



NEC Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 8

Editors: Eric Kokish
Richard Colker

1997 NEC Cup: Final Results

(1) INDONESIA/NORTH AMERICA

Henky Lasut, Eddy Manoppo, Denny Sacul, Taufik Asbi, Eric Kokish, Rich Colker

(2) JAPAN (HISATOMI)

Hiroshi Hisatomi, Tadashi Teramoto, Hiroya Abe, Dawei Chen, Kikuo Tatai,
Teruyoshi Hara

(3) GREAT BRITAIN

Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett, John Armstrong

(4) CHINESE TAIPEI

AT Chong, SR Wu, CH Wu, CH Kuo, CS Shen, MF Tai

1997 OUCHI Cup: Final Results

Flight A:

- (1) Hiroshi Hisatomi, Tadashi Teramoto, Hiroya Abe, Dawei Chen
- (2) Y. Nakamura, K. Miyakuni, R. Tanaka, S. Morimura, T. Hirata
- (3) S. Fukuda, Y. Shimizu, H. Kaku, M. Mizuta

Flight B:

- (1) Hiroko Ohta, Quin Bei-Li, Nobuko Setoguchi, Midori Sakamoto
- (2) S. Amram, C. Hamada, M. Goto, N. Sano
- (3) E Kokish, R. Colker, D. Sacul, E. Manoppo, H. Lasut, T. Asbi

Flight C:

- (1) Atsushi Kikuchi, Takehiko Tada, Mr. & Mrs. Ryohei Orihara
- (2) M. Iwata, Y. Matsumura, M. Tanabe, M. Kohno
- (3) Y. Sakamoto, Y. Umetsu, T. Suzuki, C. Ichikawa

The two-session final of the **Foreign Minister's Cup**, the two-session **Asuka Cup** and **JCBL Cup** (one session) start today at 10am, with the afternoon session to begin at 1:45 pm at Seven City. The **Victory Banquet** will follow tonight at 6pm.

DOMO ARIGATO

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **NEC** for having the vision to join with **JCBL** to sponsor a bridge event of this quality. With the addition of some very nice prizes, this tournament has become an important event on the bridge calendar that will grow in prestige in the coming years.

We must compliment JCBL on a tournament that was, as always, a model of efficiency. The players were made to feel very special and everything was taken care of before we could think of asking about it.

From the Bulletin Editors: we are grateful to those of you who helped us with deals and stories and information, and to Oomasa-san, who gave us all the computer backup we needed to examine the events at all the tables in some detail. We hope that when we had to guess, we sometimes guessed right, and that when we guessed wrong, we made you look like heroes rather than villains. But we suspect that we may have failed on a few occasions, and we apologize if we did.

To those special friends who remembered us on St Valentine's Day, we owe a special debt of thanks. Not only for the chocolate, but for the thoughtfulness. It's a special day for both of us and it can be sad to be away from home on a day dedicated to love and relationships. Thank you all so much for thinking of us.

Foreign Minister's Cup: Top Ten Qualifiers

- (1) Wang - Pan
- (2) Shi Zheng Jun - Liu Hai Tao
- (3) Sun Shaolin - Liu Chuan
- (4) Abe Hiroya - Umehara Kumiko
- (5) Wang Xiao Jing - Fu Zhong
- (6) Arai Mitsuo - Akayama Yukiko
- (7) Shimizu Yasuhiro - Mizuta Minoru
- (8) Hanayama Takashi - Hirata Makoto
- (9) Saito Chizuno - Teramoto Tadashi
- (10) Ogihara Setsuko - Robert Geller

The NEC Cup Final: Showdown in Shinjuku

After sixteen boards of the sixty-four board final, Indonesia was 42 imps ahead of Hisatomi, 54-12.

Second Quarter:

Bd: 17 Dir: N Vul: None West ♠ A1098 ♥ J9 ♦ AJ853 ♣ K3	North ♠ QJ42 ♥ 10876 ♦ K42 ♣ A6 East ♠ 53 ♥ AKQ532 ♦ 96 ♣ Q98 South ♠ K76 ♥ 4 ♦ Q107 ♣ J107542
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Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

3NT had nine easy tricks, and Colker got a tenth in clubs after a low club lead. An eleventh arrived in a sloppy endgame; plus 460. 4♥ was not quite as good a contract, but it was unlucky to fail: ♣J, ducked to the queen, club to the king and ace, trumps switch — ace, club ruff with the jack of trumps, ace and another spade, and a third spade for declarer to ruff. There was no way to avoid a diamond loser and a trump loser now. One down; minus 50. 11 imps to Indonesia, 65-12. Hisatomi 2 imps and 3 imps on to make it 17-65, bringing up Board 20 ...

Bd: 20 Dir: W Vul: Both West ♠ AQJ8 ♥ KQ4 ♦ Q2 ♣ 9863	North ♠ K632 ♥ 9 ♦ 10976 ♣ K1042 East ♠ 104 ♥ 1086532 ♦ 853 ♣ Q5 South ♠ 975 ♥ AJ7 ♦ AKJ4 ♣ AJ7
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Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
1NT	Pass	2♦(1)	2NT
All Pass			
(1) Hearts, or various strong hands			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
1NT	Pass	2♦(1)	DBL
2♥	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
(1) Hearts			

3NT, although a bit understrength, is not the world's worst contract, particularly with most of the strength marked in the West hand. Manoppo got the diamonds right but the clubs wrong, and lost three spades, a heart, and a club for one down; minus 100. Chen, in 2NT, never made a spade trick, ducking West's queen and jack, but he was given the whole club suit and dropped the ♦Q to make

three; plus 150. 6 imps to Hisatomi, 23-65.

Bd: 23	North	
Dir: S	♠ 109632	
Vul: Both	♥ KQ10	
	♦ 10942	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ AK4		♠ Q5
♥ 6		♥ 987
♦ AKJ875		♦ Q6
♣ J75		♣ KQ10984
	South	
	♠ J87	
	♥ AJ5432	
	♦ 3	
	♣ 632	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
			2♦(1)
3♦	4♥(2)	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	5♣	All Pass
(1) Multi; (2) Pass or correct (P/C)			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
			Pass
1♣(1)	Pass	1♥(2)	Pass
3♦(3)	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Many hand types; (2) 3+ cards; F1;			
(3) everyone's 1♦, then 3♦			

Although Tatai bid hearts in the Closed Room, that didn't mean much, and Manoppo led the suit against 3NT. A quick three down; minus 300. At the other table, where Chen was willing to open a vulnerable Multi 2♦, the ensuing auction came up well for Kokish-Colker. Kokish's double was for takeout and Colker judged well not to jump to slam — there were no in-between actions available. After a trump lead and spade switch, Colker claimed twelve tricks; plus 620. 14 imps to Indonesia, 79-14.

Bd: 24	North	
Dir: W	♠ AQ	
Vul: None	♥ 9642	
	♦ KJ3	
	♣ A1086	
West		East
♠ 7642		♠ KJ109
♥ AK7		♥ QJ108
♦ 1042		♦ Q98
♣ 972		♣ Q5
	♠ 853	
	♥ 53	
	♦ A765	
	♣ KJ43	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
Pass	1NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
Pass	1♦(1)	DBL	1NT
2♠	All Pass		
(1) Precision, 2+ cards			

The weak notrump scored a direct victory on this one, shutting everyone out in the Open Room. Jack of hearts (Rusinow) to the king, and a switch to a high spade left the defense poised to take eight tricks if Abe misguessed clubs, but he did not; plus 90. At the other table, it was not automatic for Tatai to enter the bidding over 1♦, but he did, and Hara bought the auction with his competitive 2♠ bid. With the ♦J and ♠Q nicely placed for him, Hara took eight tricks; plus 110. 5 "team" imps to Hisatomi, 28-79.

Bd: 26	North	
Dir: E	♠ 7	
Vul: Both	♥ A982	
	♦ 73	
	♣ A107542	
West		East
♠ K2		♠ AJ954
♥ ---		♥ KJ1054
♦ KQJ1086		♦ A9
♣ QJ963		♣ K
	South	
	♠ Q10863	
	♥ Q763	
	♦ 542	
	♣ 8	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
		1♠	Pass
2♦(FG)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	DBL	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	DBL	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

3NT is the contract you'd choose for E/W at double dummy, but the 6♦ reached by Kokish-Colker is far from hopeless. Even with a trump lead and impending continuation, the slam has chances (more of them when North has not shown length and strength in clubs). It's a close decision for West at his second turn between the "obvious" 3♣ and 2NT since 3♣, the fourth suit, carries no immediate natural implications. When Kokish chose 3♣, Colker had a close decision of his own over Abe's double — both 3♦ and 3♥ are sensible actions, but they point in different directions and it might be crucial to choose the right one immediately. Over 3♦, Kokish might have bid 3♠ or even 3NT, but his orientation was strongly towards diamonds opposite three-card support and he set trumps to initiate a cue-bidding sequence. One of his main hopes for slam was that Abe might lead a high club from ace-king-long, making it easier to advance the play, but that was not the position here. Abe doubled 6♦ and on the auction he saw, might well have found the most effective lead of a trump. Instead he led the ace of hearts and the rest was easy for declarer, who ruffed and lost a club, won the spade shift in hand, ruffed a club high, drew trumps, and claimed; plus 1540. Hara took eleven tricks in 3NT after a spade lead from Lasut for plus 660, but that was 13 imps to Indonesia, 92-29.

Bd: 28	North	
Dir: W	♠ QJ53	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q1076	
	♦ AJ72	
	♣ 7	
West		East
♠ K84		♠ A9762
♥ AK94		♥ 853
♦ K96		♦ Q
♣ Q94		♣ J865
	South	
	♠ 10	
	♥ J2	
	♦ 108543	
	♣ AK1032	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT(2)	Pass	3♣(2)	All Pass
(1) 15-18- HCP; (2) Signoff			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
1♦(1)	Pass	2♥(2)	Pass
2♠	All Pass		
(1) 15-17 HCP, BAL; (2) Transfer to spades			

Colker might have retreated to 2♠ over Kokish's strong notrump rebid, but he thought that clubs might play better, particularly opposite a singleton spade honour and genuine club length (1♣ was 3+ cards). Clubs was worse; down 150. 2♠ made on the nose; plus 110. 6 imps to Hisatomi, 35-94

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: N	♠ 103
Vul: Both	♥ A976
	♦ Q
	♣ AKQJ65
West	East
♠ J9542	♠ AQ76
♥ 4	♥ J102
♦ A107542	♦ K863
♣ 8	♣ 107
	South
	♠ K8
	♥ KQ853
	♦ J9
	♣ 9432

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
	1♣(1)	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥(2)	Pass	3♣(3)
Pass	4NT(4)	Pass	5♦(5)
DBL	6♥	All Pass	
(1) Strong; (2) Trump ASK; (3) 2 top honours fifth; (4) RKCB-♥; (5) one or four key cards			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
	1♣(1)	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥(2)	All Pass	
(1) Strong; (2) Minimum			

There must be some middle ground between the two auctions perpetrated by our N/S pairs. Abe must have believed that his 4NT asked for key cards outside trumps because his auction makes no sense otherwise. Kokish cashed the ♦A and had a marked spade switch on the auction. One down; minus 100. Plus 650 for Manoppo and 13 gift imps to Indonesia, 107-35.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: E	♠ 8
Vul: None	♥ A1096542
	♦ K87
	♣ A5
West	East
♠ AQJ106	♠ K
♥ Q73	♥ KJ8
♦ Q	♦ J109654
♣ Q986	♣ 1032
	South
	♠ 975432
	♥ ---
	♦ A32
	♣ KJ74

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
		2♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♦	All Pass

Abe's 4♥ went one down on a diamond lead and Tatai's 3♦ no less than four down on a club lead; minus 200. 6 imps to Indonesia, 113-35.

Bd: 32	North	
Dlr: W	♠ A109654	
Vul: E/W	♥ Q653	
	♦ Q8	
	♣ 5	
West		East
♠ J3		♠ Q82
♥ J42		♥ AK9
♦ 974		♦ A6532
♣ KQJ43		♣ A10
	South	
	♠ K7	
	♥ 1087	
	♦ KJ10	
	♣ 98762	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
Pass	2♦(1)	2NT	3♥(2)
3NT	All Pass		
(1) Multi; (2) P/C			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
Pass	Pass	1♦(1)	Pass
1♠(2)	Pass	3♦(3)	Pass
3♠(4)	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) 15-17 BAL; (2) Relay; (3) 5♦, 17 HCP; (4) Puppet to 3NT			

In the Closed Room, Manoppo had little clue about the nature of the West hand and chose to attack with the ♥8. Tatai played low from dummy, and Lasut kept his queen so the nine won. A diamond was ducked to the queen and Lasut switched to a low spade, the defenders clearing the suit to establish a ninth winner for Tatai; plus 600.

At the other table, where Abe had opened a Multi 2♦, Chen thought his suit was spades, so started with king and another. Abe won and switched to a low heart, giving Colker a chance to make 3NT by playing low. This seemed very wrong, so he put up the ace and ducked a diamond, Abe overtaking the ten to lead a second low heart. Colker elected to win the king, and when he continued with the ♠Q, Chen would have been squeezed in three suits if he had been dealt the ♥Q instead of the ten, which he played to this trick. Not here, however. Well, at least not in practice. If Colker had been blessed with x-ray vision, he would have cashed the ♦A and the ace-ten of clubs, and thrown Chen in with the ♦K, the stepping stone to dummy's THREE club winners. In real life, Rich played ace-ten of clubs and overtook, and so had only eight tricks; minus 100. 12 imps to Hisatomi, who lost the second set 35-61.

At the half, Indonesia led by 68 imps, 115-47.

Third Quarter:

Bd: 33	North	
Dlr: N	♠ A	
Vul: None	♥ 854	
	♦ K86532	
	♣ K95	
West		East
♠ J1084		♠ KQ952
♥ AKJ		♥ Q10632
♦ J		♦ AQ
♣ AJ863		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ 763	
	♥ 97	
	♦ 10974	
	♣ Q1074	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3♣(2)	Pass
3♠(3)	Pass	4♣(4)	Pass
4NT(5)	Pass	5♦(6)	Pass
5♠(7)	All Pass		
(1) Forcing spade raise; (2) controls? (3) five; (4) relay; (5) ♣A and red suit controls; (6) ask in diamonds; (7) second round control			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣(FG)	2♦	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠(2+♠Q)	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Tatai thought that Hara had the ♦K and not the heart king and so signed off, and an easy deal had been turned into a difficult one. Hara claims

that he might have bid slam anyway because of the ♥J, expecting to be no worse than a finesse. That's gracious of him, but all of that looks much too complicated for this layout. Plus 980 for Colker; plus 480 for Tatai. 11 imps to Indonesia, 126-47.

Bd: 34	North	
Dlr: E	♠ A5	
Vul: N/S	♥ 10543	
	♦ Q832	
	♣ 1053	
West		East
♠ 986		♠ KJ1032
♥ K		♥ Q8
♦ 76		♦ J954
♣ AKQJ962		♣ 74
	South	
	♠ Q74	
	♥ AJ9762	
	♦ AK10	
	♣ 8	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
		Pass	1♥
5♣	Pass	Pass	DBL
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
		Pass	1♥
2♣	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

With N/S stone cold for 4♥, vulnerable, Hara's 5♣ was the winning action, at least on paper. By the time he got around to spades (with a heart discard coming), he had

a shrewd idea that Manoppo would not hold the ace, and so got out for minus 300. That would have been excellent for Hisatomi had Abe-Chen reached 4♥. but they sold out to 3♠, down 100. Indonesia gained 5 imps, 131-47.

Bd: 36	North	
Dir: W	♠ Q2	
Vul: Both	♥ 86	
	♦ QJ96	
	♣ J9853	
West		East
♠ 3		♠ 107654
♥ AQ1073		♥ J9542
♦ 75		♦ 84
♣ K10762		♣ Q
	South	
	♠ AKJ98	
	♥ K	
	♦ AK1032	
	♣ A4	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
2♥(1)	Pass	3♥	DBL
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	
(1) 5+♥/4+m			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣(1)
1NT(2)	Pass	2♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	
(1) Strong; (2) ♥+♣, or ♦+♠			

5♦ was certainly the right contract and Manoppo took the obvious eleven tricks after the lead of the ace of hearts from Hara.

At the other table, where E/W competed less boisterously, Chen bid his hand as if he held at least six spades, which prompted Kokish to lead a club rather than the ace of hearts, hoping to build a trick to cash if Colker could produce a slow spade or trump winner. He fully expected the ace of hearts to get ruffed. That reasoning might have been better appreciated on some other layout, but here Chen won the ♣A, drew trumps, disposed of dummy's hearts on spades, and led a club toward the jack; plus 1370. 13 imps to Hisatomi, who needed them; 60-132.

Bd 37	North	
Dir: N	♠ AQ964	
Vul: N/S	♥ 106	
	♦ 98653	
	♣ J	
♠ K		♠ J10872
♥ AKQ8753		♥ 2
♦ ---		♦ QJ4
♣ AQ1054		♣ K762
	♠ 53	
	♥ J94	
	♦ AK1072	
	♣ 983	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
(1) 4+♣/5+M			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
	2♠(1)	Pass	2NT(2)
4♥	All Pass		
(1) 5+♠/4+m; (2) Asking for minor			

Hisatomi's pairs were well-heeled for this one, both initiating proceedings with a specialized two-bid. Tatai's 2♥ gave Hara enough information to shoot a club slam, the best contract since it caters to four-one hearts. A pretty plus 920. Meanwhile, Kokish had to deal with an uncertain scenario at the other table, and settled for a quiet 4♥, hoping to have the opportunity to bid his clubs next. Next never came, of course, and he chalked up a grumpy plus 480. 10 well-deserved imps to Hisatomi, 70-115.

Bd: 38	North	
Dlr: E	♠ Q9	
Vul: E/W	♥ Q975	
	♦ AQJ	
	♣ 9754	
West		East
♠ J		♠ K107642
♥ 642		♥ AJ3
♦ 876		♦ 942
♣ KQJ863		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ A853	
	♥ K108	
	♦ K1053	
	♣ A10	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
		2♦(1)	DBL(2)
Pass(3)	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	DBL(4)	All Pass	
(1) Multi; (2) Cards; (3) Neutral; (4) T/O			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
		2♠	All Pass

When it rains, it pours. So thought your editor(s), who followed up their (all right — his) two high-level disasters with an ugly minus 400 on this little number, which only half of them consider to be an acceptable

weak two-bid. Little did they know that their teammates would bring back 1100 from a successful double of the same contract. 12 imps to Indonesia, 144-70.

Bd: 39	North	
Dlr: S	♠ A74	
Vul: Both	♥ QJ107	
	♦ Q10954	
	♣ J	
West		East
♠ 962		♠ KQJ108
♥ 42		♥ AK5
♦ K2		♦ J87
♣ AK10853		♣ 62
	South	
	♠ 53	
	♥ 9863	
	♦ A63	
	♣ Q974	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
			Pass
Pass	1♦(1)	1♠	DBL(2)
RDL	2♥	2♠	All Pass
(1) Precision, 2+ cards; (2) NEG			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
(1) ART, GF			

The rain was still pouring on Indonesia's North American pair on Board 39, where they reached a decent 4♠ that was not attempted at the other table. Colker got a heart lead, won the ace and led a diamond. Chen won the ace and played a second heart. Colker ruffed a heart and led a trump to the queen, and crossed to the diamond king. If clubs are three-two, he can make five in comfort by cashing both high clubs, ruffing a club, and ruffing a diamond. But that's not the big concern in four. If a defender holds a singleton club together with a small trump and the ♦Q, declarer can make 4♠ on that lie by playing a second trump after cashing only one high club. That is the case on this deal and Colker was kicking himself after going down. 7 imps to Hisatomi, 77-144, where it might have been 10 imps to Indonesia.

Bd: 42	North	
Dlr: E	♠ AQ87	
Vul: Both	♥ K542	
	♦ A4	
	♣ Q86	
West		East
♠ 6542		♠ J3
♥ 963		♥ Q1087
♦ J7		♦ KQ862
♣ AJ74		♣ K10
	South	
	♠ K109	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ 10953	
	♣ 9532	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
		1♣(1)	Pass
1♠(2)	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
(1) Many hand types; (2) 3+♠, F1			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1NT
All Pass			
(1) Strong			

In his quiet 1NT (some strong club that is, Abe-san), Chen got a heart lead and took the eight tricks that you are most likely to identify. Lasut was in 3NT at the other table and got a low diamond lead to the ten, jack, and ace. He finessed the ♥J, came to the ♠Q, and led a diamond towards the nine. Tatai went in with the queen and might have seen how far he would get defending passively. Instead, he switched to king and another club, so the ♣Q was Lasut's ninth trick; plus 600. 10imps to Indonesia, 156-77.

Bd: 43	North	
Dlr: S	♠ 1085	
Vul: None	♥ AK3	
	♦ A10832	
	♣ J2	
♠ AKJ7		♠ 6
♥ 1097		♥ 864
♦ K5		♦ QJ76
♣ K983		♣ A7654
	♠ Q9432	
	♥ QJ52	
	♦ 94	
	♣ Q10	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
			Pass
1♣(1)	1♦	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Strong			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
3♣(2)	All Pass		
(1) Spades; or both minors, any strength			
(2) Good spades, better ♣ than ♦			

In his aggressive 3NT, Tatai lost four hearts and the ♦A for minus 50. In 3♣, Kokish got three rounds of hearts from Abe. A fourth heart would have created a trump trick for the defense with the ♦A still to come, but Chen switched to a diamond, and that was 110 for declarer. 4imps to Indonesia, 160-77.

Bd: 44	North	
Dlr: W	♠ A1083	
Vul: N/S	♥ J9	
	♦ K107	
	♣ Q987	
West		East
♠ 5		♠ Q97
♥ Q87		♥ AK1042
♦ QJ53		♦ A982
♣ K6542		♣ 10
	South	
	♠ KJ642	
	♥ 653	
	♦ 64	
	♣ AJ3	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
2NT(1)	Pass	3♥	All Pass
(1) 13(54) or 0355			

3♥ made four; plus 170. 2♠, with a guess in trumps, made two; plus 110. 7 imps to Indonesia, 167-77.

Bd: 45	North	
Dlr: N	♠ KJ643	
Vul: Both	♥ J7	
	♦ 632	
	♣ K86	
West		East
♠ 1087		♠ A
♥ K1063		♥ A842
♦ KQ5		♦ J9874
♣ 432		♣ A95
	South	
	♠ Q952	
	♥ Q95	
	♦ A10	
	♣ QJ107	

In the Open Room, Colker opened a weak notrump with the East cards (not relishing his rebid over a 1♠ response if he did not) in second seat and shut everyone out; plus 120 on a club lead. At the other table, Hara-Tatai got all the way to 4♥ from the West side and had a fighting chance on a spade lead. Hara led a diamond to the ten and king and continued with the ♦Q. Manoppo won the ace and switched to clubs. Hara ducked, won the club continuation, played king-ace of trumps and reverted to diamonds, but Manoppo ruffed and cashed a club to defeat the contract; minus 100. 6 imps to Indonesia, 173-77.

It had been a pretty glum day for the Japanese supporters watching the Vugraph show, but Board 46 brought them something spectacular to cheer about!

Bd: 46	North	
Dir: E	♠ ---	
Vul: None	♥ 2	
	♦ 1098643	
	♣ KQ10742	
West		East
♠ AJ832		♠ K105
♥ K75		♥ AQJ1098
♦ J5		♦ AQ7
♣ J53		♣ 9
	South	
	♠ Q9764	
	♥ 643	
	♦ K2	
	♣ A86	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
		1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	DBL	Pass
2♥	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	DBL	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
		1♥	Pass
1♠	2NT	3♣(1)	DBL
3♥	4♣	4♥	5♣
Pass(2)	Pass	DBL	All Pass
(1) good hand, short ♣s, ♥s and (some) ♠s			
(2) Forcing			

5♥ would have been an interesting contract to play on a spade lead, ruffed, and a club switch (declarer can squeeze South in the pointed suits, but will he do it?) but not surprisingly, Colker opted to take the yen against 5♣ doubled and Kokish went along with that decision. Alas, there were no yen coming in 5♣ doubled against a declarer of Abe-san's stature. He ruffed the opening spade lead and led a diamond up. Colker took the ace and played two rounds of hearts. Abe ruffed, crossed to the ♦K, came to the ♣K, ruffed a diamond with the ace of trumps, and led a trump to his ten; plus 550.

The auction in the Open Room was truly extraterrestrial. Lasut, hoping to get both his suits into the picture if that seemed wise, passed Manoppo's 1♠ overcall. If Hara was not going to pass a takeout double by Tatai, I am at a loss to explain why he didn't raise to 2♥ directly, but there are many things about their system that I do not yet understand. Lasut had a chance to commit the unusual notrump over 2♥, but chose to emphasize his clubs instead. When his opponents struggled (so it seemed) into 4♥, Henky tried the effect of a Lightner double. Alas, our Eddy did not see the position in the same light and teed off to the unfortunate lead of the ♦K. Tatai soon took all the tricks for the unusual score of plus 890, nonvulnerable.

Bd: 47	North	
Dir: S	♠ K432	
Vul: N/S	♥ 983	
	♦ A	
	♣ 107654	
West		East
♠ AQJ876		♠ 109
♥ A64		♥ KQJ
♦ K3		♦ QJ1086
♣ A2		♣ J83
	South	
	♠ 5	
	♥ 10752	
	♦ 97542	
	♣ KQ9	

The good news for Indonesia is that both pairs had this disaster on the same deal, compressing their imp-loss to a mere 16. Hisatomi 93, Indonesia 173.

Tatai-Hara fetched up in 4♠. Henky led the ♦A and switched to a club, and after winning the king of trumps was able to put Eddy in with a club to get his diamond ruff. Down one; minus 50.

Kokish-Colker reached 3NT from the East side, a contract with great potential, even after Chen found the excellent lead of the ♣K. Colker won the ace, and called for the ♦K, where a low one would have worked much better. Abe, who had signalled moderate encouragement, won the blank ace and returned a low club. Colker judged correctly to put in the eight and Chen passed his second hurdle when he won with the

nine, not the king. He cashed the ♣K and exited with a spade, Colker winning the ace with the contract in sight. Alas. Abe showed out in diamonds and turned up with the ♠K, so Rich went two down; minus 100. 2imps to Hisatomi, 95-173.

Bd: 48	North	
Dlr: W	♠ A	
Vul: E/W	♥ Q1042	
	♦ KQ873	
	♣ K83	
West		East
♠ J985		♠ 76
♥ 75		♥ AJ8
♦ 1062		♦ AJ5
♣ Q1074		♣ AJ962
	South	
	♠ KQ10432	
	♥ K963	
	♦ 94	
	♣ 5	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hara	Lasut	Tatai	Manoppo
Pass	1♦(1)	1NT	2♠
All Pass			
(1) Precision, 2+ cards			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Abe	Colker	Chen
Pass	1♦(1)	1NT	2♦(2)
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) Precision; (2) Majors			

Manoppo took eight tricks in his quiet 2♠; plus 110. Abe, in a more ambitious 4♥, came close on the lead of the ♣A and a club continuation. He threw a spade from dummy (why not a diamond, Abe-san?), won the king, and led a trump to the nine. Now a spade to the ace for a second heart play. Colker won the ace and played a third club forcing dummy. When Abe played a diamond to the king and ace, Colker could return his remaining trump, and Abe was a trick short. That spade discard from dummy had been fatal. One down; minus 50. 4 imps to Indonesia, who won the set 62-48, much to the relief of your editors, who had done rather poorly against Abe-Chen. With sixteen boards remaining, the Indonesian lead looked insurmountable at 82 imps, 177-95.

Fourth Quarter:

The deals in this segment were not the ones that the trailing team was hoping for, with a significant number of unstoppable games. There were only two major swings and they both went to Indonesia.

Bd: 52	North	
Dlr: W	♠ 8	
Vul: Both	♥ AKJ43	
	♦ 742	
	♣ J1053	
West		East
♠ AKQ10763		♠ ---
♥ 2		♥ Q107
♦ 5		♦ AKQJ103
♣ KQ76		♣ A842
	South	
	♠ J9542	
	♥ 9865	
	♦ 986	
	♣ 9	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Asbi	Hisatomi	Sacul
4♦(1)	Pass	5♥(2)	Pass
6♠(3)	All Pass		
(1) strong 4♠ opening with solid spades;			
(2) Ask in ♥; (3) second round ♥ control			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Lasut	Abe	Manoppo	Chen
4♠	All Pass		

The contract you'd like to reach with the E/W cards is 6♦, but that's not so easy to do after West opens 4♠ or even a strong variant, as Teramoto did. Lasut took eleven tricks in 4♠ after a two rounds of hearts.

Hisatomi tried for slam with an asking bid in hearts, and would have scored a coup if Teramoto's response had been something below 6♦. 6♠ is not a terrible slam, but the bad trump break killed it here. Two down; minus 200. 13 imps to Indonesia.

Bd: 61	North	
Dir: N	♠ 9	
Vul: Both	♥ Q63	
	♦ K10965	
	♣ 9542	
♠ J10853		♠ K642
♥ KJ105		♥ A974
♦ 4		♦ A732
♣ J87		♣ 3
	♠ AQ7	
	♥ 82	
	♦ QJ8	
	♣ AKQ106	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Asbi	Hisatomi	Sacul
	Pass	1♦	DBL
1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Lasut	Abe	Manoppo	Chen
	Pass	Pass	1♣(1)
Pass	1♦(2)	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Strong; (2) Negative

When Manoppo passed the East hand, he deprived himself of the opportunity to learn about his partner's spade length. When his opponents reached 3NT, Eddy led an innocent fourth-best heart, and the defenders gobbled up four tricks there. The ♦A was the setting trick; minus 100.

At the other table, Hisatomi-Teramoto competed to 2♠ after Hisatomi had opened the bidding, and now Sacul declared 3NT from the South side, having bid a lot with a moderate hand. Here the opening lead was the jack of spades, which ran to the queen. The ♦J held the next trick, and when Sacul continued diamonds, Teramoto signalled with the ♥5, encouraging. Alas, that blocked the suit, so a heart switch would not have defeated the contract in any event. Hisatomi ducked the second diamond, however, to shut out the suit, but Sacul cashed his clubs for nine tricks; plus 600. 12 imps to Indonesia.

To defeat the contract legitimately, West must signal in a side suit, Lavinthal or Roman style. The ♠10 would do the job nicely here, telling East to switch to a low heart from the right holding.

Bd: 63	North	
Dir: S	♠ A87	
Vul: N/S	♥ A9	
	♦ KJ852	
	♣ 1053	
West		East
♠ K3		♠ QJ1042
♥ 72		♥ J83
♦ AQ9643		♦ 7
♣ A87		♣ QJ62
	West	
	♠ 965	
	♥ KQ10654	
	♦ 10	
	♣ K94	

The only other significant swing came on the penultimate deal, when Indonesia defeated 3♦ in one room and 3♥ in the other. 6 imps.

Indonesia won the final segment, 40-10, and won the 1997 NEC Cup 217-105.

In the two quarters that the four Indonesians played together, they outscored their opponents 93-22. Henky Lasut and Eddy Manoppo played every board in the knockout stage and most of the deals in the round robin. In the last two days of the tournament, their results were simply outstanding. Denny Sacul and Taufik Asbi are a near partnership, still feeling their way with one another, but they too played better and better as the tournament wore on. There is reason to hope that they will be a key element in Indonesia's drive to do

one place better than they did in Rhodes in the next World Championship.

We were delighted to be part of the Indonesian team and, as we expected, found our teammates to be great fun and easy to play with. Our bridge was hot and cold, but we never felt anything but warm when we compared with the boys.

We hope that you can all say the same about your teammates in 1997.



“Full Disclosure”: A Double Edged Sword For the ‘90s

by Rich Colker

In a knockout match you are playing with your regular partner, an astute player (though, need I say, not as astute as you) who is both deliberate and methodical. The opponents are of the highest caliber. Both you and your opponents are playing Standard American bidding methods. Strong notrumps (15-17 HCP), five-card majors with forcing notrump responses, two-over-one game forcing, fourth suit forcing to game, etc.

Your signaling agreements, on the other hand, are non-standard, although in today’s expert arena they may be more-or-less “defacto standard.” You play Upside Down count and attitude signals, and use Smith Echo at notrump contracts. The latter method uses a high-low in the first suit led by declarer, when a signal is not needed to indicate your length in that suit, to optionally indicate your attitude about the suit led on opening lead — whether by yourself or your partner — if there may still be some doubt as to your holding in that suit, or your attitude about partner finding a switch. Of course, you may also follow to declarer’s first-led suit to suggest suit preference for the other suits, if you believe partner can read your intent as such. You have general agreements about the order of preference of your signals (i.e. Smith, count, attitude, suit preference) in different situations, which of course depend on whether the contract is notrump or a suit. You also have the understanding that partner is expected to signal you with the information he believes you need at any time, rather than remaining rigidly subservient to your predetermined agreements.

After several uneventful boards you meet your first test of the match. Sitting East you pick up:

♠ 952 ♥ 10986 ♦ 8542 ♣ Q3

(I know. This is not exactly a collection worthy of writing home about, but as meager as it may seem, you’ll have to do some quick thinking in a few moments.) The auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
Partner	RHO	You	LHO
	1♣	Pass	2NT(12-14)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Partner leads the ♥4 and the following dummy appears.

Declarer studies the dummy and then plays low, winning your eight with the queen. After another brief pause for thought he leads the ♠4 from his hand, the three from partner, the jack from dummy, and you play the...? Well, what do you play?

Do you play a high card to show an odd number of spades? Do you “Smith Echo” to tell partner that you love his opening lead? Or do you play your lowest spade to try to show partner that what little help you have for him is in clubs?

Dir: N	North (Dummy)
Vul: N/S	♠ KJ107
	♥ KJ5
	♦ J7
	♣ A862
	East (You)
	♠ 862
	♥ 10986
	♦ 8542
	♣ Q3

First, does partner need the count in spades? Declarer (presumably) has only two or three spades, since he didn’t respond 1♠ to 1♣. If partner has queen-fourth of spades, the count will inform him that declarer has only three spade tricks, and that he can’t afford to later unguard the queen. But there will probably be enough time for you to show him your two remaining spades

before he has to make a crucial pitch. And if spades are 4333 your card won't matter at all.

What about partner's ♠3? He could be signaling his spade length with four, but why would you care about his spade length? More likely partner is "Smithing," telling you that he doesn't like the suit (hearts) he led on opening lead. You know that already, since the best heart holding he can have is ♥A74.

So partner likely wants to find another suit to attack, and the choice is between clubs and diamonds — unless you indicate that you love his opening heart lead. Partner surely knows that you can't have much. After all, declarer is marked with 12-14 HCP from the bidding, so partner has at least 11, and maybe as many as 13, HCP. You may just have enough room to hold ace-fourth of hearts, so a high spade could be construed as asking for a heart continuation. But a low spade will certainly send the message that you don't like hearts, and it may do better than that. If partner can figure out that you can't have the ♥A (either because he holds it himself, or holds enough HCP to rule it out), he may read your ♠2 as suit preference. Yes, that's the answer. You should play the ♠2 as suit preference for clubs.

The operation is successful, and the patient lives, as the complete layout is as shown in the diagram at the right.

All of that is well and good, and most top players would probably go through much the same thought process before playing to trick 2. But now comes the real point of this article. What if you play the ♠2, and declarer now turns to your partner and asks him what your play of the ♠2 means. Everything partner knows about your signal is based on his holdings, either in a specific suit (i.e. the ♥A) or in overall high-cards. You have made similar inferences about how partner will interpret your signal, again based on your specific spot cards, suit-lengths, and the distribution of HCPs between your two hands. Is declarer entitled to this information? Should partner say what he knows only from his holdings and inferences on THIS SPECIFIC HAND?

Dir: N	North	
Vul: N/S	♠ KJ107	
	♥ KJ5	
	♦ J7	
	♣ A862	
West		East
♠ AQ3		♠ 862
♥ 432		♥ 10986
♦ K109		♦ 8542
♣ KJ95		♣ Q3
	South	
	♠ 954	
	♥ AQ7	
	♦ AQ63	
	♣ 1074	

"Of course not, absurd," you say? Well then, what information is declarer entitled to? Partner tells him: "if you intended your ♠2 as count, then it's upside down count (an odd number of spades); if you intended it as Smith, then it shows negative interest in hearts; if you intended it as suit preference, then it shows a preference for clubs." That isn't being evasive. That's being factual. Your signal could be any of those things, and partner is expected to work it out for himself — as is the declarer! When asked again what your signal means your partner explains to declarer, "He (you) is expected to signal with whatever information he thinks I need in this situation." Declarer then persists further with, "Well, what does THIS situation suggest that you need?"

At this point you might very well become somewhat indignant at declarer's impudence. In essence, he is requesting that you do his analysis for him, with the benefit of your knowledge of your own hand. He has progressed to asking what I believe is an improper question. He is entitled to know what your methods are, and which of them apply — if that is established by prior agreement. He is NOT entitled to know how you "interpret" your partner's signal when that interpretation is based upon aspects of the hand to which declarer has no right, such as your specific card holding. He would, for example, be entitled to an interpretation of partner's signal which is based upon a pre-established agreement based on "public" information, such as, "With Qxx or better in dummy we signal count on partner's lead of the ace or king, while with xx(xx) in dummy we signal attitude."

Daniel Auby's article, which appeared in these pages in Bulletin Number 4 (Wednesday, February 12, 1997) takes the position that declarer must be entitled to more specific information in such

situations. This is, I believe, indefensible, and is certainly not in the best interests of the game. The opponents are entitled to a partnership's private understandings, such as their bidding conventions, as well as the methods they use for leads and defensive signaling. They are entitled to any and all PRE-ARRANGED information relating to those bidding or defensive methods, such as any understandings about which signals take priority over others, but they are NOT entitled to the defenders' thought processes to interpret those methods within the context of a specific hand.

To use a simpler example. Suppose that my partner's first discard is the four of a side suit in a trump contract. I may be required to tell my opponents whether that signal is attitude or not (assuming that we have a pre-arranged agreement on that), and whether our attitude signaling methods are right-side-up or upside-down. However, I am NOT obligated to inform them whether the four is a high or a low card, especially when that may depend on whether or not I hold the two and/or the three of that suit in my own hand! I would never, for example, say "That is discouraging in diamonds." I would tell them: "According to our agreements that is an attitude signal. If it is a high card, it is discouraging. If it is a low card, then it is encouraging." Period.

To suggest that the opponents are entitled to any more, is tantamount to asking that this game be turned into an exercise in double-dummy analysis. And while that may be an interesting sideline pastime, it is not bridge. To suggest that playing the methods described in this and Mr. Auby's article is no different from playing encrypted signals totally misses the point of the methods. There is no encryption scheme here. The signals used are based upon logic and deductive inference, not on some encryption key known only to the opponents.

An important point is that the signal used in the earlier example was not guaranteed success. West might have misread it and later thrown a spade from an original holding of queen-fourth, thinking that East had signaled spade length (two) and that declarer, with three spades, could therefore repeat the finesse later anyway. Alternatively, West might have found a club shift from J75(4) and given up the game-going trick in that suit. When we preempt, or make a psychic bid, we have to be taking the same risk (of going for a large number, or fooling partner) as we exact on our opponents. That's why controlled psychics are not permitted. Here, there is risk in the signaling method being used (which is probably why such methods are not more popular with the average player). If the defenders risk their signals being misinterpreted, then declarer must share in the same risk. In encrypted signals, there is only risk for declarer. That is why those methods are disallowed. These methods are legal, and should remain so!