



# NEC Bridge Festival

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## 1997 NEC CUP: Final Round Robin Rankings

GREAT BRITAIN	166
CHINESE TAIPEI	161
INDONESIA/NA	154
JAPAN (HISATOMI)	140
JAPAN (WOMEN)	137
JAPAN (GELLER)	135
CHINA	130
JAPAN (YAMADA)	128
JAPAN (NAKAMURA)	105
JAPAN (YOUTH)	86

Congratulations to all of the teams in this year's NEC Cup. The competition was fierce and of a high calibre, but the sportsmanship and friendliness were of an even higher calibre. Special congratulations go to the top qualifying team from GREAT BRITAIN: John Armstrong and the Hackett triplets. CHINESE TAIPEI played solid bridge from the start. The INDONESIA/NA team survived, despite the cameo appearances of the Daily Bulletin editors. And HISATOMI showed great heart by tying the leaders in the final match to qualify for the semifinals. The WOMEN gave a stirring performance, barely missing qualifying. GELLER was only 2 VPs behind them, and CHINA and YAMADA were also in the running for the last qualifying place until the very end. Any of these teams could have been our fourth semifinalist. The NAKAMURA team unfortunately never showed its best form, and although YOUTH did some great things (especially against a certain pair of editors), their inexperience finally proved too much.

## Today's Semifinal Matches

On Viewgraph:  
GREAT BRITAIN versus JAPAN (HISATOMI)  
(No Carryover)

CHINESE TAIPEI versus INDONESIA/NA  
(Carryover: CT - 5.6 IMPs)

## NEC CUP: Last Day's Round Robin Results

### Round 7

Indonesia/NA	(34) 14 - 16 (42)	Japan (Youth)
Great Britain	(74) 20 - 10 (50)	Japan (Geller)
Japan (Nakamura)	(37) 14 - 16 (43)	Chinese Taipei
Japan (Yamada)	(53) 21 - 9 (25)	China
Japan (Women)	(15) 9 - 21 (45)	Japan (Hisatomi)

### Round 8

Japan (Youth)	(34) 8 - 22 (70)	Japan (Women)
Chinese Taipei	(57) 21 - 9 (26)	Japan (Yamada)
Great Britain	(67) 25 - 4 (11)	China
Japan (Geller)	(50) 16 - 14 (46)	Japan (Nakamura)
Indonesia/NA	(45) 16 - 14 (40)	Japan (Hisatomi)

### Round 9

China	(122) 25 - 0 (22)	Japan (Youth)
Chinese Taipei	(29) 12 - 18 (44)	Japan (Geller)
Indonesia/NA	(60) 18 - 12 (47)	Japan (Women)
Japan (Yamada)	(62) 19 - 11 (45)	Japan (Nakamura)
Japan (Hisatomi)	(35) 15 - 15 (35)	Great Britain



## A SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM ROUND FIVE

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: E	♠ K8532		
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ86		
	♦ K10		
	♣ 96		
West		East	
♠ 64		♠ AQJ109	
♥ K93		♥ 754	
♦ A9862		♦ J5	
♣ 743		♣ QJ8	
	South		
	♠ 7		
	♥ Q102		
	♦ Q743		
	♣ AK1052		

At favourable vulnerability, East would like to do something, and it's tempting to start with a weak two-bid, particularly when it comes in the form of a Multi or an "either-or" 2♥ opening. Of course, all this would-be preemption comes with a price and sometimes it jockeys the bad guys into something serendipitous that can't be beaten. Or that simply isn't beaten.

Whether the 4♥ bid and made by Hackett-Armstrong against Tai-Wu falls into that category we cannot say without interviewing the protagonists, but we do know that Great Britain notched up 11 imps in the plus column for plus 620 and minus 120.

Meanwhile, the plus 630 registered by S Naito-Moriyama in 3NT after a diamond lead looks like only mild overbidding in an uncontested auction. It's

somewhat surprising, however, that Hidenori Narita, East, did not double 3NT for a spade lead, which would not have beaten the contract in any case.

Bd: 5	North		
Dlr: N	♠ A2		
Vul: N/S	♥ KJ1082		
	♦ 876		
	♣ K109		
West		East	
♠ Q108754		♠ K9	
♥ 64		♥ Q97	
♦ 10		♦ AJ952	
♣ AQJ4		♣ 752	
	South		
	♠ J63		
	♥ A53		
	♦ KQ43		
	♣ 863		

Nakamura vs Japan Youth			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kaku	Hirata	Mizuta	Shimizu
	1♥	Pass	1NT
3♠	Pass	Pass	DBL(1)
All Pass			
(1) Cards			

Kaku played 3♠ doubled for plus 530, guessing the ♠J, with Kobayashi minus 200 at 2NT in the other room; 8 imps to Japan Youth. Perhaps Shimizu should content himself with 2♥ over 1♥ with his square ten-count. Not that 1NT, planning jump preference, had to run into this kind of buzz-saw.

Bd: 12	North	
Dir: W	♠ AK	
Vul: N/S	♥ K6	
	♦ Q98	
	♣ A109875	
West		East
♠ 96543		♠ J82
♥ A975		♥ Q843
♦ J54		♦ 107632
♣ 6		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ Q107	
	♥ J102	
	♦ AK	
	♣ KQJ43	

West	North	East	South
Wang	Tatai	Fu	Hara
Pass	1♦(1)	Pass	1NT(2)
Pass	2♠(3)	Pass	3♣(4)
Pass	3NT(5)	Pass	4♥(6)
Pass	5♣(7)	Pass	6NT
All Pass			
(1) 15-17 BAL HCP; (2) Total Controls Ask;			
(3) 6 controls; (4) Support Ask; (5) 4+ cards;			
(6) Ask in hearts; (7) king, no ace			

At nine tables out of ten, North declared either 6♣ or 6NT, which could not be beaten. At the tenth table, Hara-Tatai, for Hisatomi, suffered the misfortune of playing 6NT from the South side against China, unearthing and (alas) disclosing a remarkable amount of information in the process. Xiojing Wang, West, who was "listening" carefully, found the beautiful lead of the ♥5. Teruyoshi Hara, as might you or I, played low from dummy, and Wang had staked a claim on a place in the Opening Lead Hall of Fame. 17imps to China, who logged their first win of the NEC CUP, 74-42.

Bd: 16	North	
Dir: W	♠ A4	
Vul: E/W	♥ AKQJ106	
	♦ Q4	
	♣ AK7	
West		East
♠ 10952		♠ KQ76
♥ 52		♥ 98743
♦ 972		♦ K
♣ 6542		♣ 1098
	South	
	♠ J83	
	♥ ---	
	♦ AJ108653	
	♣ QJ3	

This is not a grand slam that you want to bid. Tell that to Lasut-Manoppo, Shimizu-Hirata (and Kaz Yamada-Takahashi) ...

West	North	East	South
Hanayama	Lasut	Hirata	Manoppo
	1♣(1)	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦(2)	Pass	3NT(3)
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	
(1) Strong; (2) Trump ask;			
(3) one top honour at least sixth			
West	North	East	South
Kaku	Hirata	Mizuta	Shimizu
	2♣	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	DBL	Pass
Pass	RDBL	Pass	4NT(2)
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	7♥	All Pass	
(1) ART, POS; (2) DI			

.... all of whom bid seven and made it when the ♦K capitulated.

Bd: 20	North
Dir: W	♠ K109
Vul: Both	♥ KJ7
	♦ AK875
	♣ K4
West	East
♠ QJ7542	♠ 863
♥ ---	♥ 98532
♦ Q1096	♦ J2
♣ Q87	♣ 1052
	South
	♠ A
	♥ AQ1064
	♦ 43
	♣ AJ963

Spade to the ace, CK, CA, club ruff with the HK ... down one

One thing that the grand slam has going for it is the fact that the N/S pair at the other table will almost surely bid at least six, so the odds required for bidding seven boil down to pretty much 50%. Perhaps that is what convinced Shimizu-Hirata, Hackett-Armstrong, and Liu-Sun to go all the way in their respective matches. As we can see, there are several ways to make 7♥ and only a few ways to go down. CA Liu chose an unlucky line and paid heavily for it, turning over 17 imps to Hisatomi.

This grand slam might not require any finesses, so on the basis it's a much better contract than the grand slam on Board 16. There are other considerations, of course, so perhaps it's better not to bid this one either, good though it might be.

West	North	East	South
SR Wu	Armstrong	Tai	P Hackett
2♥(1)	2NT	Pass	3♦(♥)
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	7♣
Pass	7♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Kaku	Hirata	Mizuta	Shimizu
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
Chen	CA Liu	Abe	Sun
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

## SAY IT AIN'T SO, HENRI

Dir: E	North		
Vul: Both	♠ 10764		
	♥ AK2		
	♦ 109865		
	♣ 7		
West		East	
♠ AQ9		♠ K5	
♥ 10843		♥ QJ6	
♦ 432		♦ AK7	
♣ AK6		♣ 98432	
	South		
	♠ J832		
	♥ 975		
	♦ QJ		
	♣ QJ105		

In the 1996 Generali Masters Individual in Paris, every E/W pair played in 3NT. Where South led the ♣Q (often after East opened 1♣, incidentally), several Easts took nine tricks but only an average score by winning, crossing to hand and leading a club to the six if South played the five.

I found myself in a bizarre situation when I played this deal against one of France's legendary stars. I opened 1♣, then raised partner's 1♥ response to 2♥. Over his 2♠ I rebid 2NT and passed when he raised to three. I took the ♣Q with dummy's ace and led a heart. North ducked and I won the queen to lead a club. Dummy's six held. I played on clubs and North eventually discarded three diamonds, so I managed an eleventh trick for a near top.

North was quite upset ... with me. "You can't do this in this tournament," he admonished me. "No one raises a major response with only three trumps in France. I was certain that you held four hearts, and so I threw away my diamonds and gave you a top. This is ridiculous."

Indeed. But, he had a point, in a way. Although there was nothing on the universal convention card to suggest one approach over another in this situation, the French, the Poles, and many others generally require four trumps to raise. But was it really against the spirit of this wonderful event to rely on judgment in an undiscussed situation.

How would you play the clubs if entries were no problem?

The right play is to lead the nine and pass it. The only four-one break that matters is singleton seven in North. I'm sure that we'll all remember that one for next time.

## WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

What do you think North is doing in this sequence (N/S vulnerable)?

Mouiel	Multon	Kokish	Herbst
West	North	East	South
		1♥	DBL
1♠	1NT	3♥	P
P	3NT	All Pass	

This is another hand from the 1996 Generali Masters Individual, in which all the players were (at least in theory) playing the same methods and acting on their best behaviour.

South was thinking impure thoughts and believed that 3NT was intended as natural since North could have bid 3♠ to show length in both minors, having failed to double 1♠ for penalty. So South passed, and when West doubled, everyone stood his ground. This was the full deal ...

Dir: E	North	
Vul: N/S	♠ A2	
	♥ K4	
	♦ J10764	
	♣ Q1094	
West		East
♠ KJ1085		♠ 43
♥ 106		♥ AQJ98732
♦ K93		♦ 2
♣ 873		♣ A2
	South	
	♠ Q976	
	♥ 5	
	♦ AQ85	
	♣ KJ65	

Franck Multon, who would win the Olympiad Open Teams a few months later, got a spade lead to the ten and ace. He drove out the ♣A first, and after a spade to the jack, the defenders were in a position to take eleven tricks. Mouiel cleared the spades however, so Multon scored a pyrrhic victory, getting out for minus 1100. Head under the screen. "Minors," he stated. Had he known that South's French was quite reasonable, he would have said considerably more.

## BROWN ALERT

We interrupt this broadcast to bring you a brief report about the current state of germ warfare at the world level.

Gulp.

At the 1996 Cap Volmac World Top Pairs, the West players held, at favourable vulnerability:

(West) ♠ AKJ53 ♥ 5 ♦ QJ108 ♣ QJ4

Jens Auken saw this auction:

Jens			
West	North	East	South
	2♥(1)	Pass	2♠(2)
Pass	3♦(3)	Pass	3♥
?			
(1) ♠ or ♥+m; (2) Pass or correct; (3) ♦+♥			

Bauke Muller and Eddy Manoppo saw this auction:

Muller/Manoppo			
West	North	East	South
	2♥(1)	Pass	Pass
?			
(1) ♥+m			

What would you have done in their position?

All three of them doubled, which achieved a far better result than 2♠ or 3♠ would have done. This was the complete deal ...

Dir: N	North	
Vul: N/S	♠ 2	
	♥ QJ1043	
	♦ K76432	
	♣ 2	
West		East
♠ AKJ53		♠ 1098
♥ 5		♥ AK976
♦ QJ108		♦ A5
♣ QJ4		♣ A107
	South	
	♠ Q764	
	♥ 82	
	♦ 9	
	♣ K98653	

2♥ doubled was down 1100; 3♥ doubled 1400. E/W made a nonvulnerable game at all the other tables, so the penalties cost 9 imps and 12 imps, respectively. Bad luck for these N/S pairs, perhaps. Von Arnim apologized for not passing the two-way 2♥ opening at her table, but it is likely that Jens would have doubled that too, particularly since a vulnerable pass by third hand is most often a guess with spade length and moderate hearts.

It would be nice to be able to make a definitive statement about the effectiveness of all these destructive gadgets, but that would take a great deal of evidence-gathering and followup analysis. My own feeling is that these multi-meaning things are not nearly as effective as natural preempts, but I am sure that I am in a small minority in these busy times.

## SOME STUFF FROM ROUND SIX

Bd: 1	North	
Dir: N	♠ K108632	
Vul: None	♥ 54	
	♦ A8	
	♣ Q86	
West		East
♠ 4		♠ J5
♥ AKQ76		♥ J10982
♦ 107432		♦ 5
♣ A9		♣ J10753
	South	
	♠ AQ97	
	♥ 3	
	♦ KQJ96	
	♣ K42	

With N/S cold for 5♠, E/W will do well to bid up to 6♥ if they have to, but in practice, it figures to end at the five-level for one side or the other.

It is interesting to note that Abe and Chen for Hisatomi bought the auction at 3♠ against SR and CH Wu, who saw no reason to bid any higher if their opponents were not going to bid their game. At the other table, Shen and Kuo were pushed to 5♠ by Hisatomi-Teramoto, gaining 7 imps.

In Indonesia vs Geller, both N/S pairs scored plus 480 in spades, and in China vs Nakamura, China gained 9 imps when Hirata-Shimizu defeated 5♥ doubled one trick while Wang-Fu pushed on to 5♠.

In the other two matches, all four E/W pairs were allowed to play 5♥, two of them undoubled. Not doubling proved to be a subtly wise decision by S Naito-Moriyama for Japan Women because at their table, Makoto Hirata was permitted to make 5♥ by his very tired opponents (who never got their spade trick) for an 11-imp gain to Yamada. The match ended in a draw.



Bd: 3	North	
Dir: S	♠ 54	
Vul: E/W	♥ AKQ10	
	♦ AQJ65	
	♣ 72	
West		East
♠ 10763		♠ K
♥ 96		♥ J8732
♦ 9873		♦ K2
♣ 865		♣ AKJ93
	South	
	♠ AQJ982	
	♥ 54	
	♦ 104	
	♣ Q104	

4♠ was the popular contract on this one, and it was made twice as often as it was defeated. On a diamond lead, declarer must rise with the ace to have a chance, but that doesn't see him home. When he plays three high hearts to discard his diamond, West ruffs, and can play anything he likes. Declarer will lose either three clubs or two clubs and a further trump trick on the lead of a fourth heart. A heart lead makes the play interesting; it's a photo finish. At several tables, however, North was declarer and got the lead of the ♣K, which made it much easier to negotiate ten tricks.

There was one glaring exception to all those 4♠ contracts, and it happened in Great Britain vs Japan Youth, where Paul and Jason Hackett (the Hacketts seem to be interchangeable) defended 3♥ doubled, Otsuka-san buying a rather terrible dummy. The result

was four down; minus 1100, and we doubt that the boys did anything really terrible to achieve that result. We suspect that the bidding went 2♠-Pass-Pass-3♥; Pass-Pass-DBL. If we have time, we'll try to find out.

However, Otsuka-Furuta (along with Sacul-Asbi) were probably less innocent on Board 10 ...

Bd: 10	North	
Dir: E	♠ J10	
Vul: Both	♥ J1052	
	♦ Q9764	
	♣ 96	
West		East
♠ A964		♠ K873
♥ AKQ9		♥ 7643
♦ K		♦ A52
♣ A873		♣ 104
	South	
	♠ Q52	
	♥ 8	
	♦ J1083	
	♣ KQJ52	

.... on which they were the only two pairs to venture past game. Both of them reached slam in a major and turned over 13 imps in the process.

That there might have been something in the air was evidenced by Board 18:

Bd: 18	North	
Dir: E	♠ AK92	
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ3	
	♦ AJ86	
	♣ Q5	
West		East
♠ 7		♠ J10654
♥ 765		♥ 982
♦ Q10954		♦ 72
♣ K1087		♣ J32
	South	
	♠ Q83	
	♥ KJ104	
	♦ K3	
	♣ A964	

... on which eight pairs out of ten reached 6NT and found a way to make it (there seems to be a few).

There were two exceptions, both in Great Britain vs Japan Youth. Kaku-Mizuta also played 6NT. Kaku got a neutral heart lead from Justin Hackett and went one down. If you're going to go minus on a

board like this one, it's a good idea to have your counterparts at the other table do the same, and apparently, there was a guardian angel doing his best to protect the Youth team. At the other table, the Hacketts (pere et fils) fetched up in 6♦ on the unappetizing four-two fit and went two down, so Youth actually gained 3 imps!

There were two other slam misadventures in Round Six, and they both happened at the same table. Neither slam was hopeless at single dummy, but on the lie of the cards neither had a chance.

The first was a solo 6♣ attempted by Yamada's Hirata-Hanayama on Board 8; The second was a solo 6♠ attempted by Naito-Moriyama on Board 20:

Bd: 8	North	
Dlr: W	♠ A75	
Vul: None	♥ Q7	
	♦ A873	
	♣ 10984	
West		East
♠ QJ1092		♠ K8
♥ AK983		♥ J42
♦ ---		♦ Q65
♣ K63		♣ AJ752
	South	
	♠ 643	
	♥ 1065	
	♦ KJ10942	
	♣ Q	

Bd: 20	North	
Dlr: W	♠ AKQJ	
Vul: Both	♥ K94	
	♦ J2	
	♣ AJ32	
West		East
♠ 75		♠ 1062
♥ 83		♥ AJ752
♦ Q10843		♦ 9765
♣ K974		♣ 10
	South	
	♠ 9843	
	♥ Q106	
	♦ AK	
	♣ Q865	

## SEVEN CITY (ROUND) SEVEN

Bd: 2	North	
Dlr: E	♠ Q75	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q1053	
	♦ A75	
	♣ 1052	
West		East
♠ K108632		♠ J
♥ 7		♥ K864
♦ J8		♦ Q96432
♣ A863		♣ K4
	South	
	♠ A94	
	♥ AJ92	
	♦ K10	
	♣ QJ97	

Hearts plays awkwardly for N/S on this one, and no one attempting game in that strain took as many as ten tricks. Although it looks as if the defense should prevail by leading diamonds against 3NT, that contract was made three times - by Kaz Yamada-Takahashi against the Hackett twins, by Chong-Tai against Shimizu-Hirata, and by Ino-Imakura against Wang-Fu, undoubtedly after a spade lead in each case. It takes some doing to reach 3NT, and we suspect that E/W drove their opponents into game and deprived them of the room to look for hearts.

Bd: 5	North	
Dlr: N	♠ 86	
Vul: N/S	♥ KQJ84	
	♦ A864	
	♣ J4	
West		East
♠ 742		♠ K
♥ A752		♥ 10963
♦ Q5		♦ 10972
♣ 10873		♣ AQ95
	South	
	♠ AQJ10953	
	♥ ---	
	♦ KJ3	
	♣ K62	

Kaz Yamada-Takashi were the only pair to attempt 6♠ on this one, and they were not treated to the lead of the ace of hearts and so went down.

Setoguchi-Ota, Furuta-Mizuta, and Chong-Tai all climbed to 5♠ before giving up. A trump lead would almost surely have defeated that, but at the first two tables, West led a club and at the third the ♦Q, so all three of these five-level voyagers escaped unscathed.

Bd: 6	North	
Dlr: E	♠ J9542	
Vul: E/W	♥ 10963	
	♦ 106	
	♣ 62	
West		East
♠ Q		♠ A
♥ KQ754		♥ J82
♦ AJ7		♦ K543
♣ J1075		♣ AKQ98
	South	
	♠ K108763	
	♥ A	
	♦ Q982	
	♣ 43	

6♣ is excellent for E/W, and cold on the lie of the cards. 6♥ will make two, as long as declarer does nothing foolish in trumps. Takayama-Kobayashi stopped at 5♥ against Indonesia and lost 12 imps to the 6♣ bid and made at the other table. CA Liu-Sun stopped to double Hirata-Hanayama in 5♠ but they lost only 7 imps when Wang-Fu saved at 5♠ at the other table. Kaz Yamada-Takahashi gained 12 imps for Geller by saving against slam while Armstrong-Hackett sold out to 6♥, the same pair of results recorded in Chinese Taipei vs Nakamura, with Nakamura-Miyakuni saving while Chong-Tai did not. In Japan Women vs Hisatomi, Tatai-Hara saved but Setoguchi-Ota sold out to Abe-Chen in 6♣.

Here's what happened at our table, and (we suspect) at a few others:

Bd: 9	North	
Dlr: N	♠ A752	
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ1073	
	♦ ---	
	♣ K986	
West		East
♠ KQ96		♠ 84
♥ J85		♥ 42
♦ 984		♦ AQJ10762
♣ 1054		♣ 72
	South	
	♠ J103	
	♥ A96	
	♦ K53	
	♣ AQJ3	

Kokish	Mizuta	Colker	Furuta
West	North	East	South
		1♣	1♠
2♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass(1)	Pass	5NT(2)	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
(1) Forcing; (2) Choice of strain			

This is a nice 6♣ for N/S, but it wasn't often attempted. CA Liu-Sun won 10 imps for China against Yamada by bidding and making it. Armstrong-Paul Hackett did the same for Great Britain against Geller.

The oddest couple of results occurred in Japan Youth vs Indonesia, where Mizuta-Furuta milked those N/S cards all the way to 7♣, with East's only peep in the auction a double of North's diamond splinter bid in support of clubs. Had West led a

diamond, declarer would have seen a ray of hope: ruff, cross to a trump, ruff a diamond, finesse

the nine of hearts to take a third ruff, back to the ♥A to draw trumps. Well, only in the movies. But Furuta got the lead of the ♠K and had no real reason to lose to the jack of hearts. He conceded a spade for one down. That looked positively dreadful for Youth, particularly when Lasut-Manoppo reached 6♣. Henky Lasut usually makes short work of hands involving some sophisticated declarer play, but here he took his eye off the ball for just one second and it cost him dearly. He got a trump lead, and elected to let it run around to the North hand, catering perhaps to four-one trumps. Now he was in the wrong hand to arrange his two diamond ruffs conveniently. Realizing that he was in some trouble, Henky found the expert solution - a low heart to the nine. Alas this movie was not a musical but a horror film. When the ♥9 lost to the jack, poor Henky finished two down; minus 100. 2 imps to Youth!

Our hearts go out to Henky, who not only plays very well, but also has a wonderful attitude about the game and about life. He took this result as well as a person could take it, and it's a real treat for us to play on a team with the Indonesians, who are always gracious, and invariably philosophical when times are tough. Speaking of tough times ...

Bd: 11	North	
Dlr: S	♠ A	
Vul: None	♥ 8764	
	♦ Q	
	♣ AK108642	
West		East
♠ KQJ9873		♠ 102
♥ 3		♥ KQ
♦ AJ54		♦ K108632
♣ 9		♣ Q53
	South	
	♠ 654	
	♥ AJ10952	
	♦ 97	
	♣ J7	

Consider the plight of E/W on this one. They reach 4♠ on power and N/S seem to be saving at 5♥. East, with a horrible heart holding for offense and dubious minor suit assets, has a clear-cut double. West, expecting to fail at 5♠, makes a disciplined pass. 5♥ doubled proves to be cold, and the winning action would have been to save at 5♠. Too tough, perhaps. 5♥ doubled and made was a very popular result.

But in Chinese Taipei vs Nakamura, Nakamura-Miyakuni bought the auction at 5♣ and had to go one down, while Chong-Tai finished in 6♥ doubled, one down. That turned out to be 2 tiny imps to Nakamura.

And in Japan Women vs Hisatomi, Tatai-Hara played 6♥ undoubled, one down while Abe-Chen bought the auction at 4♠, a huge result. 9 imps to Hisatomi, who won this critical match (these teams would be neck and neck in a fight for the final semifinal spot going into the last round) 21-9.

Mizuta-Furuta did many good things in this match for the Youth team. Here are two of them:

Bd: 12	North	
Dlr: W	♠ K9	
Vul: N/S	♥ A87	
	♦ A102	
	♣ AJ762	
West		East
♠ J106		♠ Q75
♥ KQ9532		♥ 4
♦ 83		♦ KQ97654
♣ Q5		♣ K8
	South	
	♠ A8432	
	♥ J106	
	♦ J	
	♣ 10943	

Kokish	Mizuta	Colker	Furuta
West	North	East	South
2♥	3♣	3♦	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Just try to defeat 3NT on this combined 22-count. Colker led the ♦Q, which held. The heart switch went to the jack, queen, and ace, and Mizuta played ace and another club. Colker kept his king, won it, and switched to a low spade to the ten and king. Mizuta could clear spades now and scored a magnificent plus 600. If Colker unblocks the ♣K,

Kokish can win the queen and play a second diamond. Mizuta wins and plays king of spades, spade. Colker can play high or low, but Mizuta has an answer in either case.

Hackett-Armstrong also bid and made 3NT, but Setoguchi-Ota, the other pair to reach this thin game, went down.

Bd: 19	North	
Dlr: S	♠ J	
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ2	
	♦ Q5432	
	♣ K964	
West		East
♠ Q6		♠ 8542
♥ KQ9873		♥ 1064
♦ 7		♦ J86
♣ AQ72		♣ J53
	South	
	♠ AK10973	
	♥ 5	
	♦ AK109	
	♣ 108	

Kokish	Mizuta	Colker	Furuta
West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

This was a good slam after West's overcall, and it was bid and made three times. The other successful pairs were Hackett-Armstrong and Setoguchi-Ota.

The strangest result on Board 19 was turned in by Tony Chong and MF Tai, who stopped at 2♠ with the N/S cards. Most of the bridge players we know are very sensitive

about their bad results. Tony and MF are wonderful guys, but please choose your moment carefully to ask them about this result.

## HIGH FIVE

The most exciting deal in Round Eight was Board 7:

Bd: 7	North	
Dlr: S	♠ KQ1085	
Vul: Both	♥ 54	
	♦ ---	
	♣ J95432	
West		East
♠ 7		♠ 963
♥ K873		♥ AQ96
♦ 1042		♦ KQJ975
♣ K10876		♣ ---
	South	
	♠ AJ42	
	♥ J102	
	♦ A863	
	♣ AQ	

Kokish	Tatai	Colker	Hara
West	North	East	South
			1♦(1)
Pass	2♥(♠)	3♦	3♠
4♦	4♠	5♦	5♠
All Pass			
(1) 15-17 HCP BAL			

Who knew to double? Even on a diamond lead, Hara went two down; minus 200. With the ♣A ruffing out doubleton, E/W might make 5♦ if the defense is not careful. And indeed, that is just what happened at the other table, where Eddy Manoppo led the ace of spades and switched to a trump. High or low doesn't matter, as it happens. 11 imps to Hisatomi for plus 750 (Hisatomi-Teramoto) and minus 200.

Hirata-Shimizu bought the auction at 4♠, one down, but at the other table Ito-Narita got all the way to 6♠, down 800. 12 imps to Nakamura vs Geller, but Geller won the match 16-14.

Furuta-Otsuka went one down in 4♠ but Setoguchi-Ota scored a coup for Japan Women by stopping at 3♠, plus 140. Women beat Youth 22-8.

Ino-Imakura were sharp against Chinese Taipei, doubling Shen-Kuo at 5♠ for a 9-imp pickup against 4♠ minus 100 at the other table.

The Hackett twins doubled China's CA Liu-Sun at 5♠ for 500 and Hackett-Armstrong played 4♠ at the other table, so Great Britain gained 9 imps en route to a big 25-4 win over China.

## MIXED BAG

Bd: 8-19	North	
Dir: S	♠ J1062	
Vul: E/W	♥ 107	
	♦ 3	
	♣ Q65432	
West		East
♠ 973		♠ A
♥ KJ32		♥ AQ984
♦ K52		♦ QJ107
♣ KJ7		♣ A109
	South	
	♠ KQ854	
	♥ 65	
	♦ A9864	
	♣ 8	

There was some life in this deal too, with 6♥ big chance to make. It's only the diamond ruff that beats it. Ino-Imakura stopped at 5♥, mercifully, but at the other table, Tony Chong-SR Wu were nudged into 3NT, a contract that required Wu to pick up the ♣Q after a spade lead. He did that. Whew, said Wu to whoever was listening.

The two results in Japan Women vs Japan Youth might not be the ones you'd guess if you started now and finished next Tuesday. E Naito-Nishida ended in 5♦ doubled, which they made after two rounds of trumps! And Kaku-Mizuta finished in 6♣, where even the great skill of the youthful Mizuta could not overcome the six-one trump break. Four down; minus 400.

Miyakuni-Tanaka played in 5♥, a normal-looking result, while Kaz Yamada-Takahashi doubled 4♠ at the other

table and collected 500.

This was a very unlucky board for Hisatomi against Indonesia. Hisatomi-Teramoto bid beautifully to 6♥ only to run into the killing diamond ruff. At the other table, Tatai-Hara jockeyed Kokish-Colker into the wrong game -3NT - with an unusual 2♠ opening by South, showing diamonds and an unknown five-card major. After a pass by West, Tatai converted to 3♣, an attempt to play there. When East overcalled 3♥, West tried 3NT to protect his club honours, and there he rested. Tatai led a heart, not a spade, so declarer took twelve tricks and collected a very fortunate 13 imps. Indonesia won 16-14, in no small part due to this deal.

In Great Britain vs China, both N/S pairs played 4♠ doubled. Paul Hackett escaped with nine tricks but Sun did three tricks worse on a trump lead.