



NEC Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 3

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NEC CUP

The rankings after 3 rounds:

GREAT BRITAIN	62
CHINESE TAIPEI	57
JAPAN (HISATOMI)	53
JAPAN (GELLER)	51
INDONESIA/NA	46
JAPAN (YAMADA)	42
JAPAN (WOMEN)	40
JAPAN (NAKAMURA)	38
CHINA	37
JAPAN (YOUTH)	24

Round 1

Japan (Youth)	(24) 8 - 22 (60)	Chinese Taipei
Japan (Women)	(29) 8 - 22 (63)	Great Britain
Japan (Yamada)	(67) 20 - 10 (45)	Japan (Geller)
China	(44) 12 - 18 (59)	Indonesia/NA
Japan (Nakamura)	(50) 17 - 13 (40)	Japan (Hisatomi)

Round 2

Japan (Geller)	(74) 22 - 8 (38)	Japan (Youth)
Indonesia/NA	(37) 9 - 21 (65)	Chinese Taipei
Japan (Women)	(41) 16 - 14 (35)	China
Japan (Nakamura)	(34) 10 - 20 (56)	Great Britain
Japan (Yamada)	(42) 12 - 18 (58)	Japan (Hisatomi)

Round 3

Chinese Taipei	(28) 14 - 16 (34)	Japan (Women)
Great Britain	(60) 20 - 10 (37)	Japan (Yamada)
Japan (Geller)	(56) 19 - 11 (35)	China
Indonesia/NA	(38) 19 - 11 (20)	Japan (Nakamura)
Japan (Youth)	(32) 8 - 22 (67)	Japan (Hisatomi)

MORE THAN A LEADING QUESTION

Bd: 18	North		
Dir: E	♠ A75		
Vul: N/S	♥ 109		
	♦ QJ84		
	♣ QJ96		
West		East	
♠ Q8		♠ KJ109632	
♥ 743		♥ KJ	
♦ A62		♦ 9753	
♣ AK732		♣ ---	
	South		
	♠ 4		
	♥ AQ8652		
	♦ K10		
	♣ 10854		

In the match between the Japanese Women and China, both Easts declared 4♠, the contract reached at all ten tables. In the Closed Room, SL Sun led the ace of hearts against Natsuko Nishida, and that was the end of the defense.

Setsuko Moriyama found the more effective lead of the ♦K against Xiaojing Wang. He ducked, and won the diamond continuation, threw his remaining diamonds on the ace-king of clubs, and eventually lost two hearts and the ace of trumps for one down. 10 imps to the women, one of three big swings they won on the way to a 16-14 victory.

This was a swing deal in two other matches. NAKAMURA gained 10 imps against Great Britain on the same pair of results that we saw in the Women vs

China match, but the circumstances were different in Indonesia vs Chinese Taipei.

In the Open Room, Eddy Manoppo led a club against CH Kuo, and the passive defense was enough to defeat the contract.

In the Closed Room, SR Wu led the ♦K against Rich Colker, who elected to win the ace. He threw his hearts on the high clubs and led a second diamond from dummy. Put yourself in MF Tai's position. Wouldn't you go in with the ♦J? That crashed the ten and with the trumps as they were, the defense had no good answer. Tai could return the ♦8 for Wu to ruff, but Wu would not be able to play a trump. In the event, Tai played a heart and Colker ruffed to play a trump himself. Tai won the first trump, but Colker could enter dummy in trumps to lead towards the ♦9 to make his contract.

A GRAND CONVENTION

Masaru Naniwada likes gadgets; he especially likes them if they involve strong hands. In the last session of the OUCHI CUP Flight B final he and his wife, Mitsuyo, picked up the following hands:

Mitsuyo	Masaru
♠ KQJx	♠ ---
♥ J10xx	♥ AKQx
♦ xx	♦ Ax
♣ Qxx	♣ AKJ109xx

How would you bid them to the cold grand? — in hearts! Here's how they did it.

West	East
Mitsuyo	Masaru
2♦	2♣
4♥	3♥
6♥	4♠
	7♥

If the auction seems just a bit strange, it's only because you don't know Masaru's system. His 2♣ opening showed a strong hand containing either: a long, strong club suit; a long, strong heart suit; a three-suiter; or a balanced 25+ HCP. Mitsuyo's 2♦ response was a relay, asking for clarification. Masaru's jump to 3♥ confirmed a primary club suit of five or more cards, and a secondary heart suit of four or more cards; both suits of assured quality. When Mitsuyo raised to game in hearts, Masaru cue-bid his spade void. Believing this to show the ace, and with her additional source of spade tricks, Mitsuyo leaped to slam. That was all Masaru needed to hear. He went for the gusto! Trumps broke three-two, and the slam came rolling home with a diamond ruff in dummy providing the thirteenth trick. Not bad, eh?

If you want to know the rest of Masaru's system, just ask him. He'll be delighted to provide you with a printed (and autographed) copy.

ARSENIC AND OLD ICE

by Eric Kokish

With neither side vulnerable at Matchpoints, you, East, hold:

♠Q9 ♥A983 ♦KJ ♣K9875

Pass on your left. Partner opens a Precision 1♦ (two or more cards, 11-15 HCP), and you respond 1♥ rather than 2♣ because that is your partnership approach. South, who passed as dealer, now jumps to 3♠, which is passed back to you. Will it be (a) a competitive double; (b) a hopeful positional 3NT; (c) a shortsighted 4♣; or (d) a gambling pass, hoping that there will be lots of minus scores your way and that a small plus against 3♠ undoubled will be a good result?

When given this problem by one of the players, I thought that 3NT [(b)] would be the expert choice. You have the high cards for game and it might well be critical to play 3NT from your side opposite a holding like Ax or Kxx. Perhaps at IMPs you would prefer to double, but I am not convinced. I would bid 3NT at any form of scoring, mostly because that 3♠ bid is so rarely based on a very good suit. I was surprised to discover that the competitive double [(a)] was the overwhelming choice of the good players I queried. This was the full deal (from the 1996 Icelandair Open Pairs):

As you may have guessed, this problem was the subject of an appeal. West not only broke tempo over 3♠ but he also asked some questions about South's hand type and suit quality. East reopened with 3NT, which worked rather well opposite this West hand. The Director let the result stand. N/S appealed and lost. As it happened, E/W were experts (although West's questions-then-pass sequence might have suggested otherwise) and perhaps the Appeals Committee deemed 3NT to be the marked action for players of this calibre. Although it would be ideal for different Committees to rule the same way on a particular set of facts, I doubt that this will ever happen. It's easy to see that this case could have gone the other way without anyone being clearly right or clearly wrong.

Bd: 75	North	
Dir: S	♠ 65	
Vul: None	♥ J1065	
	♦ 742	
	♣ AQ42	
West		East
♠ A10		♠ Q9
♥ K4		♥ A983
♦ AQ9865		♦ KJ
♣ J63		♣ K9875
	South	
	♠ KJ87432	
	♥ Q72	
	♦ 103	
	♣ 10	

At our table, Alfredo Versace opened 3♠ with the South hand. Would you take any action with West's cards?

Both double and 4♦ have virtually no merit, so it's pass or a fairly aggressive 3NT. I tried 3NT and Joey Silver advanced with an artificial 4♣, asking about my hand type. I showed long diamonds, then passed the continuation of 3NT. Lorenzo Lauria led the ♠6, and I had to duck Versace's jack. Alfredo switched to the ♥2. I was always going to take at least ten tricks since Lauria was marked with the ♣A, but the real fight was for an eleventh. I played low and took Lauria's ten with dummy's ace, overtook the second diamond, and ran the suit. Lauria parted with one club, a spade, and a heart. When I cashed the ace of spades, Laura had to discard a second heart to keep three clubs. The only club holding that mattered now was the actual one and so I led the

jack of clubs with the West, North, and East hands down to three clubs and a heart, South to two spades, one heart, and a club. Lauria followed low smoothly. I didn't think I could afford to jeopardize plus 430, so I put on the king. Nice play, Lorenzo. Lauria sometimes looks like he's a bit too relaxed and not especially interested in what's going on, but he doesn't miss a thing at the table.

The Italians were again the class of the field and were undoubtedly full value for their win. Our match against them on Vugraph in Round Nine featured several interesting deals, this one among them

Bd: 2	North	
Dir: E	♠ J8654	
Vul: N/S	♥ 964	
	♦ Q94	
	♣ K9	
West		East
♠ Q10		♠ 972
♥ AKQ10872		♥ 3
♦ 865		♦ AJ102
♣ 2		♣ AJ1063
	South	
	♠ AK3	
	♥ J5	
	♦ K73	
	♣ Q8754	

West	North	East	South
Versace	Silver	Lauria	Kokish
		1♣(1)	DBL(2)
1♦(3)	1♠	Pass	1NT(4)
DBL	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		
(1) Catchall for most uninteresting hands in the 10-14 HCP range, and also a few strange ones			
(2) A hand that 2 would open 1♣ playing standard methods			
(3) Hearts			
(4) Balanced minimum; alerted by North as 15-17 HCP (as it would be if South had opened 1♣ and rebid 1NT uncontested)			
West	North	East	South
Baran	Lanzarotti	Molson	Buratti
		Pass	1NT(12-14)
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

Although we had played against Lauria-Versace before and had prepared a detailed defense against their high-frequency Burgay 1♣ opening in Beijing in October, we hadn't done any homework in Iceland. Before play began, I reviewed our defensive methods hurriedly with Joey at

the table, including the idea that we would pass over 1♣ with hands of 16 or more points. When I rebid 1NT, Joey didn't realize that I couldn't have a strong hand and assumed that we were back into our normal Kaplan-Sheinwold base; hence his explanation to the Italians. With the diamond honours divided and trumps three-two, 4♥ was cold for E/W, and after chalking up plus 170, Versace called the Director to explain that he had been damaged by the incorrect misinformation he received from Joey. He claimed that he bid conservatively because all his finesses figured to lose, but had he known that I held 13-15 HCP rather than 15-17, he would have bid 4♥. It took the Directors a while to rule on this one, but eventually they gave Versace plus 420.

We appealed and lost. Had this been the Bermuda Bowl, we would have accepted our fate and regretted our error, but this was an altogether different situation. If you're going to allow all these systems in short-board rounds and matches and essentially do very little to allow the opponents to prepare effective countermeasures, then you've got to cut those opponents some slack. The Italians and several other teams using unusual systems and treatments won a vast number ofimps in this tournament because of their methods; sometimes because those methods were superior, other times because those methods caught their opponents by surprise. To give them the best of it in a marginal situation when an opponent failed to appreciate a negative inference in an unfamiliar defensive situation seems far too generous to me. Particularly when they were at the table for that defensive deduction. Not to mention that Versace could easily have jumped to 3♥ over 2♣ without overstating his hand. Lauria might well have bid 4♥ in that scenario. With all due respect to Lauria and Versace, I would have been embarrassed to call the Director in Versace's place.

That this game is not so easy to bid was demonstrated at the other table, where Boris Baran was able to describe the West hand quite well. Mark Molson was close to bidding four, but not close enough.



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NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL HOME PAGE

<http://bridge.cplaza.or.jp/necfest.html>

CHINA vs INDONESIA (Round One)

The match began with a deal on which neither E/W pair had much to boast about

Bd: 1	North	
Dir: N	♠ AQ53	
Vul: NONE	♥ 84	
	♦ A743	
	♣ Q104	
West		East
♠ KJ876		♠ 1094
♥ 752		♥ Q103
♦ ---		♦ K105
♣ K8765		♣ AJ32
	South	
	♠ 2	
	♥ AKJ96	
	♦ QJ9862	
	♣ 9	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
	1♦	Pass	1♥
DBL	Pass	1NT	5♦
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
	1♦	Pass	1♥
DBL	Pass	1NT	DBL
2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	DBL	All Pass	

Both Easts led the ♠10, so both declarers made an overtrick. An ugly push at N/S plus 650.

The score was tied at 2 after four more deals that featured better bridge, when the first serious swing deal came along ...

Bd: 6	North	
Dir: E	♠ K109852	
Vul: E/W	♥ 84	
	♦ 1032	
	♣ Q7	
West		East
♠ J		♠ A7
♥ AJ53		♥ K92
♦ A974		♦ K85
♣ K862		♣ A10943
	South	
	♠ Q643	
	♥ Q1076	
	♦ QJ6	
	♣ J5	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
		1NT	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠(2)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣(3)	Pass	3♦(4)	Pass
3♠(5)	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		
(1) ♥ or other (strong) things; (2) NOT ♥: Puppet to 2NT			
(3) FG, black singleton; (4) which one? (5) 1444			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2♥(2)	Pass	2♠(3)	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
(1) "Catchall"; (2) Relay; (3) 5♣, minimum			

The East hand might be opened with 1NT playing any range in the 11-17 HCP spectrum. Colker's

was 11-14, and Kokish, who had already forced to game, elected to give up on slam. Shi's was 13-16, and after he described a lower-end notrump with a fifth club, Liu set clubs and the auction moved into cue-bidding mode. Although Shi-Liu cue-bid first- and second round controls equally, the spade cue-bids seemed to mesh nicely this time and with all the controls accounted for, there was never any possibility that they would stop short of slam. With trumps two-two and the honours split, there was no problem in the play, declarer building a third heart trick for a diamond discard. China won the board 1370 to 620 and gained 13imps. You can choose for yourself which auction was more revealing for E/W. After that you can reflect about everyone's judgment.

How good is 6♣? Well, most small slams that have no top losers can't be all bad, and this one is certainly not bad. If you can avoid a trump loser, you need only make a third heart trick: ace, low to the king, low towards the jack if the ten or queen have not appeared). If you have a trump loser, you need four heart tricks from that combination, or a red suit squeeze. It's a playable slam but certainly no bargain.

Bd: 7	North	
Dir: S	♠ 872	
Vul: Both	♥ J	
	♦ A94	
	♣ 1075432	
West		East
♠ AJ1063		♠ K954
♥ K8		♥ AQ96
♦ QJ8765		♦ ---
♣ ---		♣ KQ986
	South	
	♠ Q	
	♥ 1075432	
	♦ K1032	
	♣ AJ	

Board 7 was a deal with swing potential in it, but in our featured match, both E/W pairs quit at 4♠ and made five. Six of ten pairs bid the spade slam but only one declarer (Geller-san) made it to gain 13imps against YAMADA when Ino-Imakura stopped at 4♠. Not enough, however. YAMADA won 20-10.

Bd: 8	North	
Dir: W	♠ 8732	
Vul: None	♥ 72	
	♦ 862	
	♣ A1062	
West		East
♠ K64		♠ QJ9
♥ 643		♥ AKQ10
♦ KQ1043		♦ 7
♣ Q7		♣ KJ853
	South	
	♠ A105	
	♥ J985	
	♦ AJ95	
	♣ 94	
	♣ J5	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	1♥(2)
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Strong; (2) Reds or Blacks

In the Closed Room, Shi had a relatively easy ride in 3NT after a heart lead by Manoppo around to the ten; plus 400. At the other table, Kokish got the lead of the ♠8 from CA Liu, Sun ducking dummy's queen. A club to the queen lost to the ace and the defenders cleared spades. Kokish tested clubs, the hearts, and needed some luck in the endgame. Liu had discarded a diamond on the third heart and Kokish placed him with the long spade, so it was necessary for Sun to hold the ♦A. Kokish exited dummy with a heart and when Sun won the jack, Liu discarded the master club rather than one of his worthless diamonds. That was a critical play because it left declarer with a losing option when Sun returned the ♦9 in the three-card ending. Assuming that Liu held the thirteenth spade, the hand counted out; Liu was down to two diamonds and one of them could be the jack. Would Liu have discarded a diamond from jack-third to keep the long spade? That was a difficult question to answer, although discarding a diamond would have allowed declarer to make the contract if he could guess the endgame. After considerable thought, Kokish decided to put up the ♦K and continue with the queen, bucking the original four-three odds. Sun had the jack and that was one down; minus 50. 10 imps to China, ahead now 24-1.

Bd: 10	North	
Dir: E	♠ AQ104	
Vul: Both	♥ 1052	
	♦ KQ3	
	♣ 432	
West		East
♠ 763		♠ KJ985
♥ QJ3		♥ 84
♦ 987		♦ J642
♣ QJ85		♣ K7
	South	
	♠ 2	
	♥ AK976	
	♦ A105	
	♣ A1096	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In 4♥, Sun won the diamond lead in dummy and led a club. Colker did well to put up the king and when Sun won the ace to cash ace-king of trumps, he could no longer make the hand; minus 100. At the other table, Lasut concealed his spades since (playing a form of Flannery and Precision Club) Manoppo would not hold as many as four spades unless he also held six hearts. Over 2♣, 3NT looks like a bit of an overbid, but it worked very well this time. He got a spade lead around to his ten, cleared hearts and claimed ten tricks; plus 630. 12 imps to Indonesia, 13-24.

Bd: 11	North	
Dir: S	♠ 93	
Vul: None	♥ K98542	
	♦ J52	
	♣ J7	
West		East
♠ J74		♠ AQ62
♥ AQJ		♥ 63
♦ AQ104		♦ 973
♣ A54		♣ Q832
	South	
	♠ K1085	
	♥ 107	
	♦ K86	
	♣ K1096	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT(1)	All Pass		
(1) 15-18- HCP			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
			Pass
1♣(1)	2♥	DBL(2)	All Pass
(1) Strong; (2) Negative-style			

Kokish-Colker did well to stop at 1NT with their combined 26-count and Kokish managed eight tricks on a heart lead; plus 120. There are days when plus 120 turns out to be the best result you achieve, and this match had some potential in that direction, but as it went, scoring plus was just enough to save a serious loss. HT Liu went for the throat at the other table, passing his partner's negative double with an atypical trump holding. Shi's low diamond lead was better than a club would have been, and Lasut misguessed clubs in the middle game to go two down; minus 300. 5 imps to China, 29-13.

Bd: 12	North	
Dir: W	♠ QJ942	
Vul: N/S	♥ ---	
	♦ AJ853	
	♣ AJ6	
West		East
♠ A5		♠ 1083
♥ 1032		♥ Q98654
♦ KQ64		♦ 97
♣ K1053		♣ 42
	South	
	♠ K76	
	♥ AKJ7	
	♦ 102	
	♣ Q987	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
1NT	2♠(1)	2NT(2)	4♠
All Pass			
(1) Spades and a minor; (2) Lebensohl			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
1♦	1♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Lasut got the lead of the ♦9 from Shi and had no trouble after that, coming to an overtrick; plus 650. All was not sweetness and light for CA Liu in the Open Room. He got a heart lead from Colker, whose Lebensohl 2NT facing a weak notrump is an early nominee for the most aggressive bid of the NEC Cup, and elected to put up the king, discarding ... a diamond. He called for the ♦10, queen, ace, and exited with a low diamond to the nine. Colker switched to a club to the ten and jack and Liu ruffed a diamond, Colker discarding his remaining club. Liu discarded a club on the ♥A, then played a club to his ace. Colker ruffed and switched to a trump, and the second round of trumps deprived Liu of the diamond ruff he needed to get home. Ouch, as in OUCHI. Minus 100 and 13imps to Indonesia, 26-29.

Bd: 13	North	
Dir: N	♠ KJ974	
Vul: Both	♥ AQJ10	
	♦ AJ4	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ Q8632		♠ A105
♥ K64		♥ 853
♦ 5		♦ Q1082
♣ K973		♣ Q85
	South	
	♠ ---	
	♥ 972	
	♦ K9763	
	♣ J10642	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
	1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	
(1) Strong; (2) Negative			

Lasut-Manoppo managed to stop at 2♥, which looks pretty good to me. I sympathize with Sun for responding to 1♠, and also for refusing to break discipline by passing 3♥. Liu was not down off the top in 4♥, but he ran into some ruffs and one trump play proved to be enough for the defenders. 4♥ went one down and Indonesia gained 6imps to take the lead, 32-29.

China won 3imps by defeating a partscore in one room and passing it out in the other and the

match was tied at 32 when Board 15 untied it again ...

Bd: 15	North
Dir: S	♠ AK86
Vul: N/S	♥ 10
	♦ Q54
	♣ AKQJ10
West	East
♠ Q109	♠ 43
♥ QJ6543	♥ AK987
♦ A96	♦ K10
♣ 5	♣ 9732
	South
	♠ J752
	♥ 2
	♦ J8732
	♣ 864

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
			Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass
4♣(1)	DBL	4♥	All Pass
(1) Splinter raise			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
			Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♠(2)	Pass
3♥	DBL	RDBL	3♠
All Pass			
(1) Weak 2♥, or weak 5♠/5m			

It's true that E/W have a particularly good fit, but Liu-Shi's decision to sell out to 3♠ (surely afraid that 4♠ might be cold) worked very badly when that was already too high for their opponents. Liu led his singleton club, however, and Manoppo got the diamonds right for plus 140. The auction was of a different species at the other table and Colker had no trouble with 4♥; plus 420. 11imps to Indonesia, 43-32.

Bd: 17	North
Dir: N	♠ J75
Vul: None	♥ A75
	♦ ---
	♣ Q1096543
West	East
♠ Q643	♠ A108
♥ 86	♥ KQ10942
♦ AJ43	♦ Q102
♣ KJ8	♣ 2
	South
	♠ K92
	♥ J3
	♦ K98765
	♣ A7

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	CA Liu	Colker	Sun
			2♦
DBL(1)	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	All Pass
(1) Negative			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
	3♣	3♥	4♣
DBL(1)	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	DBL	All Pass	

In a quiet 3♥, Colker got ace and another club from Sun. He won the king, throwing a club, led a heart to the king, and continued with the ♥Q, collecting the jack. Liu won the ace and switched to a spade but Colker won the ace, drew the last trump, and led the ♦Q, covered. Sun conceded, realizing that he would be squeezed in spades and diamonds. Plus 170. Was that a good result or a bad one for Indonesia? A glance at the match records reveals that someone collected 800 against 3♦ doubled, and someone else netted 500 against 5♣ doubled, but only one pair made a game with those E/W cards - a mixed bag. At the other table, Lasut-Manoppo jockeyed their opponents into 4♥, then made them pay for the privilege. Lasut doubled, Lightner on his mind. Manoppo duly led a diamond, so the defenders got two ruffs, a spade, a club, and a trump for two

down; minus 300. A spectacular result for Lasut-Manoppo and 11 imps to their side, 54-32.

On Board 18, Colker did something subtly very good for his side by opening a weak 2♠ with: KQ1072 J94 10943 10, as dealer, favourable vulnerability. That was no great triumph in itself - down 100 against a possible 140 for the opponents, but it created a scenario in which Kokish was not given the opportunity to make a weak jump overcall in clubs, doubled and set 300 at the other table. 5 imps more to Indonesia, 59-32.

Let's set Board 20 as a lead problem: You, East, hold:

♠10 ♥A83 ♦653 ♣KQ10976

This is the auction you see

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Liu	Colker	Sun
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Make your choice before reading on ...

This was the full deal:

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: W	♠ 2		
Vul: Both	♥ KQ62		
	♦ AKQJ974		
	♣ 2		
West		East	
♠ QJ9854		♠ 10	
♥ J974		♥ A83	
♦ 2		♦ 653	
♣ 43		♣ KQ10976	
	South		
	♠ AK763		
	♥ 105		
	♦ 108		
	♣ AJ85		

There is only one lead to give the defense a chance to defeat the contract - a trump. I think it's too difficult to find. In the event, Colker led the ♣K. Liu won the ace and led a heart to the king and ace. Colker switched to a trump but it was too late. Liu took one heart ruff, ruffed himself in to draw trumps, and threw his last heart on a spade late in the day; plus 1370.

But will a trump lead beat it? Declarer wins in dummy and leads a heart to the king. If East wins and continues trumps, declarer wins, draws the last trump and plays ace-king of spades, spade ruff, and runs trumps, catching the defenders in a non-simultaneous double squeeze; no one can guard hearts in the endgame.

But what if East ducks the heart king? Declarer might just go back to dummy to lead a second heart, but let's say that he places East with the ♥A and goes about the business of losing a heart trick to rectify the count. If he leads a low heart, West wins but has no more trumps, so the contract makes.

If, after the ♥K holds, declarer leads the ♥Q instead, East wins and must play a second trump. Declarer's communication in hearts has disappeared. Woe is he!

Meanwhile, over in the Closed Room ...

West	North	East	South
HT Liu	Lasut	Shi	Manoppo
Pass	1♣(1)	3♣	Pass!
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
(1) Strong			

You have to admire Shi's courage in risking the three-level, and more subtly perhaps, Manoppo's courage in passing 3♣, hoping for a reopening double. It might have gone - All Pass, since this was not a forcing situation. Still, Lasut had to be short in clubs and figured to reopen, so Manoppo had a lot going for him. Here, however, his delayed 3NT didn't give Lasut much idea about the quality of his hand, and the bottom line was plus 660. 12 imps to China to close out the match.

Indonesia won a very lively match 59-44, 18-12 in VP.

Lead along with North

You, North, hold: ♠1072 ♥J75 ♦Q985 ♣KQ10

This (or perhaps 3♦ by East over 1♥, 3NT by West) is the auction you see:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

What is your choice?

If you want to defeat 3NT, you'd better led a club honour, as did MF Tai, S Naito, T Hirata, and K Furata. This was the full deal:

Bd: 7	North	
Dir: S	♠ 1072	
Vul: Both	♥ J75	
	♦ Q985	
	♣ KQ10	
West		East
♠ AJ9		♠ K86
♥ KQ64		♥ A8
♦ 764		♦ AKJ1032
♣ J75		♣ 64
	South	
	♠ Q543	
	♥ 10932	
	♦ ---	
	♣ A9832	

Some Easts opened 1NT and got a club lead from South, but two of the South players led a spade. There were lots of swings on that one, including a 13-imp special in the match between the Japanese Women and China, where S Naito led the ♣K against Wang while Sun led the ♠3 against E Naito. The women are the talk of the tournament, especially after Sakiko Naito's charming speech at the Sunday evening reception about her team being "lost little sheep among the hungry wolves." The women defeated both China and Chinese Taipei yesterday to complete a most respectable Monday.