

Sorry, English only.

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Hats off to CHINESE TAIPEI, who staged a brilliant last-day rally to grab the fourth semifinal place. They had to win big against front-running EUROPE in the last round and they did it in style, 22-8. EUROPE played the best in the round robin and were full value for their first-place finish. INDONESIA also played consistently, and CANADA capped an up-and-down round robin with a vital last-round blitz to finish second. It will be EUROPE vs CHINESE TAIPEI, with EUROPE 11imps behind on carryunder. INDONESIA will play CANADA with a 13-imp lead. 32 boards, starting at 10 am.

STANDINGS AT THE END OF THE ROUND ROBIN

(1) EUROPE	161
(2) CANADA	151
(3) INDONESIA	148
(4) CHINESE TAIPEI	143
(5) JAPAN (GELLER)	139
(5) NEW ZEALAND	139
(7) JAPAN (YAMADA)	138
(8) JAPAN (HISATOMI)	124
(9) JAPAN (YOUTH)	104
(10) JAPAN (TATAI)	91

Round 7

CANADA	(31) 14 - 16 (37)	NEW ZEALAND
YOUTH	(31) 9 - 21 (59)	EUROPE
TATAI	(41) 15 - 15 (41)	CHINESE TAIPEI
INDONESIA	(31) 14 - 16 (34)	GELLER
HISATOMI	(28) 17 - 13 (17)	YAMADA

Round 8

CHINESE TAIPEI	(78) 20 - 10 (53)	INDONESIA
NEW ZEALAND	(33) 14 - 16 (41)	HISATOMI
EUROPE	(50) 14 - 16 (55)	TATAI
CANADA	(30) 8 - 22 (65)	YAMADA
YOUTH	(39) 14 - 16 (44)	GELLER

Round 9

GELLER	(54) 18 - 12 (40)	NEW ZEALAND
INDONESIA	(67) 25 - 4 (10)	TATAI
CHINESE TAIPEI	(56) 22 - 8 (22)	EUROPE
YAMADA	(23) 10 - 20 (46)	YOUTH
CANADA	(70) 25 - 4 (12)	HISATOMI

TOO CONSIDERATE FOR HIS OWN GOOD

NORTH			
BOARD: II-6	S: AQ75		
DEALER: E	H: K4		
VUL: E-W	D: Q10		
	C: QJ1098		

WEST	EAST
S:10	S:942
H:J9752	H:Q863
D:K63	D:AJ42
C:K753	C:A4

SOUTH

S:KJ863
H:A10
D:9875
C:62

Reid	Feichtinger	Newell	Terraneo
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		P	P
P	IS	P	4S///

New Zealand had some bad luck (among things) in their second round defeat at the hands of Europe, but you'll have to judge for yourself whether this was one of those boards.

Against Feichtinger-Terraneo's canape bash at 4S, Peter Newell led a trump. Kurt Feichtinger won in hand and led the CQ, ducked to the king. Martin Reid knew that there might be some problems cashing out and so made the thoughtful play of the DK, letting his partner know that he had it. Feichtinger followed with the queen and Newell thought that Feichtinger might need to ruff some diamonds in the closed hand so he (equally) thoughtfully overtook the DK with the ace to lead a second trump. Feichtinger won in dummy and led a club to the jack and ace and from where we are sitting, it looks as if there was nothing for Newell to do but cash the DJ. But Peter was still concerned with the possibility that Feichtinger had started with the bare DQ. If Newell tried to cash the jack, Feichtinger would have a ruffing finesse against the ten and might get home that way.

Are you beginning to see what transpired? Peter carefully, thoughtfully, and, alas, unsuccessfully, underled the DJ to Reid's putative ten. Feichtinger scooped in the ten, drew the last trump, and claimed his impossible contract. 10imps to Europe.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM ROUND SEVEN

NORTH			
BOARD: VII-5	S:73		
DEALER: N	H:9753		
VUL: N-S	D:87		
	C:QJ1086		

WEST	EAST
S:J	S:AQ1094
H:KQ6	H:A2
D:K1096	D:AJ43
C:K9432	C:A7

SOUTH

S:K8652
H:J1084
D:Q52
C:5

6D was the popular contract with the E/W cards on this one, although one pair missed slam and two played in 6NT (and made it). In Indonesia vs Geller, 6D failed at both tables. Everyone else made this slam, so it was good news in the comparison when the unsuccessful declarers discovered that their counterpart had achieved the same result.

In Canada vs New Zealand, both South players led the C5 against East's 6D. Joey Silver won the CA and returned the suit. Martin Reid elected to ruff in front of dummy, and when Silver regained the lead, he played off ace-king of trumps and was able to claim. So ruffing was not the most challenging defense. If Reid discards instead, it looks as if Silver will have to play someone for the king of spades or simply try to guess the trump queen.

At the other table, Tom Jacob won the CA and played off three high hearts, discarding his remaining club. Then he ruffed a club low and was not pleased to see Beverly Kraft overruff. If Beverly had returned a trump, Jacob would have had to guess the SK, but she played an ace, conceding a ruff-and-discard, and now Jacob had a different option. He elected to discard a club from dummy and took the ruff in the closed hand with the jack of trumps. Now he led the D4 to dummy's ten, ruffed the last small club with the DA, played SA, spade ruff, and the DK, dropping the queen. No swing at plus 920.

In Europe vs JAPAN (Youth), Kobayashi-Otsuka missed slam in the Closed Room, so there were 20imps at stake for Kurt Feichtinger in 6D. He got the lead of the HJ, won in hand and played DA, diamond to the ten. What did he know about the distribution that does not so readily meet the eye? It was clear sailing after that. DK, SJ, conceding a spade. There is no sure trick line available. Whose line do you prefer?

Next, anti-"BONDAGE" lead problem. You hold: (N) Q43 Q8 KJ2 KQ1072

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			P
1C(4-H)	P	1D(Neg)	P
1S(4S)	P	2S(4S)	P
2NT(G,T)	P	3C(2-way)	P
3D(yes?)	P	3H(SPL)	P
4S///			What would you lead?

The concealed hand would have four spades and at least four hearts, lots of high cards. East has a weak hand with a singleton heart and four trumps. I thought that if I blew a trump trick by leading the suit, I stood a good chance of getting that trick back with interest. I am now convinced that I should give up bridge and consider a career as a sumo wrestler. This was the full deal ...

NORTH			
BOARD: VII-19	S:Q43		
DEALER: S	H:Q8		
VUL: E-W	D:KJ2		
	C:K1072		

WEST	EAST
S:AK97	S:J1052
H:AK102	H:4
D:1063	D:Q865
C:AJ	C:9864

SOUTH

S:86
H:J97653
D:A74
C:53

The (is imaginative too kind an adjective?) trump lead was not a big success. Brian Mace won dummy, led a club to the jack and queen, won the trump return in hand and played on diamonds. With the cards as they are, he can handle everything easily; plus 620. The Canadian E/W pair went minus 200 in 2NT, so New Zealand gained 13imps en route to a 16-14 win.

NORTH			
BOARD: VII-17	S:KJ973		
DEALER: N	H:1075		
VUL: NONE	D:AKQ10		
	C:7		

WEST	EAST
S:102	S:Q854
H:K62	H:83
D:532	D:9764
C:QJ853	C:K102

SOUTH

S:A6
H:AJ94
D:J8
C:A964

Seven N/S pairs out of ten reached 6H. How would you play this slam on a club lead? Or on any lead, for that matter?

Anyone can make it if the trump finesse is right, but what if it's wrong? You have some communication problems if you cross to dummy in diamonds, and pass the H10, and it holds, and you repeat the heart finesse and it loses. If a trump comes back, you need three spade tricks to get home because you lose your club ruff and you can't ruff out four-two spades and get back to dummy. Perhaps the right move is to lead the HQ from hand. If it holds, you can (1) cash the ace; playing on some sort of scramble if the trumps break four-one, or (2) perhaps, better, lead the H9. If the trumps are three-two and someone wins and returns a trump, you are cold if spades are no worse than four-two. If trumps are four one and defender wins the king and returns a trump, you are not down yet.

There were tables where declarer ran the H10 successfully, then led low to the ace. That worked well enough. This is an interesting combination to bid also. Are you confident that you and your partner would bid this one?

Which game would you prefer to be in - 3NT or 4S - with these N/S cards?

NORTH		SOUTH	
AQ32	J865		
K82	AJ10		
VUL: N-S	A752		
	K8		

3NT will need some luck on a club lead, but is probably a better contract on any other lead. But 4S is pretty good in its own right. In the event, no one in 3NT got a club lead and no one in 4S made it. This was the full layout ...

NORTH			
BOARD: 9	S:AQ32		
DEALER: N	H:K62		
VUL: E-W	D:KQ4		
	C:J96		

WEST	EAST
S:10	S:K974
H:Q76	H:9543
D:J1098	D:63
C:AQ1052	C:743

SOUTH

S:J865
H:AJ10
D:A752
C:K8

RUNNING WITH THE BULLS

With only four boards left to play, Canada was facing a serious loss to Europe in Round 6. Then...

NORTH			
BOARD: VI-17	S:Q8754		
DEALER: N	H:7642		
VUL: NONE	D:AK		
	C:K4		

WEST	EAST
S:J	S:K96
H:AQ10853	H:J9
D:3	D:842
C:QJ972	C:A8653

SOUTH

S:A1032
H:K
D:QJ109765
C:10

Habert	Ilan	Silver	Ophir
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	P	P	1D
1H	IS	DBL*	4S
5C	P	P	DBL///

* Some clubs and some values

As is often the case with very distributional deals, it is impossible to judge the level exactly and perhaps North should know that it is right to save in 5D rather than defend this doubled game.

Ilan Herbst started with two rounds of diamonds against Rhoda's club game. Rhoda ruffed and advanced the club queen, four. Well, the finesse might be the strict percentage play, but the auction seemed to mark Ophir with most of the remaining high cards. Rhoda played the ace. Ophir did not play the king. Not yet discouraged, declarer continued with the HJ, K, A, and then another three rounds of hearts discarding dummy's offending spades while North followed helplessly. Plus 550 garnered 11imps for Canada when Etsuko Miyaishi and Kyoko Shimamura played 5D, down one at the other table.

If you're looking for a deal to save for your grandchildren, you might consider the following item

NORTH			
BOARD: VI-18	S:9864		
DEALER: E	H:KQ10		
VUL: N-S	D:AJ1054		
	C:Q		

WEST	EAST
S:J	S:K10
H:J702	H:A654
D:K	D:Q862
C:K1098632	C:AJ4

SOUTH

S: AQ7532
H:98
D:973
C:75

Habert	Ilan	Silver	Ophir
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		INT	P
3NT///			

Psst...that INT of Silver's was weak, 11-14. Ophir Herbst couldn't act with a random upside that it might just happen to make.

You, of course, would have led a diamond and your partner would then have switched to a spade for three down, but Ophir is merely excellent, not perfect. He led a spade and Silver claimed nine tricks, for a miraculous plus 400.

In the Closed Room, Etsuko and Kyoko were busy. They had no trouble entering the auction over a red suit opening by East and soon found themselves doubled in four spades, plus 790 with a little help from the trump suit. Canada had gained 15 neededimps. Among things, this deal became an unpaid announcement for "The Weak Notrump" party.

EUROPEAN STORIES

by Ilan Herbst

In the second match we played against New Zealand; Ophir and I in the Closed Room, Kurt Feichtinger-Franz Terraneo in the Open Room. We did not think that we had won the match at our table, but as it turned out Kurt and Franz were having an enormous set, making almost every possible game in sight, and some games that were not in sight! After we compared scores, we were very pleased with a surprising blitz. Here are two hands ...

NORTH			
BOARD: II-2	S:3		
DEALER: E	H:652		
VUL: N-S	D:AK		
	C:KQJ7543		

WEST	EAST
S:K64	S:AQ92
H:843	H:KQ10
D:97643	D:Q1082
C:A6	C:109

SOUTH

S:J10875
H:AJ97
D:J5
C:82

Open Room					Closed room			
Reid	Kurt	Newell	Franz	Ilan H	Jacob	Ophir	H	Mace
W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S	
			P					
P	1C*	INT*	3C		1C(H)	2S	3C	
P	3H	P	3S	P	3H	P	3NT	
P	4D	P	4NT	P	4D	P	6C:///	
P	5S*	P	7S					
P	7NT///							

In the Open room, N/S were allowed to play the normal 3C making 10 tricks plus 130. In the closed room, after the same bidding, Ilan competed with 3D, based on his nine-card trump fit, and North took a conservative action by passing (I like a speculative 3NT, since with the marked diamond lead he has prospects for eight tricks and needs only one trick and some slow stuff from partner). In 3D, the opening lead was a club, which Ophir won to play trumps. North won and cashed the CK and led a heart to the queen and ace. Now South returned the SJ, which Ophir won in dummy to play a second trump, unblocking with the ten. North returned a heart, but Ophir put on the king, and ran all his trumps squeezing South in the majors for nine tricks, plus 110 and a 6-imp gain. South would have done better to duck the HK.

NORTH			
BOARD: II-5	S:K		
DEALER: N	H:AKQJ94		
VUL: N-S	D:AQ843		
	C:7		

WEST	EAST
S:J2	S:1098654
H:108753	H:82
D:KJ97	D:2
C:54	C:J1083

SOUTH

S: AQ73
H:
D:1065
C:AKQ962

Open Room					Closed room			
Reid	Kurt	Newell	Franz	Ilan H	Jacob	Ophir	H	Mace
W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S	
			P					
P	1C*	INT*	3C		1C(H)	2S	3C	
P	3H	P	3S	P	3H	P	3NT	
P	4D	P	4NT	P	4D	P	6C:///	
P	7NT///							

In the Closed room, Jacob-Mace did well to bid 6C. There was nothing to the play. Minus 1370 looked like a very bad result for Europe; with all the suits breaking badly, it looks as if there is great potential to miss slam or to play a wrong lead. In the Open Room, Kurt and Franz bid to the good 7NT, which needs a good break in hearts (after a non-club lead) or one of various other chances. Kurt opened a strong club, and Newell tried a comic INT overall. 3C, 3H, 3S were natural, and 4D was at least semi-natural. 4NT asked for aces. 5S showed 2 aces and a good hand, and 7S was to play if partner had spades. Kurt converted to 7NT. After a heart lead, Franz drew four rounds of hearts, getting the bad news, unblocked the SK, tried three rounds of clubs, and then two rounds of spades. West was squeezed in the red suits, forced to keep only two diamonds and the high heart, and Franz brought home his contract with three tricks in diamonds after finessing. An enormous plus 2220 and another 13imps to Europe.

NORTH			
BOARD: IV-8	S:742		
DEALER: W	H:KJ32		
VUL: NONE	D:AK3		
	C:AQ9		

WEST	EAST
S:KQ10853	S:AJ
H:10	H:Q865
D:876	D:QJ102
C:864	C:KJ3

SOUTH

S:96
H:A974
D:954
C:10752

Open Room					Closed room			
Ilan H	Ino	Ophir	H	Imakura	Hanayama	Zmud	Hirata	Olanski
W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S	
			P					
P	2D*	P	2S*	P	2D*	X	2S	P
P	X	P	3H	P	4D	P	P	P
P	4H	X	P					
P	P							

On both rooms 2D was multi and 2S was pass/correct, passed by west. In the Closed room, Zmudinski showed his values with a direct double over 2D and rightly saw no reason to look further when the bidding came back to him at 2S. 2S made nine tricks; plus 140.

In the Open Room, Ino chose to pass 2D and wait for the development of the bidding. When 2S returned to him, he doubled, and over partner's 3H raised to four (misjudging the strength around the table). Ophir ruffed his more and added a double. The lead was the SK, and after overtaking and returning a diamond (and it looks like that will evolve with ANY defence), East was employed to give declarer a club trick for 2 down, -300 to E/W and 5imps.