with the ♠8 as Zhuo pitched a club and Piya the ♥7. Next came the ♦4 to Piya's ten and he switched to the ♣8 (perhaps influenced by declarer's discard at trick three). This rode around to Zhou's nine and he now tabled the ♣K. Chal won, underled the ♥A to the king, won the heart return and exited with a third heart which Piya ruffed. He got out with his last club and had to score one more trump trick for down four, -1100. That was 10 moreimps to CBLT1, who led now 12-0.

Bd: 6  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ AKQ92  
♥ 10653  
♦ 6  
♣ QJ8

West  
♠ 6  
♥ AJ984  
♦ Q43  
♣ A1094

East  
♠ 875  
♥ Q7  
♦ 1095  
♣ K6532

South  
♠ J1043  
♥ K2  
♦ AKJ872  
♣ 7

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Arnond	Hu
	1♠	Pass	2♦
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

### Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
	1♠	Pass	4♣(Spl)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room the Thailanders found the good save against 4♠. Liu Jie led the ♠K and switched to the ♦6. Hu won the king, cashed the ace, and gave his partner a ruff. With four tricks in that was the end as declarer drew trumps, took the winning heart finesse and claimed down two, -300. In the Closed Room Chal-Piya had an uncontested auction to 4♠ and made it easily, the defense taking just one club and two hearts; +620, 8imps to CBLT1, increasing their lead to 20-0.



Bd: 6  
Dlr: East  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ 8532  
♥ K4  
♦ QJ854  
♣ K5

West  
♠ K4  
♥ 8652  
♦ K92  
♣ 10932

East  
♠ Q109  
♥ AJ73  
♦ 106  
♣ QJ87

South  
♠ AJ76  
♥ Q109  
♦ A73  
♣ A64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Arnond	Hu
		Pass	1NT(13-15)

All Pass

Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Nopanai led the ♣10 against 1NT. Hu won the ace in hand, cashed the ♦A, led a diamond to the queen, and exited with a third diamond. Nopanai won and switched to the ♠K, which held, then continued with a second spade. Hu won, led the ♥10 to the king and ace and now had two clubs, four diamonds, three spades and a heart for +180.

Lin Jing led the ♣3 against 4♠. Piya won, led the ♥10 to the king and ace, covered the ♠9 return with the jack, losing to the king, won the spade return, crossed to the ♣K, took the losing diamond finesse, and finished one down, -50. That was 6 imps to Beijing, who cut Thailand's lead in half at 20-6.

On Board 7 CBLT1 picked up an imp while the next two boards were pushes. Then Thailand regained the imp when they played 3NT for +460 at one table and defended 5♣ for +420 at the other table. Thailand registered 2 more imps when they made two more overtricks in 3NT than Beijing did, making the score 21-9 when Board 13 was placed on the table.

Bd: 13  
Dlr: North  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ KQ5  
♥ 1072  
♦ J732  
♣ 753

West  
♠ A42  
♥ 94  
♦ 85  
♣ AKQ1086

East  
♠ 109  
♥ KQ853  
♦ AQ64  
♣ 92

South  
♠ J8763  
♥ AJ6  
♦ K109  
♣ J4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Arnond	Hu
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass

2NT All Pass

Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Liu Jie led the ♠K against Nopanai's 2NT and the VuGraph record simply says that 9 tricks were claimed. Assuming declarer ducked the first two spades, won the third spade, and ran the clubs South came under pressure. With four pitches to make he could afford one diamond and two hearts — but what else? If he pitched another diamond declarer could pick off his now stiff king, so to be safe he would have to pitch a spade (declarer pitching down to ♥KQ and ♦AQ). Now declarer could knock out the ♥A to score a ninth trick; +150.

In the other room Lin Jing had an easier road when Piya failed to overcall 1♠. Chal still led the ♠K but when that held he switched to the ♥10. Now declarer had his ninth trick but this time it was worth +600, and 10 imps for Beijing, who closed to within 2 at 21-19.

Bd: 14  
Dlr: East  
Vul: None

North  
♠ 5  
♥ KQJ9  
♦ K97  
♣ A8764

West  
♠ A63  
♥ 654  
♦ AJ6432  
♣ 2

East  
♠ KJ108  
♥ 732  
♦ Q  
♣ KJ1093

South  
♠ Q9742  
♥ A108  
♦ 1085  
♣ Q5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Arnond	Hu
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

(1) Precision

Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Rdbl	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

In 2NT there were only seven tricks; down one, -50. In the other room Piya had a chance to pick up a healthy number but settled for a little one. The editors

would both have passed the redouble of 2♠ and one of us (RC) would have doubled 3♠. On a heart lead declarer can only take six tricks; Piya led a trump. Zhuo won cheaply in hand, crossed to the ♦A and led a club. When Chaf ducked Zhuo guessed correctly and won the king. He then ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club (Piya pitching his last diamond), and ruffed a diamond with the ♠J and got over-ruffed. Now Zhou could only come to one more trick: the ♠K. That was down two, -100, when it might have been -300 or even -500; Paradise lost. CBLT1 picked up 4 imps to pull ahead by 6, 25-19.

Board 15 was a push at 4♥ making five. Then another "little" swing board came up.

Bd: 16  
Dlr: West  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ 742  
♥ J54  
♦ AJ1064  
♣ 105

West  
♠ A105  
♥ K932  
♦ Q95  
♣ Q98

East  
♠ J96  
♥ A1087  
♦ 832  
♣ AJ7

South  
♠ KQ83  
♥ Q6  
♦ K7  
♣ K6432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Armond	Hu
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣

All Pass

Nopanai led the ♥2 against 1NT and Armond tried the ten. Hu won the queen, cashed the ♦K, finessed in diamonds, then ran the suit pitching a club and two spades. Next came a spade to the king and ace and Nopanai, who had pitched down to the ♥K9 exited with the ♥9, blocking the suit. Armond won, returned the suit, and Nopanai could now have held the contract declarer to one more trick by exiting with his spade to endplay Hu to lead from the ♠K. Instead he got out with a club and now Hu came home with an overtrick; +120.

Piya elected to play 2♣, which could have been right on some other day — just not this one. But on this day the defense was forgiving — as was the offense. Liu Jing started okay by leading a heart to Zhou's ace. Now Zhou had to switch to a spade to defeat 2♣ but instead returned a heart to the king. Liu Jing got out with a diamond to the jack and king and Piya now finessed the diamond, pitched a spade on the ♥J and another on the ♦A. Now all he had to do to insure contract was to lead a club toward the king. Instead

Piya led a spade to the king and ace and now the defense was back in control. Lin Jing correctly exited with a second spade. Piya won, got out with a club to the ten and jack, Zhuo led a spade, and Piya could do no better than ruff and give up two more club tricks; -50, and 5 imps to Beijing, down only 1 at 25-24.

Bd: 17  
Dlr: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ A103  
♥ Q2  
♦ AQ6  
♣ K8754

West  
♠ 7  
♥ J743  
♦ KJ842  
♣ 1063

East  
♠ KJ9642  
♥ K6  
♦ 10753  
♣ 2

South  
♠ Q85  
♥ A10985  
♦ 9  
♣ AQJ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Armond	Hu
	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Dbf	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Dbf	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣

Dbf All Pass

Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
	1♣	2♠	Dbf
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣

All Pass

Both N/S pairs found club contracts, but Liu Jie and Hu's choice was a lot more ambitious and carried a much higher reward if they were right, and a much stiffer cost if they were wrong. Armond led the ♦10. Liu Jie won the queen, crossed to the ♣A, and played a heart to the queen and king. When a spade came back he ducked it around to his ten, crossed to a trump, and called for the ♥10, covered and ruffed, and Liu Jie claimed; +1090.

In the other room Chal got a diamond lead against 5♣. He won the jack with the queen, played a trump up and a trump back, then led the ♥Q, K, A, 3. He cashed a third high trumps and got out with the ♥10 to the jack, and now had the rest of the tricks. But BBO says he claimed only 11 tricks for +400 instead of +420. Still, in either case that was 12 imps to Beijing, in the lead now 36-25.

Bd: 18  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ KQ64  
 ♥ 9642  
 ♦ QJ3  
 ♣ A7

West  
 ♠ AJ2  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ AK752  
 ♣ KQ9

South  
 ♠ 9753  
 ♥ Q10875  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ J1082

East  
 ♠ 108  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ 109864  
 ♣ 6543

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Arnond	Hu

2♦(Multi)	Pass	2♥(P/C)	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

#### Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
1♣(Prec)	Pass	1♦(Neg)	Pass
2♥(Rel)	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

When was the last time you held a 24-count and a five-card suit and stopped short of game? Nopanai's 2♦ was Multi, this time the rare 22-24 variety. On a heart lead 3NT is in jeopardy (the defense takes three hearts, one diamond and the ♣A) but 5♦ is no better as the 3-0 trump split holds it to ten tricks (provided declarer guesses the clubs position for only one loser). Liu Jie had to lead in the blind and chose the ♦Q — not exactly paralyzing declarer. Nopanai won the ace and played king and a third diamond, and now Liu Jie found the heart switch. Nopanai won and crossed to dummy with a club, planning to lead the suit up twice playing for the ace to be onside. But when the ♣A took the king he claimed eight tricks, +120.

The Chinese E/W drove to game, as did the great majority of the field (22/28 pairs in the Open played 3NT or higher, the other 6 played in 2NT). Chal led a heart and Lin Jing won and played ace, king and a third diamond. Chal won and unexpectedly shifted to the ♠K. Lin Jiang won, crossed to dummy with a diamond, and led a club to the ten, king and ace. Now all Chal had to do was to exit with a heart but

again he inexplicably cashed the ♠Q and exited with a club. Now declarer had ten tricks (four diamonds, two hearts, two spades and two clubs) for +430. So 7 moreimps to Beijing, 43-25.

Board 19 was a push when both sides played in a club partials making 10 tricks. Last dance, last chance.

Bd: 20  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 72  
 ♥ AQ104  
 ♦ J964  
 ♣ J82

West  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ 983  
 ♦ KQ852  
 ♣ A543

East  
 ♠ AK98543  
 ♥ J52  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ KQ7

South  
 ♠ QJ10  
 ♥ K76  
 ♦ A1073  
 ♣ 1096

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nopanai	Liu Jie	Arnond	Hu
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

#### Closed Open Room

West	North	East	South
Liu Jing	Chal	Zhuo	Piya
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The fate of 4♠ clearly depends on the opening lead. Declarer has four top losers, a trump and three hearts, but the defense has to lead hearts to get them — otherwise declarer cashes the two top trumps and runs clubs, pitching one of his heart losers while the defense ruffs with their natural trump trick. That's the theory. In practice Arnond received a club lead and went down. He won the club in hand, cashed the two top trumps, and led...the ♥J. Now the defense cashed their heart tricks and he finished down one, -100.

In the other room Piya got brilliant and led...a low diamond. When dummy's king held Zhou proceeded as predicted and came home with 11 tricks for +650. That was 13 moreimps to Beijing, who won the match 56-25, 21-9 in VPs.



Don't push me. I know karate."



"Look, it's Godzilla, heading for Tokyo!"



Behold, the human knot.



# The APBF Teams Round Robin: Beijing Evertrust vs HYX CHINA

by Barry Rigal

## Match 9:

The match between the second and third place teams in Group B started with a pessimistic and an optimistic valuation. For at least this deal, the glass half-full dominated the glass half-empty.

Bd: 1  
Dlr: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ AKJ983  
♥ KQ43  
♦ 5  
♣ 109

West	East
♠ 76	♠ 1052
♥ 98	♥ J105
♦ AQ94	♦ KJ1082
♣ J7654	♣ AQ

South
♠ Q4
♥ A762
♦ 763
♣ K832

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

What percentage of the field will raise the response of 2♥ here and what percentage will pass? Does the vulnerability matter? Of course with the ♥K and ♣A, a raise is more attractive since all your cards are working. And vulnerable you'd have to raise since the odds are so weighted towards games atimps. Of course the fact that the opening is limited also argues for caution, but even taking everything into account both Editors are firmly in the "Bid'em up" club. Minrong earned 6imps for his side by bidding when the cards were as friendly as could be.

Bd: 2  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ AJ8543  
♥ 4  
♦ A87  
♣ 542

West	East
♠ Q9	♠ K106
♥ K32	♥ 976
♦ KJ95	♦ Q10632
♣ AKJ8	♣ 97

South
♠ 72
♥ AQJ1085
♦ 4
♣ Q1063

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
		Pass	2♥
2NT	Pass	3♥	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
		Pass	2♦ (Multi)
2NT	All Pass		

It takes a lot these days to make the Editors' mouths drop; we tend to think we've seen it all. But Zhengjun's reopening 3♥ bid really surprised me. It gained 2imps when the defenders played three rounds of clubs and declarer could subsequently stop East from getting a second club ruff. The downside was that it should have cost him 500 and might have led to the opponents bidding to their making 3NT. I'm sure he would regard it as all in a day's work. Since 2NT made +150 in the other room the match score was 6-2 now.

Knowing when to take an aggressive position was obviously going to be critical in this match. Board 3 produced another example of when and how to mix it up.

Bd: 3  
Dlr: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ K104  
♥ 105  
♦ KQJ54  
♣ 632

West	East
♠ AQ8763	♠ J2
♥ ---	♥ KQJ976
♦ 763	♦ 2
♣ AQ105	♣ KJ98

South
♠ 95
♥ A8432
♦ A1098
♣ 74

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
1♠	2♦	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
			Pass
1♠	2♦	2♥	2♠
Dbf	3♦	3♥	All Pass

Feast your eyes on the beauty of that 2♦ overcall, but not if you're just about to have breakfast. It was found at both tables, setting East a problem as to how to describe his assets. Yong's invitational 3♥ jump worked better than the action at the other table

because Jianhong could infer diamond shortness and was prepared to play his partner for a doubleton rather than a singleton spade. With a diamond lead likely and the ruffing finesse working in hearts, I don't think any defense against 4♠ would have threatened that contract. So Zhengjun's sacrifice in 5♦ was a paying one in theory, though it saved no imps. That was because in the other room Lidang as West went low where his counterpart went high. Repeated diamond leads tapped out declarer and East, who might have pitched his spade loser on the third diamond, ruffed in immediately at every opportunity. That let South gain the lead with the long trump while he still had a diamond left to cross to his partner, and the fifth diamond meant one down, -100. HYX led 18-2.

The lead went up to 21-2 when HYX had some good fortune.

Bd: 4  
Dlr: West  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ Q643  
♥ K4  
♦ A5  
♣ QJ942

West  
♠ J10952  
♥ AQ52  
♦ J104  
♣ 7

East  
♠ 87  
♥ 98763  
♦ 973  
♣ A83

South  
♠ AK  
♥ J10  
♦ KQ862  
♣ K1065

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Zhengjun found a way to agree clubs after bidding and raising diamonds and finished in the best game — though the wrong way up. With both heart honors outside the cards forgave them. Meanwhile, though Jinsheng bid and rebid clubs, Minrong opted for 3NT and Lidang's spade lead looks a little naive given no spade raise by his partner. Of course with diamonds 3-3 he could point out that his lead cost only overtricks, of which there were three when the defense never led hearts.

As if to emphasize the theme, along came another deal on which bidding worked better than passing.

Bd: 5  
Dlr: North  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ 7  
♥ A62  
♦ 10763  
♣ KQ975

West  
♠ QJ8  
♥ 109843  
♦ K9  
♣ J82

East  
♠ 10952  
♥ J75  
♦ Q85  
♣ A43

South  
♠ AK643  
♥ KQ  
♦ AJ42  
♣ 106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)
1♥	2♣	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Against 3NT Sheng led a heart. Declarer won and led the ♣10, intending to run it no doubt. West covered and East ducked the queen. Declarer finessed in diamonds, won the heart return in dummy, and led a club to the nine and ace. Back came a third heart and declarer cashed out for +630.

By contrast, where hearts had been bid and raised it was easier for Yong to lead hearts. Declarer won in dummy and (misled by the auction into thinking West might have high cards because he had bid a weak suit) led a low club to the queen, smoothly ducked by East, and a diamond to the jack and king. He took the heart return in dummy and led a club to the king and ace. A third heart cleared the suit and declarer went after diamonds. East won his queen and played back a club to let West cash out for 200 and another 13 imps. It was 34-2. Time for a change of direction.

Bd: 6  
Dlr: East  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ A  
♥ KQ765  
♦ J87  
♣ J1054

West  
♠ K9875  
♥ 83  
♦ K52  
♣ 982

East  
♠ J64  
♥ A104  
♦ Q3  
♣ AKQ63

South  
♠ Q1032  
♥ J92  
♦ A10964  
♣ 7

# Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
2♥	Dbl	1NT	Pass
3♠	All Pass	2♠	3♥

# Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
1♦	1♥	Pass	2♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	All Pass

Most of the competitive decisions taken on this deal would have Larry Cohen tearing out his hair — if he has any left. The bottom line was that each N/S pair attempted 3♥ on an eight-card trump fit and both E/W pairs went on in their eight-card fit. Where Lidang was declarer he ducked the heart lead, won the next, then ran the ♠J, a very nice view. He could ruff the heart return and cross to a top club, then duck a trump when South split his honors. And when South cashed his ♦A and played another, that was that. Had South exited in trumps, the 4-1 club break would have left declarer with just eight tricks.

In the other room Yong won the heart lead and led a trump to the king and ace. After that start he lost four trumps since the defenders got a club ruff, a heart and two diamonds for –300. 10 imps to Evertrust, down 34-12. And there was more to come.

Bd: 7  
Dlr: South  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ AKJ  
♥ A8  
♦ A75  
♣ Q9762

West  
♠ 9763  
♥ Q42  
♦ 1092  
♣ J105

East  
♠ 1042  
♥ KJ  
♦ QJ63  
♣ K843

South  
♠ Q85  
♥ 1097653  
♦ K84  
♣ A

# Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

# Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables reached 3NT by North, eschewing the 6-2 heart fit because South's failure to open a weak-two had suggested a feeble suit, an inference that

would not always be so easy to draw were it not for the aggressive nature of each side in preempting. Both Easts led a top diamond. North won, played ace and another heart, and East continued with a second diamond. Chuancheng won and drove out the ♥J and the defenders cashed out — but declarer had nine tricks. By contrast, after exactly the same start Jinsheng ducked the second diamond and West, Dong Lidang, astutely shifted to a low club. He could win the next heart and play a club honor through, setting up a fifth defensive winner. A nice way to take advantage of the opportunities offered to you. That was 12 imps and the match score was 34-24.

Both sides had their opportunities on the next deal, though the final result was a stand-off.

Bd: 8  
Dlr: West  
Vul: None

North  
♠ J10  
♥ A9862  
♦ AJ985  
♣ 7

West  
♠ K2  
♥ K10543  
♦ K763  
♣ J2

East  
♠ 9843  
♥ 7  
♦ 42  
♣ AK9643

South  
♠ AQ765  
♥ QJ  
♦ Q10  
♣ Q1085

# Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
Pass	1♥	2♣	Dbl
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

# Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♠
2NT	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Where Zhengjun was declarer he won the lead of the ♣J in hand, took two diamond finesses ending in dummy, then lost the spade finesse. Back came a club to the king (declarer pitching a heart from the board) and a spade shift, won in dummy. At this point if the spade finesse was working declarer could simply give up a diamond. But the auction suggested that it wasn't so South ducked a heart to West. The defenders won and returned a heart and declarer found himself locked in hand to concede the last two tricks to East; down one.

In the Closed Room Jinsheng's undisciplined 3♦ bid robbed his side of a +500 penalty from 3♣. Instead, Minrong played 3NT on the lead of ♣J, overtaken by the king for a heart shift to the queen king and ace. Declarer lost the spade finesse and a heart came back to remove his last convenient entry to hand. Now came the ♦Q, ducked all around, the ♣Q to East's ace, and a spade back. Minrong won his ♠AQ and ♠10 and had to make two discards from dummy



as West discarded two small hearts. The winning line is to come down to three diamonds and the ♠9. Declarer can then finesse in diamonds and exit in hearts to force West to win and lead diamonds into the tenace. Instead, he kept four diamonds in dummy and West scored the last two tricks with the ♦K and ♥10. No swing; still 34-24 to HYX.

Bd: 9  
Dlr: North  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ AK986  
♥ A963  
♦ 1082  
♣ 5

West  
♠ 2  
♥ KQ84  
♦ KJ965  
♣ J108

East  
♠ QJ1073  
♥ ---  
♦ Q7  
♣ AK9742

South  
♠ 54  
♥ J10752  
♦ A43  
♣ Q63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
1♠	2♣	Pass	3♥

3♣

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
1♠	2♣	4♣	4♥
2♠	3♥		
Dbl	All Pass		

Yet again there seemed quite a disparity between the levels of aggression at the two tables, with everyone in the Open Room taking the low road. I don't think you can take more than a spade, a diamond, and a club against East's 4♣, but the defenders did even better against 3♥. Jianhong led his singleton spade. Declarer won in dummy and played a club to East, who shifted to his low diamond to the jack for a diamond back to the queen and ace. At this stage, given the lead, maybe declarer knew 14 of East's cards (apparently five spades, three diamonds, and six clubs) so a trump to the ace was not the indicated play. Had declarer led a spade up he would have escaped for one down at worst, but as it was he cashed the ♥A and found the surprising news. Now West could ruff the ♠K and draw trumps to prevent declarer taking any ruffs. Plus 150 was good for E/W, but not good enough.

In the other room South appears to have been on an Olympic mission: *citius, altius, fortius*. When he got high enough, West informed him to that effect. With 4♥x played by North the defenders could lead a club and shift to a diamond. Declarer ducked, won the second diamond and tried the ♠AK. West ruffed and cashed a diamond but only scored one more trump trick for +300. It was 34-28 to HYX.

Things quieted down for a while. Both pairs played 3NT down a trick (the North players, on lead after the unopposed auction 1♥-1♠-2♥-3NT-P, led a spade

from ♠KQ103 ♥1075 ♦Q ♣J10753 and found this to be the killing lead (partner has ♠Jxx and a heart trick plus the ♦AJ. You might beat the contract with a diamond lead but a club lead would be absolutely fatal to the defense).

The same E/W pairs then both bid 3NT off five running club tricks and an ace, Evertrust picking up an undertrick 2 imps, followed by a flat +630. It was 30-30 now.

Bd: 13  
Dlr: North  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ J42  
♥ 3  
♦ KQ102  
♣ QJ875

West  
♠ 1063  
♥ AK1052  
♦ A86  
♣ 96

East  
♠ AKQ  
♥ 84  
♦ 954  
♣ AK1032

South  
♠ 9875  
♥ QJ976  
♦ J73  
♣ 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
2♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2♥	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
2♦	Pass	1♣	Pass
2NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables reached 3NT but in very different ways. In the Closed Room West was declarer, having heard the lead-directional double of diamonds to his left. In the Open Room East was declarer, knowing nothing about his opponents' hands.

Yong, the declarer who knew nothing, won South's spade lead and led a low club to the nine and queen. He crossed to a top heart to take a club finesse and whether it held or lost he had nine top tricks when North followed a second time. What's the problem? By contrast, Dong as West got a suspicious lead of the ♣7. That looked like shortage to him so he flew with the ace and led a heart: seven, ace, three. When he cashed a second top heart and found the bad news he now needed clubs to split 4-2. When they didn't he was dead in the water. On reflection, it seems that if you know North has the long diamonds, and you do, you can guarantee building your extra trick by simply ducking trick one in dummy. This works against even 5-1 clubs with South having the length. Of course, an easier way to go plus imps might have been to redouble 2♦.

It was 42-30 now, HYX. They gained another 2 imps from playing the better and higher-scoring partscore to make it 44-30. Then the overbidders struck again, and let me warn those of you of a nervous disposition

that it might be wise not to focus too closely on the auctions.

Bd: 15  
Dlr: South  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ 543  
♥ 985  
♦ A854  
♣ A102

West  
♠ Q7  
♥ KJ6  
♦ K1072  
♣ J963

East  
♠ AJ10  
♥ Q72  
♦ QJ3  
♣ Q854

South  
♠ K9862  
♥ A1043  
♦ 96  
♣ K7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun

Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
1♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Several of the calls in the above auctions are not suitable for consideration, even by mature readers. But the bottom line was that Evertrust reached delicate contracts in both rooms. 2NT on a spade lead was nearly hopeless. Declarer tried to knock out South's entry by playing diamonds, but the defenders could win and clear spades while South still had the ♥A as an entry. That was -100, but 3♠ was not without chances and after a low club lead to the two, queen and king all declarer needed to do was finesse clubs and set up the thirteenth heart. He duly won the club, ducked a spade, won the diamond continuation in dummy, and led a heart to the ace and finessed in clubs to pitch the diamond loser. Now he led a trump from the board, but instead of playing the king he ducked this to West's queen. That cost a trick and a tempo, since the defenders could force him with a diamond, then win the second heart to play the ♠A and the fourth club. So South never scored his long heart. 7 imps to HYX, up 51-30 now.

We've been accusing the players of lunacy without a slam-dunk conviction. It's time for proof positive to emerge.

Bd: 16  
Dlr: West  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ K10975  
♥ 8  
♦ 1075  
♣ 10653

West  
♠ 432  
♥ KQ107  
♦ K32  
♣ K42

East  
♠ QJ86  
♥ A9  
♦ QJ86  
♣ J87

South  
♠ A  
♥ J65432  
♦ A94  
♣ AQ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jianhong	Chuancheng	Yong	Zhengjun
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
2NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lidang	Jinsheng	Sheng	Minrong
1♦	1♠	1NT	2♥
All Pass			

With reference to the Closed Room auction have you ever seen an auction of this sort where no one has psyched (deliberately that is) and third and fourth hands have 26 high-cards between them? On a diamond lead declarer took five tricks (yes it might have been six) for -150.

Meanwhile, comparative sanity reigned in the Open Room where the defenders led the ♠10 to the jack and ace for a heart shift to the eight and ace. Had declarer simply played on diamonds now he would surely have come home. But he finessed in hearts, led a spade to the nine and queen, then advanced the ♦Q, ducked. A diamond to the king saw declarer cash one heart and play a second spade. North won, led a diamond to his partner, and now a fourth heart tucked declarer in hand to concede the balance for down one. Evertrust had 6 imps and trailed 51-36.

The last four boards did not generate any meaningful swings. HYX won by 52-39, 18-12 in VPs. That left both teams still in position to qualify.



"You put your left hand in..."



"Here is the church, here is the steeple..."



"I've got a bear of a Thursday AM hangover."



"Exit, stage right."