



NEC Bridge Festival

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1997 NEC CUP: Final Results

	Carryover	1	2	Quarter 3	4	Final
INDONESIA/NA	1	53	61	62	40	217
JAPAN (HISATOMI)	0	12	35	48	10	105

1997 NEC Cup: 3rd/4th Place Playoff

	Carryover	1	Half 2	Final
GREAT BRITAIN	0.2	38		38.2
CHINESE TAIPEI	0	21		21

Congratulations to the Indonesia/North America team, winners of the 1997 NEC Cup. And congratulations also to the runners-up, the Japan (Hisatomi) team, who defeated a strong Great Britain team in a wild match to reach the final. This just wasn't their day. They showed great heart, fighting until the very last board.

Congratulations also to the Great Britain team, who defeated Chinese Taipei in an abbreviated 16-board playoff match to finish third in the event. (Both teams sat in the same direction, so the second half had to be declared a draw.) And finally, our congratulations to Chinese Taipei for a well-fought match.

Two Yanks in the Far East: Chinese Taipei vs Indonesia

Third Quarter:

When we last left our intrepid interlopers, they trailed 54-51, not including their additional 5.6 IMP deficit from the carryover.

Bd: 34	North	
Dir: E	♠ 653	
Vul: N/S	♥ A2	
	♦ 10952	
	♣ A943	
West		East
♠ Q97		♠ J842
♥ QJ10		♥ 654
♦ J3		♦ A864
♣ J10852		♣ K6
	South	
	♠ AK10	
	♥ K9873	
	♦ KQ7	
	♣ Q7	

SR Wu played 3NT from the South side and got the lead of the ♥Q. Blessed with a tempo, he might have found a way home with a good guess or two, but he finished one down. Rich Colker declared from the North side and got a spade lead through the ace-king-ten. He was able to set up hearts and knock out the ♦A to develop his eighth trick, but by then Kuo had a long spade to cash, forcing dummy to blank the ♣Q. Kuo exited with the ♣K and Colker had to guess the ♦J for his ninth trick. He had not cashed his heart winners and had discarded a club, and so was in a position to make or go down a lot. He ran the ♦10 and went four down when Wu's hand was high. 7 imps to Chinese Taipei, ahead now by 10, 61-51.

It was 61-55 when Board 37 vaulted Indonesia back in front. Lasut-Manoppo fetched up in 3NT from the West side after a fourth-seat strong club opening by Manoppo. Tai led a club around to the jack and Manoppo tried a spade to the king and ace. The defendewrs did not cash diamonds now, so Manoppo had nine winners; plus 400.

Bd: 37	North	
Dir:N	♠ J9732	
Vul:N/S	♥ 6	
	♦ KJ7	
	♣ Q965	
West		East
♠ 4		♠ KQ105
♥ AKQ42		♥ J93
♦ Q93		♦ 864
♣ AKJ4		♣ 873
	South	
	♠ A86	
	♥ 10875	
	♦ A1052	
	♣ 102	

Kuo-Wu reached 4♥ at the other table, bidding only hearts, and Colker led a low spade. Wu called for the ten, and when Kokish won the ace, he switched to the ♦5, ducked to the jack. Colker continued diamonds and Wu was quickly one down; minus 50. 10 imps to Indonesia, 65-61.

Bd: 38	North	
Dir: E	♠ Q987	
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ1094	
	♦ ---	
	♣ AJ73	
West		East
♠ 6543		♠ 2
♥ ---		♥ Q873
♦ A984		♦ KJ763
♣ K9842		♣ Q106
	South	
	♠ AKJ10	
	♥ K652	
	♦ Q1052	
	♣ 5	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
CH Wu	Colker	Kuo	Kokish
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♦(2)	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
All Pass			
(1) 4 trumps, might be 15-17 BAL			
(2) Splinter			

This is a pretty good 6♥ for N/S, but I can't quite figure out who should have done more in our match. With a different set of methods in place, we might have revealed South's club shortage, but even then, it takes some doing to bid slam. Both N/S pairs bid it in the other semifinal and went down, and I'm betting that South raised the 1♥ response to 3♥. Colker made five, playing carefully, and so did Tai, who was in 4♥ without much of a sniff at six.

The next deal was a lively one too, but nothing much happened in this match, with both N/S pairs stopping at 4♥ ...

Both Easts found the spade lead that would have beaten 6♥, but only Lasut cashed his spade winner when he won the ♦K. 1 imp to Indonesia, 66-61.

Bd: 39	North	
Dir: S	♠ A9	
Vul: Both	♥ 65432	
	♦ AQJ763	
	♣ ---	
West		East
♠ K5		♠ QJ8732
♥ J107		♥ 8
♦ 85		♦ K109
♣ QJ9876		♣ A105
	South	
	♠ 1064	
	♥ AKQ9	
	♦ 42	
	♣ K432	

Bd: 43	North	
Dir: S	♠ AQ4	
Vul: None	♥ 85	
	♦ J973	
	♣ AK64	
West		East
♠ K8		♠ J
♥ AQ3		♥ KJ109742
♦ AK10		♦ Q542
♣ 98732		♣ J
	South	
	♠ 10976532	
	♥ 6	
	♦ 86	
	♣ Q105	

When Kokish did not open 3♠, he found himself having to guess at the four level after 1NT-Pass-4♦(Texas). He passed that, and passed 4♥ and went minus 480 (Wu set up the long club to throw dummy's singleton spade when Colker led a club and switched to a diamond). At the other table, Tai-Wu got into the auction and drove Lasut-Manoppo to 5♥, which they doubled. With the East hand concealed, Tai did not cash the ♠A and here too, the

long club was set up for a spade discard. Plus 750 for Lasut and 13imps to Indonesia, ahead 73-62.

Bd: 44	North	
Dlr: W	♠ AJ109	
Vul: N/S	♥ 964	
	♦ 863	
	♣ J32	
West		East
♠ Q874		♠ 5
♥ 2		♥ KQ10753
♦ Q1074		♦ J2
♣ A1095		♣ K874
	South	
	♠ K632	
	♥ AJ8	
	♦ AK95	
	♣ Q6	

Lasut opened a Multi 2♦ in third seat, which brought SR Wu in with 2NT. CH Kuo opened 3♥ with the East hand, foisting 3NT on Kokish. After a heart to the queen, ducked, Kuo switched to the ♦2, ducked to the ten. Wu had a safe exit in diamonds now and Kokish could not find a ninth trick. Neither did Wu, but he was plus 120, Kokish minus 50. 6 imps to Chinese Taipei, 68-73.

The next deal brought the biggest swing of the set ...

Bd: 45	North	
Dlr: N	♠ KQ	
Vul: Both	♥ 108752	
	♦ 1073	
	♣ 842	
West		East
♠ A		♠ 9532
♥ AK4		♥ J6
♦ AKJ2		♦ Q84
♣ AJ953		♣ Q1076
	South	
	♠ J108764	
	♥ Q93	
	♦ 965	
	♣ K	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
CH Wu	Colker	Kuo	Kokish
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣	Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Manoppo	Tai	Lasut	SR Wu
	Pass	Pass	2♥(1)
DBL	2♠	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	DBL	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		
(1) weak 2♠ or weak 5+♥/5+m			

Both declarers took thirteen tricks, plus 1390 and plus 640. 13 imps to Chinese Taipei, 81-73. Indonesia made it 75-81 with a nonvulnerable undertrick, and then ...

Both Easts declared 2♠ on the lead of a low diamond. Lasut made it with a winning guess, but Kuo should have had no chance at the other table after winning the ♦A, playing ace and queen of spades, and getting a diamond continuation. He ruffed, cashed the ♠J, and led a club to the queen and king. Colker had to discard a diamond on the third trump and had to play a heart now, leading the deuce (low from odd). Kokish should have ducked this, which would have defeated the contract outright, but he won the ace and cashed the master trump (another inferior play by a tired camper), forcing Colker to discard his "idle" diamond. Now a heart exit left Kuo in hand, but a club to the ten and ace forced Colker to exit with the ♣2. Kuo put up the jack and went down, but

Bd: 47	North	
Dlr: S	♠ K10	
Vul: N/S	♥ J73	
	♦ 10864	
	♣ AK92	
West		East
♠ 9		♠ AQJ542
♥ K1065		♥ Q4
♦ QJ973		♦ A
♣ Q106		♣ J873
	South	
	♠ 8763	
	♥ A982	
	♦ K52	
	♣ 54	

knew he was the wrong the moment he played that card. Minus 50. 4 imps to Indonesia, who won the third set 28-7. With sixteen boards to play, Chinese Taipei was ahead by 2 imps, 81-79.

Fourth Quarter:

Bd: 49	North	
Dir: N	♠ 10962	
Vul: None	♥ AKJ64	
	♦ KQ2	
	♣ 6	
West		East
♠ KJ87		♠ 54
♥ 3		♥ Q1092
♦ AJ76		♦ 985
♣ A1098		♣ K743
	South	
	♠ AQ3	
	♥ 875	
	♦ 1043	
	♣ QJ52	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
SR Wu	Lasut	Tai	Manoppo
	2♥(1)	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	DBL	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Sacul	CH Wu	Asbi	Kuo
	1♥	Pass	2♥
DBL	3♥	All Pass	

Wu went three down in 3♥, minus 150, and was lucky not to be doubled. Tai went two down in 3♣ doubled, minus 300. 10 imps to Indonesia, back in the lead, 89-81.

Each team scored two 1-imp swings over the next six deals, making it 91-83 for Indonesia going into Board 56 ...

Bd: 56	North	
Dir: W	♠ A109762	
Vul: None	♥ 8	
	♦ A83	
	♣ K102	
West		East
♠ J3		♠ Q54
♥ J1094		♥ 73
♦ 1095		♦ KQJ6
♣ 8764		♣ Q953
	South	
	♠ K8	
	♥ AKQ652	
	♦ 742	
	♣ AJ	

This deal merits more attention than we are able to give it with the information we have. We know that Lasut-Manoppo reached 6♠ while Tai-Wu stopped at 4♠, and we know that both declarers took twelve tricks. There are several ways to do this, including the simplest, which (after a diamond lead) is to take a club ruff in South, cash king of spades, and play three high hearts, hoping that they are three-three or that the hand that ruffs started with three trumps and not five clubs (else, there would be a trump promotion when that hand plays the fourth round of clubs). Plus 980 for Manoppo; plus 480 for Tai. 11 imps to Indonesia, 102-83. As it happened, this was the last deal to be played in the Open Room, and it was the one that won the match for Indonesia.

Board 58 was a deal that might well have won the match for Chinese Taipei.

Bd: 58	North	
Dir: E	♠ 84	
Vul: Both	♥ A97	
	♦ QJ753	
	♣ A104	
West		East
♠ 102		♠
KQJ97653		♥ ---
♥ 8654		♦ 842
♦ A1096		♣ J3
♣ K97		
	South	
	♠ A	
	♥ KQJ1032	
	♦ K	
	♣ Q8652	

Lasut-Manoppo were permitted to buy the auction at 4♥ when Tai took a limited role in the auction with all those spades. In the other room, Taufik Asbi opened 4♠ with the East hand, and when Kuo-Wu reached 5♥, Sacul doubled. We don't have an account of the play, but we know that both declarers managed twelve tricks (which seems like an impressive total to us). Chinese Taipei won the board plus 1050 vs minus 680, to gain 9 imps, 92-102.

Bd: 60	North	
Dir: W	♠ AK6432	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q87	
	♦ A52	
	♣ 3	
West		East
♠ Q107		♠ J98
♥ A64		♥ K1093
♦ KQJ3		♦ 1064
♣ AKQ		♣ J106
	South	
	♠ 5	
	♥ J52	
	♦ 987	
	♣ 987542	

It's hard to construct an auction that ends in 1NT and I'm sure that we'll hear about it from Denny and Taufik sometime soon, but all we can tell you at 11 pm on Thursday evening is that they scored plus 90 while Tai-Wu were down 100 in the perfectly normal contract of 3NT. 5 imps to Indonesia, 107-92. In retrospect, we believe that this is the board that REALLY won the match for Indonesia, the Lasut-Manoppo 6♠ notwithstanding. It must have gone: 1♣ (Polish Club)-1♠-Pass-Pass-1NT (strong)-All Pass. West was maximum and so was East. Wow!

Bd: 63	North	
Dir: S	♠ AK865	
Vul: N/S	♥ AQJ87	
	♦ 6	
	♣ AJ	
West		East
♠ 2		♠ QJ9743
♥ 106		♥ K942
♦ 9743		♦ K8
♣ KQ9865		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ 10	
	♥ 53	
	♦ AQJ1052	
	♣ 10743	

It looks as if both 3NT and 5♦ will make with that magical diamond position, but you've got to play for it. Lasut, in 3NT, took a losing view in the play to go one down, but Kuo made 5♦ on a spade lead. Chinese Taipei gained 12 imps, closing to within 3 imps at 104-107.

On the last deal of the match, both Norths went down in 1NT and that was that. Indonesia won the final segment, 28-23 and won the low-scoring match 107-104. The two teams scored 115 less imps than Great Britain-Hisatomi.

Today's final will feature a 1-imp carryover edge to Indonesia on the strength of a 45-40 (16-14 VP) win over Hisatomi in their round robin match.

Truckin' On the Semis: Great Britain vs Hisatomi

Second Quarter:

When we left you yesterday, Hisatomi was clinging to a 7-imp lead after sixteen deals, 46-39.

Bd: 17	North
Dlr: N	♠ Q72
Vul: None	♥ A10743
	♦ J1062
	♣ 3
West	East
♠ AK10654	♠ 3
♥ K	♥ QJ86
♦ 43	♦ A5
♣ K1098	♣ QJ7654
	South
	♠ J98
	♥ 952
	♦ KQ987
	♣ A2

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
	Pass	1♣	2♦
3♠(fit)	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	DBL
4♣	All Pass		

Opening the East hand is a good start toward reaching 5♣, but it's easy to see why you might not do this.

When Tatai passed in second seat, the Hackett twins did a nice job of feigning strength. However, had they simply passed out 3NT, they would have gone plus. Tara might have thought that his 4♣, after cue-bidding, was forcing, but Tatai saw it differently; plus 150.

The Hackett-Armstrong methods were perfect for this E/W combination, Paul being able to show six spades, an opening bid, and a primary club fit; plus 400. 6 imps to Great Britain, 45-46.

Bd: 18	North
Dlr: E	♠ Q86
Vul: N/S	♥ 42
	♦ AK86
	♣ AK74
West	East
♠ 10972	♠ K3
♥ KQ965	♥ A1083
♦ 7	♦ 1094
♣ QJ2	♣ 9653
	South
	♠ AJ54
	♥ J7
	♦ QJ532
	♣ 108

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
		Pass	Pass
2♥	DBL	4♥	4♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
		Pass	Pass
2♦(1)	2NT	Pass	3♣(2)
Pass	3♦(3)	Pass	3♥(4♠)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
(1) Multi; (2) 5M-Stayman; (3) No 5-card M			

Please note that the West hand has become a standard third-seat weak two-bid in the nineties. Whether natural, or in the form of a Multi 2♦, its general effect on Board 18 was to jockey (or were they happy to be pushed into it) N/S into 4♠ on a thin four-three fit. Jason got a neutral club lead against his short-side 4♠ ("I was worried about the hearts, Justin"), led a trump to the ace and a trump to the queen, playing for three-three spades or

for the weak two-bidder to hold king-and-one and have the defenders fail to play three rounds of hearts. As you can see, this was not a success. One down; minus 100.

In the other room, where the natural preempt (as usual) got its users to their optimum dare level in a hurry, Paul Hackett led the ♥K against Chen's 4♠. He continued with the ♥Q, which John Armstrong overtook to play a third heart. Chen lost control and finished three down; minus 300. 5 imps to Great Britain, ahead now 50-46.

Bd: 19	North	
Dlr: S	♠ AK	
Vul: E/W	♥ 2	
	♦ K8743	
	♣ J9764	
West		East
♠ Q64		♠ J5
♥ J764		♥ KQ10953
♦ Q96		♦ A2
♣ 1082		♣ Q53
	South	
	♠ 1098732	
	♥ A8	
	♦ J105	
	♣ AK	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
			1♠
Pass	1NT	2♥	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
			1♠
Pass	2♦	2♥	DBL(1)
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
(1) Support			

Both N/S pairs pushed to the close 4♠ and got a heart lead. Justin won, cashed the ace-king of clubs, crossed to a trump, and ruffed a club. Bingo. With clubs three-three, he could return to the other high spade and discard his heart loser on a club. The defenders stuffed up the diamonds so Justin made five, plus 450. At the other table, Chen crossed to a trump before playing clubs and could no longer make the contract; minus 50. 11 imps to Great Britain, 61-46.

Bd: 20	North	
Dlr: W	♠ AJ965	
Vul: Both	♥ AJ97	
	♦ ---	
	♣ AJ85	
West		East
♠ 8742		♠ Q103
♥ K85		♥ 62
♦ A854		♦ J10963
♣ 62		♣ K103
	South	
	♠ K	
	♥ Q1043	
	♦ KQ72	
	♣ Q974	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	
(1) Many meanings			

Twelve tricks were not difficult after a diamond lead from East so the swing came in the bidding. 13 imps to Great

Britain for the reasonable slam, 74-46.

Bd: 21	North	
Dlr: N	♠ J4	
Vul: N/S	♥ A1052	
	♦ K75	
	♣ K963	
West		East
♠ A10		♠ 9632
♥ K87		♥ J
♦ AQ6		♦ J1098432
♣ J10754		♣ A
	South	
	♠ KQ875	
	♥ Q9643	
	♦ ---	
	♣ Q82	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
	Pass	Pass	1♠
DBL	RDBL	4♦	Pass
Pass	DBL	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
	1♥	3♦	4♦
5♦	DBL	All Pass	

The auction came up brilliantly for Armstrong, who got himself doubled at 4♦. The play wasn't so bad either: low heart, eight, ten, singleton jack. He lost a spade, got two spade ruffs, and lost only to the ♦K for a

doubled overtrick; plus 610.

Opening the North hand worked well for Jason. He was able to double 5♦ and have Justin sit for it since he had bid out his hand (well, more or less). Jason won the heart lead with the ace, and switched to a club. Tatai won, led a spade to the queen and ace, ruffed a club, and played a trump, thinking he might make the contract. Oops. Now Jason could come in with the ♠J and play king and another trump. Down 300. 14 imps more to Great Britain, who had run off 49 unanswered imps on the first five deals of the second set to take an 88-46 lead.

Bd: 23	North	
Dlr: S	♠ 9843	
Vul: Both	♥ Q863	
	♦ AKJ4	
	♣ K	
West		East
♠ AK105		♠ QJ7
♥ AJ1094		♥ 52
♦ 96		♦ Q2
♣ A10		♣ 875432
	South	
	♠ 62	
	♥ K7	
	♦ 108753	
	♣ QJ96	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

3♣ was a fair spot with those difficult E/W cards, but it was down 200 on the poor trump break. Meanwhile, some fancy bidding by Hara-Tatai got them to the best

contract - 2♠, for plus 110. That 7-imp gain stopped the bleeding for Hisatomi, 53-88.

Bd: 24	North	
Dir: W	♠ Q1062	
Vul: None	♥ J6532	
	♦ Q4	
	♣ AJ	
West		East
♠ AJ9		♠ 54
♥ AKQ10		♥ 987
♦ 1097		♦ 62
♣ KQ5		♣ 1098432
	South	
	♠ K873	
	♥ 4	
	♦ AKJ853	
	♣ 76	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
2NT	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
1♣(1)	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
DBL	All Pass		
(1) many hand types, ostensibly forcing			

If that's a 2NT opening, I'm getting too old for this game. But Paul tells us that's in his range (as opposed to on his range) and here his effort stole the pot, in a way, making it impossible for his opponents to find spades. 3♦ made four; plus 130.

At the other table, Hara-Tatai left the twins all the room they needed to find both spades and game. Not that 4♠ was such a bargain. It wasn't, but it made easily enough. Heart to the queen, ♥A to force dummy, ♠K, taken, switch to the ♣K, ace. Jason returned the ♣J to Hara's queen, and Hara played the ♥K. Jason ruffed, led a spade to his ten, drew the last trump and claimed; plus 590. He had not expected to make that one. 10 imps to Great Britain, 98-53.

Bd: 30	North	
Dir: E	♠ AQ107	
Vul: None	♥ 952	
	♦ Q9632	
	♣ 2	
West		East
♠ K42		♠ J96
♥ K1084		♥ AQ7
♦ 1087		♦ J5
♣ J73		♣ AKQ104
	South	
	♠ 853	
	♥ J63	
	♦ AK4	
	♣ 9865	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
		1♦(1)	Pass
1♥(2)	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦(♦+M)	All Pass	
(1) 15-17 HCP BAL; (2) Puppet to 1NT			

Armstrong's 2NT rebid showed about 17-19 HCP, and Hackett raised hopefully to game. Chen had to lead a pointed suit to beat this, but instead he led the ♥J, dummy's suit. Armstrong claimed nine tricks; plus 400.

When Hara-Tatai stopped sensibly at 1NT in the other room, Jason boldly protected with 2♦, hoping Justin would read it as diamonds and a major, the method they use over notrump openings. Yes. Plus 90. 10 imps to Great Britain; 108-60 now. And, finally ...

Bd: 32	North	
Dlr: W	♠ AK5	
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ532	
	♦ 73	
	♣ A92	
West		East
♠ Q84		♠ J10
♥ Q984		♥ K
♦ AJ92		♦ Q86
♣ Q7		♣ KJ106543
	South	
	♠ 97632	
	♥ 1076	
	♦ K1054	
	♣ 8	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
1♥	1NT	DBL	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♦
DBL	3♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Jason H	Tatai	Justin
Pass	1♥	2♣	2♥
DBL(1)	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	DBL(2)	Pass	3♥
All Pass			
(1) Cards; (2) Competitive			

Papa Hackett's 1♥ opening at unfavourable vulnerability wouldn't win any beauty contests, but it worked well here, picking off one of the opponents' prime fits and creating a scenario in which it was not unreasonable for them to reach the three-level. On the lead of the ♣Q, declarer had a lot of work to do and finished one down; minus 50.

At the other table, where Hara did not open the creature, Jason finished as declarer at 3♥. He got a club lead, won the ace, ruffed a club, led a heart to the ace, felling the king, and elected to ruff his remaining club (which might not have been the best play on this lie of the cards). Hara overruffed with the queen (which also seems less than best), and exited with the nine of trumps. Jason won, cashed ace-king of spades, and threw Hara in with his eight of trumps. He could cash the ♠Q but then had to concede a trick to the ♦K, and Jason was home with plus 140. 5 imps to Great Britain, who won the segment 75-14. At the halfway mark in the 64-board match, Great Britain led comfortably by 54 imps, 114-60.

Third Quarter:

After a flat Board 33, Board 34 created a stir, leading to an appeal which you can read about elsewhere in our daily rag. The upshot was a 4.5 imp gain to Great Britain, which we'll raise to 5 imps for convenience. Great Britain, 119-60. It was 121-65 when Board 38 came up ...

Bd: 38	North	
Dlr: E	♠ Q987	
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ1094	
	♦ ---	
	♣ AJ73	
West		East
♠ 6543		♠ 2
♥ ---		♥ Q873
♦ A984		♦ KJ763
♣ K9842		♣ Q106
	South	
	♠ AKJ10	
	♥ K652	
	♦ Q1052	
	♣ 5	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Justin H	Abe	Jason H	Chen
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Armstrong	Tatai	Paul H
		Pass	1♥
Pass	4♦(SPL)	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Both N/S pairs evaluated their cards aggressively and drove to a pretty good 6♥. The bad breaks in the majors killed them, and Abe went three down, Papa Bear two down. 2 imps to Great Britain.

If you're looking for a turning point in the match, you might keep your eye on our next offering ...

Bd: 39	North	
Dlr: S	♠ A9	
Vul: Both	♥ 65432	
	♦ AQJ763	
	♣ ---	
West		East
♠ K5		♠ QJ8732
♥ J107		♥ 8
♦ 85		♦ K109
♣ QJ9876		♣ A105
	South	
	♠ 1064	
	♥ AKQ9	
	♦ 42	
	♣ K432	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Justin H	Abe	Jason H	Chen
			1♦(1)
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♣	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Armstrong	Tatai	Paul H
			1♥
Pass	5♥	Pass	7♥
All Pass			
(1) Precision			

This turns out to be a five or seven hand on a spade lead, and in that respect, perhaps Papa Hackett's grand slam was a reasonable place to be. But why must the defenders lead a spade? Jason led the ♣A and scored only the ♦K thereafter. Plus 1430 for Abe-san. Haras led the ♣J from the other side against 7♥, which had to go one down; minus 100 for Hackett-Armstrong. 17 imps to Hisatomi. A big breath of life, 82-123.

Bd: 43	North	
Dlr: S	♠ AQ4	
Vul: None	♥ 85	
	♦ J973	
	♣ AK64	
West		East
♠ K8		♠ J
♥ AQ3		♥ KJ109742
♦ AK10		♦ Q542
♣ 98732		♣ J
	South	
	♠ 10976532	
	♥ 6	
	♦ 86	
	♣ Q105	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Justin H	Abe	Jason H	Chen
			2♦(Multi)
2NT	DBL	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	DBL	Pass	5♠
DBL	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Armstrong	Tatai	Paul H
			Pass
1♦(1)	Pass	2♦(♥)	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

5♠ doubled was one down on a diamond lead; minus 100. 4♥ made five on a spade lead; plus 450. 8 imps to Hisatomi, 91-124. You must decide for yourself whether you can afford to pass the South hand as dealer because there are several scenarios in which you won't be able to bid later. Perhaps Armstrong should have bid 4♠, but even if he had, neither her nor Paul would have bid 5♠ over 5♥. The Abe-Chen auction looks a bit hit-and-miss, but it certainly got the job done.

Bd: 44	North	
Dlr: W	♠ AJ109	
Vul: N/S	♥ 964	
	♦ 863	
	♣ J32	
West		East
♠ Q874		♠ 5
♥ 2		♥ KQ10753
♦ Q1074		♦ J2
♣ A1095		♣ K874
	South	
	♠ K632	
	♥ AJ8	
	♦ AK95	
	♣ Q6	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Justin H	Abe	Jason H	Chen
Pass	Pass	3♥	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Armstrong	Tatai	Paul H
Pass	Pass	2♥(1)	3♣(T/O)
4♣	All Pass		
(1) 4+♣ plus 5+M			

Jason's third-seat 3♥ opening drove his opponents into a game they would not have bid on their own. Heart to the queen, ducked. Jason switched to a club, and it was all over for the defense. Chen could build a ninth

trick in clubs, to go with four spades, two hearts, and two diamonds; plus 600. In the other semifinal, you may recall, the great CH Kuo, in Jason's position, shifted to the ♦2, which defeated the contract.

At the other table, Tatai-Hara's high-powered obstructive methods propelled them to 4♣, which was not easy to double. Down 100. 11 imps to Hisatomi, 102-124.

Bd: 45	North	
Dlr: N	♠ KQ	
Vul: Both	♥ 108752	
	♦ 1073	
	♣ 842	
West		East
♠ A		♠ 9532
♥ AK4		♥ J6
♦ AKJ2		♦ Q84
♣ AJ953		♣ Q1076
	South	
	♠ J108764	
	♥ Q93	
	♦ 965	
	♣ K	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Justin H	Abe	Jason H	Chen
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥(1)	Pass	2♠(2)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠(3)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) FG, ♥ or 25+ BAL; (2) Relay;			
(3) Puppet to 3NT			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Armstrong	Tatai	Paul H
	Pass	Pass	2♠
DBL	Pass	2NT(1)	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
(1) Relay to 3♣, usually weak			

It's rare that a pair will do worse constructively if left to their own devices than they would if they were harrassed by their opponents. But so it was here. 3NT made seven, but so did 6♣. 12 imps more to the streaking Hisatomi, 114-124.

Bd: 46	North	
Dlr: E	♠ AKQ4	
Vul: None	♥ J6	
	♦ AK652	
	♣ 52	
West		East
♠ 63		♠ 10872
♥ AQ10983		♥ ---
♦ 73		♦ Q1094
♣ AK8		♣ 109763
	South	
	♠ J95	
	♥ K7542	
	♦ J8	
	♣ QJ4	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Justin H	Abe	Jason H	Chen
		Pass	Pass
1♥	DBL	Pass	1NT
2♥	DBL	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Armstrong	Tatai	Paul H
		Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥(1)
All Pass			
(1) Poor hand			

You would not have guessed it when you first examined this deal, but all the Hacketts played in hearts on Board 14.

Justin got out for one down at 2♥ doubled, playing ace-queen of trumps. At the other table, Papa Bear added new meaning to the word "weak" in weak two-bid, and he too finished in hearts. Hara liked that too much to double it, but here he would have defended 3♥ doubled. Three down; minus 150. 6 imps more to Hisatomi, 120-124.

And, finally

Bd: 48	North	
Dlr: W	♠ 87	
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ532	
	♦ A2	
	♣ AK102	
West		East
♠ 1094		♠ AKJ6532
♥ 1064		♥ Q
♦ Q1086		♦ K95
♣ J97		♣ 85
	South	
	♠ Q	
	♥ K987	
	♦ J743	
	♣ Q643	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Justin H	Abe	Jason H	Chen
Pass	1♣(Prec)	1♠	DBL
Pass	2♥	2♠	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Armstrong	Tatai	Paul H
Pass	1♥	4♠	All Pass

4♥ made five, plus 450; 4♠ made three; minus 100. To the brave went the spoils on this one. 8 imps to Hisatomi, who had outscored their opponents 63-1 over the last ten deals to reclaim the lead in the match, 128-124. Hisatomi won the third quarter 68-10, erasing all

those bitter memories from the previous segment.

Fourth Quarter:

Bd: 49	North	
Dlr: N	♠ 10962	
Vul: None	♥ AKJ64	
	♦ KQ2	
	♣ 6	
West		East
♠ KJ87		♠ 54
♥ 3		♥ Q1092
♦ AJ76		♦ 985
♣ A1098		♣ K743
	South	
	♠ AQ3	
	♥ 875	
	♦ 1043	
	♣ QJ52	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
	1♥	Pass	2♥
DBL	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Jason H	Hisatomi	Justin H
	1♥	Pass	1NT
DBL	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Everyone went two down. Everyone might have been doubled, but no one was desperate enough just yet. Plus 100 at both tables gave Great Britain 5 imps and the lead, 129-128. Great Britain would have been content to have the match end right then and there, but there were still fifteen boards to play.

Bd: 52	North	
Dlr: W	♠ 9652	
Vul: Both	♥ A863	
	♦ AK83	
	♣ 9	
West		East
♠ AQ87		♠ 104
♥ KJ		♥ 975
♦ Q		♦ J7654
♣ KQ10432		♣ J87
	South	
	♠ KJ3	
	♥ Q1042	
	♦ 1092	
	♣ A65	

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
1♣	DBL	Pass	2♥
All Pass			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Jason H	Hisatomi	Justin H
1♣	DBL	Pass	2♥
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

It did not help the defenders to get an early spade ruff in the Open Room and Chen scored up plus 140 without incident. Teramoto drove the twins to 3♥, which was too high for Justin against passive defense. One down; minus 100. 6 imps to Hisatomi, 135-130. It was 135-131 when

Board 54 issued Great Britain a severe body blow ...

Bd: 54	North	
Dlr: E	♠ 108764	
Vul: E/W	♥ 1032	
	♦ K9	
	♣ KJ5	
West		East
♠ AKQJ92		♠ 53
♥ A65		♥ Q987
♦ AJ32		♦ Q84
♣ ---		♣ A962
	South	
	♠ ---	
	♥ KJ4	
	♦ 10765	
	♣ Q108743	

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	DBL	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Jason H	Hisatomi	Justin H
DBL	4♣	Pass	3♣
4♠	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Teramoto was not really inconvenienced by the twins' preemption and he finished in 4♠, which he expected to make easily. As it happened, he got home by leading a diamond towards the queen; plus 620. At the other table, Papa Bear really did too much - Armstrong had shown the ♣A and suggested with 5♠ that he held some secondary honours. Papa was perhaps a bit unlucky that someone could double 6♠ and he went three down; minus 800. That was 16 imps to Hisatomi, extending their lead to 20 imps, 151-131.

Bd: 55	North	
Dlr: S	♠ J3	
Vul: Both	♥ K10763	
	♦ AKJ6	
	♣ K5	
West		East
♠ K98		♠ A765
♥ QJ8		♥ A954
♦ Q1098		♦ 2
♣ J107		♣ A982
	South	
	♠ Q1042	
	♥ 2	
	♦ 7543	
	♣ Q643	

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
Pass	1♥	All Pass	Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Jason H	Hisatomi	Justin H
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Your editors are divided on the advisability of responding to 1♥ with a hand like South's. So were the gladiators. Abe went quietly minus 200 at 1♥. Jason went plus 90 at 2♦, in no small measure due to the fact that Hisatomi underled

the ♠A at trick one and Teramoto put in the eight. 7 imps back to Great Britain, 138-151.

Bd: 56	North	
Dlr: W	♠ A109762	
Vul: None	♥ 8	
	♦ A83	
	♣ K102	
West		East
♠ J3		♠ Q54
♥ J1094		♥ 73
♦ 1095		♦ KQJ6
♣ 8764		♣ Q953
	South	
	♠ K8	
	♥ AKQ652	
	♦ 742	
	♣ AJ	

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Jason H	Hisatomi	Justin H
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥(FG)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Both N/S pairs reached 6♠, a contract with plenty of promise, even on the most threatening lead of the ♦K. Both declarers rejected the simple line - club ruff in dummy, king of trumps, then hearts to discard diamonds - reasoning that there were too many ways to go down (the third heart being ruffed from two trumps, or from three trumps, with an uppercut/promotion to follow in clubs). Both Jason and Abe played ♠A, ♠K, then three rounds of hearts. East ruffed and exited with the ♦J, West keeping a diamond honour to protect the suit if necessary.

Jason ran all his trumps but one, then decided to play West for the ♣Q. One down; minus 50.

Abe-san played the same way, but East threw two clubs and now West was caught in a showup squeeze in hearts and clubs in the endgame, Abe playing all the trumps. When Paul followed low to the ♣J, Abe knew his last card was the high heart, so he had no trouble dropping Armstrong's ♣Q for plus 980. That was 14 imps to Hisatomi, making it 165-138 halfway through the final set.

The next three deals were quiet, Great Britain recouping 2 imps to make it 140-165. Then, a ray of hope ...

Bd: 60	North	
Dlr: W	♠ AK6432	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q87	
	♦ A52	
	♣ 3	
West		East
♠ Q107		♠ J98
♥ A64		♥ K1093
♦ KQJ3		♦ 1064
♣ AKQ		♣ J106
	South	
	♠ 5	
	♥ J52	
	♦ 987	
	♣ 987542	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
2NT	Pass	3♣(1)	Pass
3♦(2)	Pass	3♠(3)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) 5-card Major Stayman; (2) 4♥ or 3/4♠; (3) 4♥			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Jason H	Hisatomi	Justin H
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦(1)	Pass	3♥(2)	Pass
3NT(3)	DBL	All Pass	
(1) No 5-card Major; (2) How many spades?			
(3) Not four			

In the Open Room, where Abe learned that West could hold as many as four spades, it was not quite as attractive to double 3NT as it was in the Closed Room. Both declarers took seven tricks, and Great Britain won the board plus 300, minus 100. Those 5 imps brought them within 20 imps at 145-165.

The next two boards were flat, so Great Britain was down to the last two deals with a lot of ground to make up ...

Bd: 63	North	
Dlr: S	♠ AK865	
Vul: N/S	♥ AQJ87	
	♦ 6	
	♣ AJ	
West		East
♠ 2		♠ QJ9743
♥ 106		♥ K942
♦ 9743		♦ K8
♣ KQ9865		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ 10	
	♥ 53	
	♦ AQJ1052	
	♣ 10743	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Paul H	Abe	Armstrong	Chen
			3♦
Pass	3NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	DBL	Pass	Pass
5♣	DBL	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Jason H	Hisatomi	Justin H
			3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Great Britain is a team with great solidarity. On every other deal, it seems, the team chooses a suit, and both pairs make a supreme effort to play in it. This was a fairly dramatic example, but no more so than others in their dossier. Poor Jason played 4♠ very nicely to get out for two down; minus 200. Can we understand the auction? Perhaps if we close our eyes and concentrate hard. Armstrong would have had to play 4♠ doubled very nicely himself, but he was deprived of the privilege by Papa Bear, who rode in from the West, like Young Lochinvar, to rescue the fair maiden (sic) to 5♣. Depending on which authors you choose to paraphrase, this was either a bid that showed great

flair, or it was anarchistic. Poor Papa went down 1400 and Hisatomi gained 17 imps, a fitting nightcap. Oh yes, 3NT would have made.

Hisatomi won the fourth quarter 54-21 and the remarkable match 182-145, moving on to the final to meet the Indonesians, who had survived by a fingernail against Chinese Taipei.

An Appeal — Precisely

Bd: 34 Dir: E Vul: N/S West ♠ Q97 ♥ QJ10 ♦ J3 ♣ J10852	North ♠ 653 ♥ A2 ♦ 10952 ♣ A943 East ♠ J842 ♥ 654 ♦ A864 ♣ K6 South ♠ AK10 ♥ K9873 ♦ KQ7 ♣ Q7
---	---

West	North	East	South
Justin	Abe	Jason	Chen
		Pass	1♣(1)
2♣(2)	DBL(3)	4♠	DBL
All Pass			
(1) Alerted (Precision), S to W; Not Alerted, N to E			
(2) Natural over ART 1♣; Michaels over NAT 1♣;			
(3) 7+ HCP			

On the fifth board of the third quarter of the NEC Cup semifinal between Great Britain and Hisatomi, Dawei Chen opened a Precision club, duly Alerting his S/W screenmate, the honorable Justin. However, on the N/E side of the screen Hiroya Abe neglected to Alert the mirror-image Hackett, perhaps confused that he had

already been Alerted by his partner.

Abe's double (not to be confused with either Jason's or Justin's double), although Alerted, was not explained to Jason (as is the practice of most players behind screens), who then mistook it for a normal card-showing negative double-type Alert over his reflection's presumed two-suited Michaels cue-bid. Jason then leaped to 4♠ to prevent his opponents from reaching their optimal spot, but little did he realize that by his own action they had already arrived at that station, which was promptly signalled by Chen's double. 1100 later the gendarmes were called.

The chief constable, Richard Grenside, Esq, ABF, OBE, PhDA (Doctor of Alpaca), arrived at the scene of the crime and ascertained the facts surrounding the heinous misdeed. It was discovered that the offending pair had also opened a Precision club on a previous board without Alerting it on the N/E side of the screen then either (although that result was a normal one and required no score adjustment), so poor Jason had never really been informed verbally of his opponents' methods. Richard therefore cancelled the result at the table and assigned a score for 3NT making three to both sides, on the assumption that the auction would have continued:

West	North	East	South
Justin	Abe	Jason	Chen
		Pass	1♣
2♣	DBL	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With Jason on lead, and his partner having shown a club suit, the ♣K lead would normally be "automatic," after which nine tricks were there for the taking. Not so, said the Hacketts-plus-an-Armstrong. "After Chen's 2♥, Abe would have cue-bid 2♣ in an effort to get the notrump right-sided (that's the way we do it back on the Island), and Chen's 2NT would have reversed the lead assignment." The resulting club lead would be ducked to Jason's king, who would then have switched to a spade looking at ace-nine-fourth of clubs in dummy, and seeing no future in that suit. Now declarer could not have established nine winners before the defense established five for themselves. Down one said the

Britains. Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin, said constable Grenside. Then get us a Committee said the triplets-plus-Armstrong.

So there you have the sad story of the tournament's second appeal case. Consider how you would have decided it before you read on.

The Committee listened politely to everyone's testimony (much of it having been summarized above), with the only additional wrinkle being that the Hisatomi pair suggested that they believed that Justin was likely aware of the Precise nature of N/S's bidding, since he had looked (briefly) at their convention card before the start of the match.

The case required several decisions. First, was Jason (or should he have been) aware of the meaning of the auction. If yes, then the table result should stand and the process is done. Second, assuming a negative answer to the first question the auction should be canceled. What then would have been the likely contract and result to assign to each pair? By Law the two pairs need not (and perhaps should not) be assigned the same result. When assigning an adjusted score the Director (and, therefore, a Committee) should apply two different standards to the offending and non-offending sides. The non-offending side should be assigned the most favorable result that was "likely" had there not been an infraction, where "likely" means a result that had some appreciable chance of occurring (even though it need not have been the most likely one). The offending side, on the other hand, should be assigned the most unfavorable result that was "at all probable" had there not been an infraction, where "at all probable" means any result that had a non-negligible chance of occurring. (In other words, a result with only a minor possibility of occurring, but not one which is wildly unlikely.)

The Committee decided that there was no evidence to suggest that Jason knew, at the time of his 4♠ bid, that his opponents were playing Precision. While it desirable for players to familiarize themselves with their opponents' methods before the start of play, there is no "legal" requirement to do so. Moreover, even players who are familiar with their opponents' methods may forget one or more of those methods' features during the heat of battle. The opponents are still required (by Law) to Alert all Alertable bids each and every time they occur. And finally, Jason's hand itself provided overwhelming evidence that he did not know what the 1♣ bid meant. Who in their right mind would leap to 4♠ holding jack-fourth of that suit when their partner had shown nothing more than a weak hand with a club suit? Therefore, the table result was canceled.

The Committee next decided that it was "likely" that N/S would get to 3NT from the North side had there been no infraction. They also decided that it was "possible" that N/S might get to 3NT from the South side, but that that outcome did not meet the standard of being "likely." Therefore, the non-offenders (Great Britain) were assigned the most favorable result that was "likely," namely 3NT by North making three, minus 600, while the offenders (Hisatomi) were assigned the most unfavorable result that was at all probable, namely 3NT by South down one, minus 100.

Each of these results was IMPed against the result at the other table (N/S plus 500), and the two IMP scores averaged to produce the final result on the board. This process yielded a net result of 4.5 IMPs to Great Britain ($12 \text{ IMPs} - 3 \text{ IMPs} = 9 \text{ IMPs} / 2 = 4.5 \text{ IMPs}$)

Just another day at the office — Alpaca!

The NEC Cup Final: Showdown in Shinjuku

Indonesia started with a 1-imp carryover advantage. If their semifinal match was any indication, they might well need that imp against the sizzling Hisatomi team.

Eddy Manoppo was permitted one trick more than Tadashi Teramoto in a routine 2♥ on Board 1, so Indonesia doubled its lead to 2 imps. Then, something more substantial ...

Bd: 2	North	
Dlr: E	♠ 1076432	
Vul: N/S	♥ 7	
	♦ 863	
	♣ K54	
West		East
♠ Q9		♠ A85
♥ J109		♥ A54
♦ J10		♦ KQ75
♣ A98632		♣ QJ10
	South	
	♠ KJ	
	♥ KQ8632	
	♦ A942	
	♣ 7	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Asbi	Hisatomi	Sacul
		1NT	2♥
2NT(1)	Pass	3♣	All Pass
(1) Puppet to 3♣			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Manoppo	Tatai	Lasut	Hara
		1NT	2NT(1)
DBL	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	DBL	3♥
DBL	All Pass		
(1) Good Major plus a minor			

If you're not going to bid and make 3NT with the E/W cards, you'd like to do better than the plus 110 achieved by Teramoto-Hisatomi in the Closed Room for a reasonable, conservative decision. The opportunity for a better result presented itself to Lasut-Manoppo in the Closed Room when Teruyoshi Hara committed his side to the three-level with the South cards and bought a poor fit. Manoppo was able to double the conventional 2NT to show general strength, and that got Henky Lasut involved. Eddy doubled 3♥ himself and was delighted with the result. He led the ♣A, and switched to the ♦J, ducked. A second diamond went to the ace and Hara conceded a third to the queen. The low trump switch went to the king (jack from Manoppo), and Hara got off play with his remaining diamond, Manoppo discarding a spade. Lasut cashed the ♠A and gave his partner a spade ruff with the nine, but now Hara could lead the ♥Q to pin the ten, getting out for a mere three down; minus 800. 12 imps to Indonesia; 14-0.

Bd: 4	North	
Dlr: W	♠ 953	
Vul: Both	♥ AK43	
	♦ K84	
	♣ Q86	
West		East
♠ KQ		♠ 10642
♥ Q1052		♥ 98
♦ A10762		♦ Q95
♣ K9		♣ 10742
	South	
	♠ AJ87	
	♥ J76	
	♦ J3	
	♣ AJ53	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Asbi	Hisatomi	Sacul
1♦	DBL	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Manoppo	Tatai	Lasut	Hara
1♦	1♥	Pass	2♦
DBL	2♥	All Pass	

We're not sure what there is about that North hand that makes it attractive for vulnerable intervention over 1♦, but both our Norths were beholders of a certain beauty in those angry hills. Denny Sacul's takeout double got him all the way to 3NT, where he finished minus 300 on a diamond lead to the ten and king. Kikuo Tatai's equally ugly overcall got him to 2♥, where he had a better chance after a diamond to the ace and a second diamond. He won the king, ruffed a diamond, and led a low club from dummy, a good start. Manoppo went in with the ♣K to return a club to the queen. Tatai cashed ace-king of trumps, and reverted to clubs, and could not be defeated; plus 110. 9imps to Hisatomi, 9-15.

Bd: 5	North	
Dlr: N	♠ QJ1043	
Vul: N/S	♥ KJ5	
	♦ A985	
	♣ 5	
West		East
♠ K75		♠ 9
♥ AQ1043		♥ 8762
♦ J7		♦ K6432
♣ Q76		♣ AK4
	South	
	♠ A862	
	♥ 9	
	♦ Q10	
	♣ J109832	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Asbi	Hisatomi	Sacul
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♠(1)	4♠
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass
(1) Heart fit, limit or better			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Manoppo	Tatai	Lasut	Hara
	2♠(1)	Pass	3♠
All Pass			
(1) Spades and a minor, weak			

Tatai's two-bid combined with a preemptive raise shut out Lasut-Manoppo altogether, something that is not generally easy to do. Lasut cashed the ♣K and switched to his trump. Tatai put on the ace and led a heart, but Manoppo went in with the ace to clear trumps. Tatai might have won in dummy to ruff a club and lead a diamond, but he won in hand, continuing with a diamond to the ten and jack. With only one entry left in dummy, it was safe for Manoppo to play a club now. Tatai ruffed, played king of hearts, heart ruff, and ran the ♦Q, losing to the king. One down; minus 100.

At the other table, Taufik Asbi passed the North hand but came in later. Sacul took an advance save at 4♠ and Hiroshi Hisatomi, with plenty of defense, doubled for penalty. He too led the ♣K, but he switched to the ♥6, trying to force dummy in order to shut out the clubs. Teramoto won and continued hearts, but Asbi put in the jack successfully and discarded a club from dummy. He ran

the ♠Q to the king, won the diamond return with the ace, threw the ♦Q on the king of hearts, and crossruffed his way to ten tricks; plus 790. 13 imps to Indonesia, 28-9.

Bd: 6	North	
Dir: E	♠ Q43	
Vul: E/W	♥ 1064	
	♦ K6	
	♣ K9654	
West		East
♠ 6		♠ AKJ10
♥ J9872		♥ K3
♦ AQJ3		♦ 98754
♣ A72		♣ Q3
	South	
	♠ 98752	
	♥ AQ5	
	♦ 102	
	♣ J108	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Asbi	Hisatomi	Sacul
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣(2)	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	DBL	4♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
(2) 4th suit forcing			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Manoppo	Tatai	Lasut	Hara
		1♦(1)	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣(2)	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) Precision, 2+ cards; (2) 4th suit forcing			

You may not agree, but we believe this to be a very difficult construction for E/W. It's hard to find fault with the Teramoto-Hisatomi auction that finished at 5♦, but that contract went two down when Hisatomi elected to duck the natural opening lead of the ♣J. He lost a club, a diamond, and two hearts for two down; minus 200. Manoppo won the board for Indonesia when he tried the effect of a "last-minute" 3NT, hoping that Lasut would not pass when it was wrong to do so (weak spades, singleton club). Tatai led a club and the queen won. He continued clubs when he won the ♦K, but Manoppo took the spade finesse and soon had ten tricks; plus 630. 13 imps to Indonesia, 41-9.

All the rest of the deals in this set save one involved nothing more than inexpensive overtricks and undertricks. That board was ...

Bd: 15	North	
Dir: S	♠ 987	
Vul: N/S	♥ A105	
	♦ KJ109	
	♣ A93	
West		East
♠ 65		♠ AKQ4
♥ J87		♥ K9
♦ AQ32		♦ 7654
♣ J1082		♣ K74
	South	
	♠ J1032	
	♥ Q6432	
	♦ 8	
	♣ Q65	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Asbi	Hisatomi	Sacul
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Manoppo	Tatai	Lasut	Hara
			Pass
Pass	1NT	DBL	2♥(1)
Pass	Pass	DBL(2)	All Pass
(1) Majors?; (2) Takeout			

Teramoto had no chance in 2NT, even after a diamond lead around to his queen. He ran the ♣10 to the queen and the defenders cleared hearts. Teramoto knocked out the ♣A and the defenders cashed out for one down; minus 50.

At the other table, Lasut-Manoppo went out headhunting after Tatai's weak notrump, doubling the escape to 2♥ without much in trumps. Manoppo led the ♣J, ducked to the king, and a second club went to the queen. A trump to the ten lost to the king and Lasut, hiding his spades, played a third club to dummy's ace. Hara drew trumps and led a diamond up, but Manoppo went in with the ace and had a safe exit with the fourth club. It was time, at last, to play on spades, and there was no way that Lasut could avoid giving Hara a seventh trick. Down one; minus 200. 6 imps to Indonesia, who had much the better of the first stanza, 53-12, and with the one-imp carryover, led 54-12 after sixteen deals.

That's all for today. We'll finish our report on the final in tomorrow's bulletin.