



NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 9, 1997
Bulletin Number 1

Editors: Eric Kokish
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The 1997 **NEC Bridge Festival** began yesterday with the OUCHI CUP, a two-day qualifying Swiss Team Event with 65 teams entered. The field was divided into seven sections, with the top three finishers in each group qualifying for today's A Final. The Group B Final is made up of the teams finishing fourth through sixth yesterday and the remaining teams from yesterday's qualifying round are eligible to compete in the C Final.

Qualifiers for Today's Group A OUCHI CUP

Section A:

- 1st K. Kawakami, T. Kamiyo, M. Tan, H. Sekiyama
- 2nd P. Hackett, J. Armstrong, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett
- 3rd S. Hanai, R. Kawakatsu, Mr. & Mrs. K. Murata

Section B:

- 1st H. Enomoto, A. Kuwabara, K. Saeki, J. Kobayashi
- 2nd X. Wang, Z. Fu, C. Liu, S. Sun
- 3rd K. Ueda, S. Ando, T. Ozawa, K. Akita

Section C:

- 1st T. Hara, K. Tatai, K. Ito, T. Jomura
- 2nd S. Isiguro, H. Daimon, M. Ohsaki, N. Iwai
- 3rd M. Kumano, K. Asakoshi, S. Morinaga, Y. Fukuyama

Section D:

- 1st H. Liu, Z. Shi, E. Naito, N. Nishida
- 2nd T. Inaba, T. Hotta, R. Fukumaru, H. Noda
- 3rd R. Geller, S. Ogihara, K. Yamada, K. Takahashi, H. Narita, Y. Ito

Section E:

- 1st S. Fukuda, Y. Shimizu, H. Kaku, M. Mizuta
- 2nd A. Yamada, K. Ohno, M. Ino, T. Imakura, M. Hirata, T. Hanayama
- 3rd K. Wakatsuki, N. Abe, S. Kazama, Y. Eto
- 4th M. Hirota, Y. Masuda, K. Nishimura, S. Suzuki

Section F:

- 1st H. Hisatomi, T. Teramoto, H. Abe, D. Chen
- 2nd S. Naito, S. Moriyama, M. Sekizawa, A. Amano
- 3rd M. Kanazawa, K. Kawahara, R. Illingworth, A. Yanagisawa

Section G:

- 1st Y. Nakamura, K. Miyakuni, R. Tanaka, S. Morimura
- 2nd H. Fushioka, M. Nakajima, T. Goto, K. Miyazaki
- 3rd A. Kimura, K. Mizutani, S. Hiroishi, N. Tanai

RECEPTION FOR NEC CUP PARTICIPANTS

NEC is hosting a reception for all the players tonight at the Keio Plaza Hotel, Aozora Room, 47th floor at 7 pm. Dress is casual.

NOTICE TO NEC CUP TEAM CAPTAINS

Please be advised that an informal Captains' Meeting will be held in conjunction with tonight's reception at the Keio Plaza, beginning at 8:15 pm, after the conclusion of formal festivities.

Play begins at 10:00 tomorrow on the third floor at SEVEN CITY. MATCH TWO begins at 14:00, MATCH THREE at 17:30. There are three hours allotted for each 20-deal match, with a one-hour lunch break, and a half-hour off between the second and third matches.

THE 2ND NEC CUP

General Regulations

Unless otherwise stated, the regulations for the NEC Cup will be those as promulgated for the 1996 Olympiad as held in Rhodes. A Vugraph will be held during the Semifinals and Finals.

Systems up to and including Brown Sticker conventions will be permitted at the table, providing they are authorized by the Chief Director.

The Round Robin:

The first numbered team is the home team and sits N/S in the Open Room (3rd floor, Icho Room), E/W in the Closed Room (3rd floor, Sakura Room).

Line Ups:

Each team will submit their lineup independently at least 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time of the session.

Corrections and Appeals:

Law 79C will be regulated as follows:

For the 10:00 session, up until 17:30.

For the 14:00 session, up until 20:30.

For the 17:30 session, up until 10:00 am the next day, except match 9, when 21:00.

Tie Breaking:

As per the 1996 Olympiad.

Changes to Systems:

Only as authorized by the Chief Director. In general, simple additions will be permitted. Major changes may be authorized, but a waiting period of two matches may apply.

Late Arrival, Late Finish, Late Lineups:

As per Law 81.

The Finals:

Carryover: 20% of the margin between the teams concerned.

Choice of Opponents in Semis: 1st ion Round Robin to choose the 3rd or 4th place team.

Seating Rights: Winner of the toss may select to sit first in the 1st & 3rd or 2nd & 4th segment.

Length of Matches: 2 hours 20 minutes for 16 boards.

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

Bd: O-I-3 Dir: S Vul: E/W West ♠ A97542 ♥ 876 ♦ J63 ♣ 6	North ♠ K6 ♥ 102 ♦ 84 ♣ K1098743 East ♠ 3 ♥ KJ4 ♦ AKQ9752 ♣ Q2 South ♠ QJ108 ♥ AQ953 ♦ 10 ♣ AJ5
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West Kokish	North Kimura	East Colker	South Cai Jian Ping
Pass	1NT	2♦	1♥
2♠	3♥	3NT	2♥
All Pass			DBL

First session of the OUCHI CUP. Just two guys out for a stroll. Says West to East, "Can you figure out what I've got for my Pass-then-2♠ sequence?" "Hmm," thinks East, "sounds like long bad spades and a moderate hand, or short good spades and a diamond fit. On the auction, West figures to be short in hearts, and therefore will have a few diamonds and clubs. If I don't bid three notrump with this hand, I will surely be labeled a mouse. THREE NOTRUMP.

DOUBLE from South, with no apparent concern.

Pan to West. "I really don't have much, but East will know that. I have a fast spade trick and a nice fit in diamonds. The only truly worrisome thing about my hand for notrump is that singleton club. More so, I guess, because South must have some reason for doubling three notrump. Perhaps I should redouble, showing doubt. But we never discussed that in our thirteen-hour plane trip from Canada. Well, I'm not going to run from three notrump doubled in front of my partner when I think he's going to make it on the expected heart lead. I have some misgivings, but I'm going to PASS, and just about in tempo, too. East gives it more than a few moments, but he finally passes too.

Faster than you can say the word OUCHI, South has his opening lead on the table. It's the ace of clubs! North has a variety of cards with which to signal encouragement but he chooses the eight. South does not appear to look at this card in any case. He has already continued with the jack of clubs to North's king, declarer's queen. North takes his clubs and switches to a heart and declarer loses two of those for five down; minus 1400.

"That's a relief," volunteers West cheerily, "I was afraid they would take all thirteen tricks after the club lead." East is not particularly relieved. Or amused, for that matter. The protagonists leave the table.

Says West to East, "Did you notice that our North never said a word to his partner? I would have been kissing South's feet and sucking each toe in reverent supplication for his leadsmanship. Do you think that South would give me his autograph if I were to ask him nicely?"

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Bd: O-I-15	North	
Dir: S	♠ AK8732	
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ42	
	♦ ---	
	♣ QJ8	
West		East
♠ 10		♠ 954
♥ J973		♥ 865
♦ QJ1096		♦ AK82
♣ 1063		♣ 975
	South	
	♠ QJ6	
	♥ K10	
	♦ 7543	
	♣ AK42	

TABLE ONE			
West	North	East	South
Ando	Asbi	Nomura	Sacul
			1♣(1)
Pass	1♠(2)	Pass	1NT(3)
Pass	2♣(4)	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♦(5)	Pass	5♣(6)
Pass	5♦(7)	Pass	5NT(8)
Pass	7♠	All Pass	
(1) Polish club; most often a weak notrump (2) 8+ HCP, natural; (3) 12-14 HCP, balanced (3) Checkback; (4) Splinter (6) Cue-bid; (7) Void or singleton ace (8) Grand Slam Force			
TABLE TWO			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Watanabe	Colker	Kawaguchi
			1♣
2♦	2♠	5♦	DBL
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

After winning the silver medal at the Rhodes Olympiad, the Indonesian team has rearranged two of its partnerships. One of the two new pairs is Denny Sacul and young Taufik Absi, who has been added to the Big Six. Denny's partner, Franky Karwur, will be playing with Santje Panelewen, who played with Giovanni Watulingas in Rhodes.

Denny and Taufik, playing a variation of the Polish Club system, made short work of this laydown grand slam in the first qualifying session of the OUCHI CUP yesterday. When Taufik showed slam interest and no diamond losers, Denny knew that all his cards were working overtime and checked on trumps for seven. It looks almost easy after the fact, but many pairs missed this grand slam, among them Messrs Watanabe and Kawaguchi at the other table.

It would be nice to report that the busy E/W bidding made it almost impossible for N/S to reach their par contract, but that would be a lie. In truth, South really should have done more on the auction. He had good reason to believe that North was void in diamonds before he pulled his penalty double, and North's 5♥ should have extracted more than a strained 5♠ from him. But even after that, South had enough information available to him to raise 6♠ to seven.

I'm afraid to say that we really did too much obstructing for our own good.

NO X-RAY EYES

Bd: O-II-1 Dir: N Vul: None	North ♠ AKJ10 ♥ K95 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ 98
West ♠ 3 ♥ Q82 ♦ J42 ♣ AK10542	East ♠ 984 ♥ A107 ♦ 986 ♣ QJ63
	South ♠ Q7652 ♥ J643 ♦ 1073 ♣ 7

TABLE ONE			
West	North	East	South
Armstrong	Mr. Orihara	Hackett	Mrs. Orihara
	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
TABLE TWO			
West	North	East	South
Tada	Justin	Kikuchi	Jason
	2NT	Pass	3♥(1)
Pass	4♦(2)	Pass	4♥(3)
Pass	4♠		
(1) Transfer			
(2) Advanced cue-bid			
(3) Retransfer			

Board 1 from the second qualifying session of the OUCHI CUP was one of the most interesting of the day.

Both N/S pairs in our bidding diagram reached 4♠ from the North side, using two rather different auctions to get there. At TABLE ONE, Paul Hackett led the ♣Q against Ryohey Orihara, who had revealed nothing in the bidding. John Armstrong overtook with the king and switched to the ♦2, a play that was not without risk with the ten in dummy. Declarer won the ace, drew trumps ending in hand, and erred by ruffing a club before testing diamonds. He recovered, however, by cashing the diamonds before leading the ♥5 from hand. When East followed low, declarer called for dummy's three. West overtook with the eight and returned the ♥2, as he had to do to give the defense a chance. Whether declarer read anything into West's failure to bid 5♣ over 4♠ we do not know, but he did follow low to second heart and so made his game; plus 420.

At TABLE TWO, where the Hackett twins employed a transfer sequence to reach 4♠, E/W knew that North (Justin) had values in diamonds and a prime fit for spades, but that didn't make it much easier for E/W to find the most effective defense. Atsushi Kikuchi led the ♣Q and Takehiko Tada overtook with the king to play...a second club. Justin ruffed in dummy, cashed one high diamond, then played three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. A low heart to the nine lost to the ten, but East had a safe exit in diamonds. Justin ruffed his fourth diamond (which was high) to reach dummy for a second heart play, but on this layout, he had to lose two more heart tricks for one down. Despite this setback, the British team qualified handily for the A Final.

Justin could have made 4♠ even after the defense had killed the ruffing entry to dummy prematurely, but it would have taken an inspired view to get the job done. Ruff the club, cash two rounds of trumps, then three rounds of diamonds, and only then a third trump to dummy's queen. With the elimination complete and one trump left in each hand, a heart to the nine would endplay East, forcing him to concede a ruff-and-discard or yield a trick to the ♥K.

KOOL KEN

Bd: O-II-28	North		
Dlr: W	♠ K10862		
Vul: N-S	♥ A98		
	♦ J97		
	♣ A3		
West		East	
♠ 743		♠ QJ	
♥ J43		♥ Q105	
♦ K4		♦ AQ10853	
♣ J10952		♣ 76	
	South		
	♠ A95		
	♥ K762		
	♦ 62		
	♣ KQ84		

West	North	East	South
	Mizutani		Atsushi
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

On Board 28 of the second qualifying session of the OUCHI CUP, Ken Mizutani refused to panic in a touch-and-go game contract and by staying calm, landed his contract.

When East led the ♣6 (low from two) against 4♠, it occurred to Ken (North) that he might run into some ruffs and overruffs if he delayed drawing trumps. Nonetheless, if he had a trump loser (which seemed likely), he had to do something with his third diamond, so he decided to take his chances on the trumps, won the ♣A, and led the ♦9. East went in with the ten to play a second club and Ken won the king to play a second diamond. West won the king and returned a club, which Ken ruffed with the ♠10. East overruffed with the queen and should have led a third diamond now, leaving Ken with a guess that he would surely have misplayed (as they say in Australia). But East switched to a heart and it was clear sailing after that. Ken won the ♥A, and led a low trump. When the jack came up, he won the ace, crossed to the ♠8, crossed to the ♥K, cashed the ♣Q to discard his heart loser, ruffed a club, ruffed his diamond with the ♠9, and was down to trumps. West did not score the ♠7.

ONE MORE FOR THE RHODES

There were four boards remaining in the semifinals of the Open Series at the Rhodes Olympiad and no one was leaving his seat or his standing-room niche in the packed Vugraph theatre, which suddenly seemed remarkably small. Chinese Taipei had just reclaimed the lead in a heart-stopping match, leaving France 6 imps behind, 178-143. And in the other match, Denmark had gained 3 imps to close to within 13 at 198-211. At least that's what the Bridgevision audience believed. In truth, there had been a score misreported to the RAMA operators, and the score was inaccurate, but no one knew that.

Bd: 91 Dir: South Vul: None	North ♠ K7 ♥ 7 ♦ JT9752 ♣ AK64
West ♠ JT953 ♥ J42 ♦ 8 ♣ Q532	East ♠ 2 ♥ AKQT953 ♦ AQ3 ♣ 98
	South ♠ AQ864 ♥ 86 ♦ K64 ♣ JT7

France vs Chinese Taipei Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Levy	Kuo	Mouiel	Huang
Pass	1♦	4♥	DBL
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Lin	Mari	Shen	Bompis
Pass	1♦	4♥	DBL(1)
Pass	4NT(2)	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass
(1) Neg; (2) ♦, shorter ♣			
Indonesia vs Denmark Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Manpo	Koch-P	Lasut	Auken
Pass	1♦	4♥	4♠
DBL	4NT	DBL	5♦
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Blaks	Sacul	Chrstn	Karwur
2♠(1)	Pass	3♥(2)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
(1) 0-5 HCP; any PRE, or ♣+♦			
(2) strong, but NF			

If your casual bridge acquaintances think that the game is little more than a leisure activity for senior citizens, you might wish to spring Board 91 on them, and walk them through the drama.

At three tables, the bidding began the same way — third seat natural 1♦, heavy 4♥ overcall. In France vs Chinese Taipei, the South players doubled 4♥. Huang's double, beyond the partnership's negative double range, was closer to penalty than takeout, falling into the loose definition of "cards" that has become one of the buzzwords of the nineties. To give the defense a

chance, Huang had to lead a trump or the ♣J, but when he led a diamond, there was nothing to the play. Mouiel won the queen, ruffed a diamond, and drew trumps; plus 590.

Mari-Bompis play negative doubles through 4♠ after minor-suit openings, so Mari's decision over 4♥ doubled was quite different from Kuo's. With a promising two-way hand, Mari was influenced by his distribution and honour location (a diamond lead might blow a trick against 4♥ doubled, and there might be too much concentrated strength and too much length in the black suits for N/S to score well on defense) to take out to 4NT, showing primary diamonds with secondary length in clubs. It must have been tempting for Lin to continue to 5♥ over 5♦, but when he passed (nonforcing), Shen had a clear-cut double to show extra defense, and Lin passed again. This was the right decision, double dummy, as we will see below, but when Shen led the ♥A, the defense could no longer prevail as long as declarer read the position. Shen switched to a spade, and Mari won the king to pass the ♦10. Shen won the trump continuation and played a second heart, but Mari ruffed, drew the last trump, and came to the ♣A. Since Shen was marked with ten or eleven red cards and at least one card in each black suit, Mari was in a position to secure his contract without resorting to the club finesse. He cashed the ♣A and ran the trumps, discarding dummy's club along the way. Lin was squeezed in the black suits. Plus 550 for Mari and 15 imps to France, who reclaimed the lead, 193-184, and went on to win the match, survive to the final, and defeat Indonesia to complete a successful defense of the title won in Salsomaggiore in 1992.

Meanwhile, tucked away in the Indonesia vs Denmark Closed Room, Blakset opened 2♠ in second seat, a very weak preempt in any suit or a very weak minor two-suiter. Unremarkably, he was the only West player to see the virtue in opening the bidding, but his aggressive approach proved to be very effective. Sacul passed 2♠ with a hand that both Lasut and Manoppo would have deemed suitable for an overcall, and there was no sensible second chance for his side. Christiansen's 3♥ showed roughly the equivalent of an Acol two-bid, and Blakset had an easy raise. Karwur found the lead of the ♣J, so the defenders were still in the game. Christiansen played low from dummy, and when Sacul followed with the four, playing standard signals, Karwur switched accurately to a trump. Christiansen won in hand and led his remaining club, covered all around. Sacul switched to spades, which looked good for the defenders, but he chose the seven, and when Karwur won the queen, he tried to cash the ♠A. Christiansen had the rest easily enough now; plus 420.

Although it looks as if Karwur simply made a bad play, the failure to cash the ♠A might have cost a trick if Sacul held ace-king-four of clubs and Christiansen 2713 shape (leaving Sacul with eight diamonds). Although it looks strange, it may have been more effective for Sacul to switch to the ♠K. It is true that Karwur may still have overtaken to try to cash the queen, but in the context of Christiansen's strong bidding, he was unlikely to have two small spades and three small clubs; Karwur might well have played the ♠A to play his remaining trump, defeating the contract.

Auken, South in the Open Room, added a new dimension to the more familiar position when he elected to bid 4♠ over 4♥. He was relying on his partner to draw the inference that he was unlikely to have a long suit once he had failed to open a weak two-bid or a three-bid as dealer, neither vulnerable. This became a particularly significant issue when Manoppo chanced a hungry penalty double. With respectable support for spades, Koch-Palmund might have been forgiven for passing 4♠, and indeed, he might have passed had Manoppo not doubled. Taken together, however, the double and the negative inference about Auken's initial pass convinced Koch-Palmund to look for greener pastures. He wriggled with 4NT, and soon found himself in 5♦, doubled by Lasut.

Had Lasut led a heart, Koch-Palmund would surely have guessed trumps and made his contract, but Lasut found the essential spade lead. Koch-Palmund played low from dummy and Manoppo

did the best he could in terms of suit preference by playing the jack. Koch-Palmund won the ♠K, ran the ♦9, and led a second trump, Lasut winning the ace as Manoppo discarded the ♥2, doing his best to paint a clearer picture of the heart layout. Lasut, who usually plays very quickly, gave his next move a good two minutes. Then he underled his hearts. Manoppo won the jack and gave Lasut a spade ruff for one down; minus 100. Led by the Indonesian cheering section (which included about 30 Indonesians) the theatre burst into wild applause. 8 imps to Denmark, who were within 5 imps of Indonesia now, at 206-211.

Had Lasut-Manoppo failed to defeat 5♦ doubled, however, Denmark would have gained 14 imps and taken a 1-imp lead.

It was soon demonstrated just how important it was for Lasut and Manoppo to find that brilliant defense. Although everyone thought that Denmark had won 222-217 after the last three deals had gone well for them, the truth about that misreported board soon came out in the score comparisons of both teams. All the congratulations heaped upon the Danes had been premature and the match was a dead tie.

The Conditions of Contest called for an eight-board playoff, and that too went down to the wire. We'll show you that deal in tomorrow's Bulletin.