



NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 8, 1998
Bulletin Number 1

Editors: Eric Kokish
Richard Colker

The 1998 **NEC Bridge Festival** began yesterday with the OUCHI CUP, a two-day qualifying Swiss Team Event with 59 teams entered. The field was divided into six sections. The top three finishers in each group, plus the highest fourth place finisher, qualified for today's A Final. In addition, the Iceland team (consisting of T. Jonsson, B. Eysteinnsson, K. Sigurhjartarson, and S. Thorbjornsson) was given a bye into the A Final because of travel difficulties. The teams finishing fourth through sixth qualified for the Group B Final and the remaining teams from yesterday's qualifying round are eligible to compete in the C Final.

Qualifiers for Today's Group A OUCHI CUP

Section A

- 1st: M. Polowan, S. Lev, P. Gawrys, M. Lesniewski
- 2nd: H. Hisatomi, T. Teramoto, M. Ino, T. Imakura, T. Hirata, S. Shimizu
- 3rd: K. Fujimoto, H. Miyauchi, N. Hayashi, M. Hirata

Section B

- 1st: K. Yamada, K. Takahashi, P. Newman, T. Yoshida
- 2nd: Y. Umezu, E. Naito, C. Ichikawa, T. Suzuki
- 3rd: N-J Shen, W-M Chang, D-M Yen, J-F Lee, D-M Yen, M-H Wu

Section C

- 1st: S. Naito, S. Moriyama, H. Ohta, N. Setoguchi
- 2nd: K. Sasaki, M. Iwahashi, K. Wakatsuki, S. Kazama
- 3rd: C. Yu, Z. Chen, H. Shi, J. Dai, H. Xu, Z. Zhuang

Section D

- 1st: D. Sacul, F. Waluyan, S. Panelewen, F. Karwur, B. T. Polii, T. Asbi
- 2nd: T. Onodera, K. Suzuki, R. Okuno, T. Yakura
- 3rd: R. Geller, S. Ogiwara, H. Narita, Y. Ito
- 4th: K. Furuta, M. Takayama, M. Kohno, K. Akama, E. Kokish, R. Colker

Section E

- 1st: B. Mavromichalis, P. Hackett, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett, J. Armstrong
- 2nd: K. Yamada, Y. Yamada, A. Morozumi, H. Janssen
- 3rd: K. Toyoba, Y. Eto, H. Kodama, N. Abe

Section F

- 1st: Y. Agata, S. Murano, K. Miyauchi, H. Yamaguchi
- 2nd: T. Jomura, K. Shimamura, K. Ito, Y. Shimizu
- 3rd: T. Nose, G. Schuett, A. Amano, M. Sekizawa

RECEPTION FOR NEC CUP PARTICIPANTS

NEC is hosting a reception for all the players tonight at the Yokohama Grand Inter-Continental Hotel, at 7 pm. Dress is casual. **NOTICE TO NEC CUP TEAM CAPTAINS:** Please be advised that an informal Captains' Meeting will be held in conjunction with tonight's reception, beginning at 8:15 pm, after the conclusion of formal festivities.

TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE

Play will be held tomorrow on the fourth floor Pacifico, Rooms 401 and 402. Two-hours and twenty-minutes are allotted for each 16-board match, with a one-hour lunch break, a twenty-minute break between matches two and three, and a one-hour twenty-minute dinner break.

Times	
10:00	MATCH ONE
12:20	LUNCH BREAK
13:20	MATCH TWO
15:40	BREAK
16:00	MATCH THREE
18:20	DINNER BREAK
19:40	MATCH FOUR

THE 3RD NEC CUP: CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

General Regulations

Unless otherwise stated, the regulations for the NEC Cup will be those as promulgated for the 1997 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup as held in Hammamet, Tunisia. A Vugraph will be held during the Semifinals and Finals. Systems up to and including Brown Sticker conventions will be permitted at the table, providing they are authorized by the Chief Director.

The Round Robin:

The first numbered team is the home team and sits North/South in the Open Room (Room 401), East/West in the Closed Room (Room 402).

Line Ups:

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

Corrections and Appeals:

Law 79C will be regulated as follows:

For MATCH ONE, up until 16:00.

For MATCHES TWO and THREE, up until 19:40.

For MATCH FOUR, up until 10:00 am the next day, except match 11, when 18:50.

Tie Breaking:

As per the 1997 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup.

Changes to Systems:

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

Late Arrival, Late Finish, Late Lineups:

As per Law 81.

The Finals:

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

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

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

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

ROSTERS OF NEC CUP TEAMS

GREAT BRITAIN

Paul HACKETT
John ARMSTRONG

Jason HACKETT
Brigitte MAVROMICHALIS

Justin HACKETT

CHINESE TAIPEI

YEN Yung-Nan
CHANG Wei-Ming

LEE Jung-Fu
YEN Ding-Ming

SHEN Nai-Jeng
WU Ming-Hsuan

CHINA

YU Chengzhong
DAI Jianming

CHEN Xuebin
XU Hongjun

SHI Haojun
ZHUANG Zejun

INDONESIA

Denny SACUL
Franky KARWUR

Ferdinand WALUYAN
Bert Toar POLII

Santje PANELEWEN
Taufik ASBI

USA I

Richard BRUNO
Walter SCHAFFER

Jeff SCHUETT
Ralph KATZ

Tom FOX
Howard WEINSTEIN

USA II

Michael POLOWAN
Martin LESNIEWSKI

Sam LEV

Piotr GAWRYS

ICELAND

Thorlakur JONSSON
Saevor THORBJORNSSON

Bjorn EYSTEINSSON

Karl SIGURHJARTARSON

JAPAN — HISATOMI

HISATOMI Hiroshi
IMAKURA Tadashi

TERAMOTO Tadashi
SHIMIZU Seiya

INO Masayuki
HIRATA Takahiko

JAPAN — WOMEN

OHTA Hiroko
TOYOBA Keimi

SETOGUCHI Nobuko
NAITO Sakiko

ETOH Yumiko
MORIYAMA Setsuko

JAPAN YOUTH

FURUTA Kazuo
KOHNO Makoto

TAKAYAMA Masaaki
Eric KOKISH

HARADA Tomoyuki
Richard COLKER

JAPAN — YAMADA

YAMADA Akihiko
TAKAHASHI Katsumi

OHNO Kyoko
YOSHIDA Tadashi

YAMADA Kazuhiko
Peter NEWMAN

JAPAN — NEC

JOMURA Tadashi
SHIMAMURA Kyoko

MIYAUCHI Hiroshi
HAYASHI Nobuyuki

FUJIMOTO Kohji
MAEDA Takashi

NO FEAR: PART ONE

Your Editors are delighted to be playing in the NEC CUP this year on a team with the Japanese juniors. Session I of the OUCHI CUP went well for them but there were a few boards on which they lost quite heavily. This was the most striking . . .

Bd: OUCHI-I-28		North	
Dir: W		♠ K107643	
Vul: N/S		♥ K94	
		♦ 6	
		♣ J87	
West		East	
♠ AQJ2		♠ 9	
♥ 62		♥ A53	
♦ AJ102		♦ 87543	
♣ K103		♣ AQ52	
		South	
		♠ 85	
		♥ QJ1087	
		♦ KQ9	
		♣ 964	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kumano	Colker	Fukuyama	Kokish
1NT	Pass	2♠(1)	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠(2)	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT(3)	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass
(1) Minors or diamond signoff			
(2) Splinter			
(3) RKCB-♦			
(4) 2 Key Cards, no ♦Q			

Over **Momoko Kumano's** strong notrump, **Youko Fukuyama** had to decide whether it was worth getting involved in a delicate exploratory auction. She decided that it was, and soon located the diamond fit and followed up by showing her singleton spade. Momoko had a lot of wasted strength in spades and might have continued with 3NT, but she had reason to believe that hearts might be a problem in notrump (as indeed they were). She tried 4♣ and Youko took this seriously enough to drive to slam. Even in the big city, that's some serious bidding, but our heroines demonstrated in this three-board set that they are not shy in the auction.

Six diamonds is not a very good contract and would have failed on a heart lead as long as South remembered to split his trump honors. North, however, led a reasonable spade, expecting West to hold rather less in the suit on the auction. When dummy's nine held, declarer suspected that South might be short in the suit, but when she led a

trump from dummy, she did the right thing on this layout, covering South's nine with the ten. There was still a low hurdle to overcome, since she needed to pitch either a heart from hand or a second heart from dummy, but the only losing line was to lead a low club to the ten on the second round, and this Momoko did not do.

As far as we could see, bidding and making 6♦ with the East/West cards was a solo achievement for our fearless opponents. After the session, we asked **Nakatani-san** for their phone numbers, but he smiled and told us that their dance cards were filled for this year's festival. Our loss.

P.S.: Our teammates, **Kazuo Furuta-Masaaki Takayama** did very well to reach 5♦ with the East/West cards, holding our loss to 11 IMPs.

THEY DID IT IN DIAMONDS

Team Indonesia, last year's winner, is back to defend with a strong(er) lineup. Board 27 from the first session of the OUCHI CUP was a pretty effort at both tables.

Bd: OUCHI-I-27	North		
Dir: S	♠ J1087		
Vul: None	♥ J64		
	♦ J832		
	♣ K3		
West		East	
♠ AQ9643		♠ K	
♥ 9		♥ A1083	
♦ 107		♦ AQ965	
♣ AJ62		♣ 854	
	South		
	♠ 52		
	♥ KQ752		
	♦ K4		
	♣ Q1097		
TABLE ONE			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Polii		Asbi	
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
TABLE TWO			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Sacul		Waluyan
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Bert Toar Polii played in 3NT as West at TABLE ONE. North got off to the lead of the king of clubs, choosing the unbid suit. Both South and West encouraged, so North led a second club to the nine and jack. "Berce" crossed to the ♠K and called for a low diamond from dummy. South would have done well to play low, but he went in with the king. Berce unblocked the ♦10, won the club continuation, cashed his spade winners, and led the ♦7 to dummy's nine to pick up the rest of the suit. Ten interesting tricks. Plus 430.

At TABLE TWO, West played in 4♠, and got a low heart lead from **Denny Sacul**. Declarer won the ace, cashed the ♠K, ruffed a heart, and played ace-queen of trumps. When South showed out, declarer was in trouble. He led the ♦10 and passed it when North followed low. South, the rejuvenated **Ferdy Waluyan** (who is again playing serious competitive bridge after a long hiatus), allowed the ten to hold. Declarer led a second diamond, and Denny might have followed with the jack to create the impression that he held king-jack-deuce. When he played the three instead, declarer might have put on the ace, but

he called for dummy's queen. Ferdy won the king and switched to the ♣10, preserving his partner's heart exit. Declarer lost three clubs and so went two down, minus 100. 11 IMPs to TEAM INDONESIA, who led their qualifying group.

THE NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL IS ON THE INTERNET

We are happy to announce that our Daily Bulletins are available on the Internet. Call your family and friends and tell them to follow the adventures of some of the best players in the world (including yourself) by surfing the net to the following address:

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

ROUND OF THE DAY

There is always action when **Makoto Hirata** is at the table, but his team's round against POLAND-USA in the first qualifying session of the OUCHI CUP was off the Richter Scale, even for Japan's Mr Intrepid.

Bd: OUCHI-I-4	North		
Dir: W	♠ AJ		
Vul: Both	♥ K96532		
	♦ J9		
	♣ 752		
West		East	
♠ K76542		♠ Q3	
♥ 4		♥ A8	
♦ 1064		♦ AQ52	
♣ K109		♣ AQJ63	
	South		
	♠ 1098		
	♥ QJ107		
	♦ K873		
	♣ 84		
TABLE ONE			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hayashi	Lev	Hirata	Polowan
Pass	2♥	Double	3♥
4♠	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
TABLE TWO			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Miyauchi	Gawrys	Fujimoto
Pass	2♥	Double	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

Although neither the West hand nor the North hand looks much like a textbook vulnerable weak two-bid, both were given that treatment with some frequency by players across the field. In our featured match, both Wests elected to pass, but the Norths opted for 2♥. Perhaps you believe it is obvious for East to double with all those points, but I think the jury is still out on whether the double will work better in the long run than a heavy 2NT or an equally heavy 3♣. Both Hirata and **Piotr Gawrys** elected to double, however, and here the paths diverged. At TABLE ONE, **Michael Polowan** raised to 3♥, which enabled **Noboyuki Hayashi** to jump to 4♠. Perhaps Hirata-san should have left well enough alone, but he did have a nice hand and if his partner held a long spade suit of some quality, slam might be very good. Onwards he ventured with a delicate 5♠, asking about trumps, and Hayasi-san bid the sixth, perhaps for the wrong reasons. Had **Sam Lev** led a diamond, the pushy slam would have failed, but not unreasonably, he led a heart. Finito Benito. Nobu won the ace, ruffed a heart, and led a low trump. Lev

won the ace and switched to the ♦9. Nobu won the ace, cashed the ♠Q, came to a club, extracted South's last trump with the ♠K, and claimed, discarding diamonds on dummy's long clubs. A magnificent plus 1430.

At TABLE TWO, **Kohji Fujimoto** bounced to 4♥, and **Marcin Lesniewski's** 4♠ covered a wide range of strength and length. Gawrys could hardly act over 4♠ with any security, so a swing had been achieved in the bidding. **Hiroshi Miyauchi** found the challenging lead of the ♦J, and the humble game contract was in some jeopardy. It is possible to go down in 4♠ by rising with the ♦A and leading the ♠Q (silly) or (much much better) leading a low spade to the king. Here North gets a diamond ruff with the ♠J and South gets a further trump trick, but this is a big losing parlay; the low trump to the king works on virtually all other positions but the one that exists. If declarer plays the ♦Q at trick one, or if he wins the ace, crosses to hand and leads a low trump, he will lose only three tricks. How did Lesniewski play? He won the ♦A and led the ♠3 to the king and ace. And down he went, with his boots on. 17 IMPs to the local heroes.

Two deals later, the East/West pairs faced another game versus slam decision. Although neither pair got it right, both emerged with a plus score and there was no significant swing on the deal. Not without some red faces, however. Read on to see of what we speak . . .

Bd: OUCHI-I-6
 Dir: E
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ J107
 ♥ AK9842
 ♦ 76
 ♣ 84

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ 6
 ♦ AK108543
 ♣ Q7532

East
 ♠ K962
 ♥ QJ73
 ♦ 2
 ♣ AK96

South
 ♠ AQ8543
 ♥ 105
 ♦ QJ9
 ♣ J10

TABLE ONE

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hayashi	Lev	Hirata	Polowan
		1♣	1♠
3♦(1)	3♥	3NT	Pass
4♠(2)	Pass	5♣	All Pass

(1) FIT, clubs+diamonds
 (2) Splinter

TABLE TWO

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Miyauchi	Gawrys	Fujimoto
		1♣(1)	2♠
3♦	3♥	Double	Pass
3♠	Double	3NT	All Pass

(1) Polish, usually a weak notrump

No one has written the definitive text on the care and feeding of seven-five hands but our good friend Nobu gave this one a pretty good run. He started with a fit-showing jump in diamonds, getting both his suits into the picture immediately. Over Makoto's somewhat questionable 3NT, Nobu took out to 4♠, showing shortage there and lots of extra shape. Makoto had two plus features — his good clubs and perhaps his singleton diamond — but he had no heart control and his ♠K was pulling no weight at all. He converted to 5♣ and there it rested. You might argue that with no heart control, nothing much in diamonds, and probably no ♠A. East figured to hold decent clubs, but all of that would be circumstantial and I believe that Nobu was right to pass 5♣. Plus 620. In principle a good result for Poland-USA.

At TABLE TWO, however, Gawrys-Lesniewski were having their problems. Fujimoto's weak jump overcall, a reasonable gambit, put Lesniewski under immediate pressure. He settled for 3♦ (perhaps 4♦ was not possible in his methods) and had to find an appropriate continuation when Gawrys doubled Miyauchi's 3♥. He tried 3♠, not really knowing where it would lead. In

fact, it led to 3NT, and Lesniewski, envisioning a hand that might not produce 5♣, elected to pass. A courageous decision, to be sure.

Lesniewski seemed to have backed the wrong horse when Miyauchi led a spade to the ten and king, but Gawrys led the ♣9 to dummy's queen, a club to hand, and a low diamond. When Miyauchi played the nine, Gawrys, who had a sound inferential count, decided it was unlikely that North held queen-jack doubleton; he called for . . . dummy's ten and ran for cover with the first (and last) thirteen tricks. It's difficult to confirm who felt worse about this result — Miyauchi or his opponents, but in any event, that was 3 remarkable IMPs to POLAND-USA.

TODAY'S PARTNERSHIP QUIZLET

As some of you may know, I (EOK) have been coaching bridge teams all over the world for about 15 years, with my latest adventure being six months in Indonesia. If space permits, I am going to include in some issues of the Daily Bulletin a sample of the material that I use in my training program to test your partnerships. Enjoy (although this may not be possible) . . .

West	North	East	South
3♣	4♠	5♣	?

(a) North's hand type? _____

(b) Minimum length(s)/strength? _____

(c) Would South's pass over 5♣ be forcing? _____

At which vulnerabilities? _____

(d) What kind of South hand would pass 5♣? _____

(e) If South passes, what kind of North hand would double?

(f) If South passes, what does North need in order to bid 5♦?

In order to bid 5♠? _____

In order to bid 5♥? _____

(g) If South bids a suit over 5♣ what sort of hand is he showing?

5♦? _____ 5♠? _____ 5♥? _____

(h) What would be the distinction between South's 6♣ and 5NT over 5♣?

(i) If South passes 5♣, what would be the distinction between North's reopening 6♣ and

5NT? _____

(j) If South passes 5♣ and removes North's double, what would these bids suggest?

5♦? _____

5♠? _____

5♥? _____

5NT? _____

6♣? _____

6♦? _____

6♠? _____

6♥? _____

(k) When you finish this problem, please try to establish some basic rules for situations like these. Write them below:

LEAVE A MESSAGE IN ROOM 212 IF YOU WANT MORE OF THESE TORTURE TESTS

LEAD ALONG WITH YOUR junior EDITOR

Sitting North third in hand, nonvulnerable against vulnerable opponents, you pick up:

♠ AJ ♥ AJ3 ♦ A10987 ♣ 1063.

The auction proceeds:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2♥
Pass	2NT(1)	Double	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
(1) Asking for a feature			

What do you lead, and what is your plan? Be specific.

For the thrilling conclusion, turn to page 11. (No fair peeking before you commit yourself.)

HOT AND COLD RUNNING APPEALS

Beginning today, and continuing each day of this tournament, we plan to publish our own accounts of the appeal cases from the 1997 World Championships, held this past October in Hammamet, Tunisia. In each instance we will summarize the report which appeared in the Daily Bulletin in Hammamet, and then follow that with our own analysis of the Committee's decision. Of course, we will also publish any appeals from the 1998 NEC Bridge Festival for your enjoyment and interest. Here is installment number one from Hammamet.

HAMMAMET: APPEAL CASE ONE

Venice Cup, Round 3: South Africa vs Tunisia

Appeal Committee: Steen Moller (Chairman, Denmark), John Wignall (NZ), Bill Pencharz (GB), Eric Kokish (Canada), Naki Bruni (Italy).

Bd: 20	Jellouli		
Dir: West	♠ 10986		
Vul: Both	♥ 93		
	♦ AK3		
	♣ Q1094		
Osie		Nestoridis	
♠ KJ75		♠ 4	
♥ K87642		♥ Q5	
♦ 10		♦ QJ9654	
♣ 53		♣ K762	
	Sfar		
	♠ AQ32		
	♥ AJ10		
	♦ 872		
	♣ AJ8		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Result: Made three; N/S +600.

Facts: The TD was called to the table at the end of the play. 2♥ was Alerted as a weak two-bid. 3♦ was Alerted by North to East as Stayman (a "transfer" into the opponents' suit). South 3♦ to West as natural and forcing. West led a small spade.

TD's Ruling: West claimed that she had been misinformed and would have led a heart had she received the same explanation as East. The contract would then have failed. The TD adjusted

the score to 3NT down one, N/S -100.

Appeal: N/S appealed. The TD read for the Committee the Laws (40C and 75) on which his ruling was based. When asked by the Committee the TD said that the hand not been analyzed in detail, but that South would surely have gone down after a heart lead. The N/S Captain agreed that there had been misinformation without which West would probably have led a heart, but that South would have made her contract anyway. The E/W team disagreed, pointing out that after West's 2♥ bid South was bound to play the spade suit, which would leave no play for nine tricks.

Committee's Decision: The Committee decided unanimously that, although the contract — double dummy — could have been made, the winning line was not likely to be found. The Committee adjusted the result to 3NT down one. The Committee found the appeal lacking in merit, but due to the possible inexperience of the Appealing team the deposit was returned.

Analysis: This was an easy case to decide. North's 3♦ bid was clearly intended as Stayman and not, as South told West, natural. Had West known this, she almost certainly would have led a heart (minor-suit leads being particularly unattractive). While several lines of play are available, South can make nine tricks only by playing a diamond to dummy, finessing clubs twice, cashing the third club (West pitching a spade) and then cashing the other top diamond (on which West must pitch a heart, since a second spade pitch allows declarer to make her contract by playing

ace and a spade while still retaining a heart stopper). Having squeezed West out of one of her heart winners, Declarer now plays hearts herself. West can win the king and clear the suit, but declarer ducks a spade to her and after cashing her remaining two hearts she is forced to lead away from her ♠K7, presenting declarer with her ninth and game-going trick (the defense takes three hearts and one spade). Note that the success of this line depends on declarer playing West for her actual spade holding (unlikely on West's opening bid).

A second line of play is also possible (and more likely, given West's opening 2♥ bid). Declarer begins as above, but when the club finesse works she tries to establish her ninth trick in spades, by finding one of the two missing honors onside. Once spades are played early (before the heart suit has been cleared), West can no longer be thrown in without the defense cashing five tricks; thus, the contract can't be made.

In adjusting the score on a board after an infraction, the laws say that a TD or Committee must try to determine what result would have occurred without the infraction, with any doubt being resolved against the offenders (N/S here). Thus, the Committee could not (by law) permit South to adopt any line of play which would have been successful if there was an alternate line (even one which was inferior or careless — but not irrational) would have been unsuccessful. Since the losing line was not irrational (in fact, it was probably the best line on the actual auction), that was the result the Committee was properly obligated to assign. (And, in fact, was the result that the TD assigned as well.)

Finally, a pair (or team) should not appeal a TD's ruling unless they have reason to believe that either: (1) the TD misapplied the laws, (2) the facts on which the TD based his ruling were not interpreted properly, or (3) there were sound and demonstrable bridge reasons why the ruling was incorrect but which the TD did not take into account. In this case, since none of these was ever demonstrated to the Committee's satisfaction by the N/S team, the appeal was judged to lack merit. However, since the Committee believed that the appealing team was not experienced enough to be aware of their obligations in this regard, their monetary deposit (required in all WBF appeals, and usually forfeited when an appeal is found to be without merit) was returned. Thus, N/S got off easy.

Bd: OUCHI-I-3	North	
Dir: S	♠ AJ	
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ3	
	♦ A10987	
	♣ 1063	
West		East
♠ Q1053		♠ K942
♥ 9854		♥ 7
♦ J32		♦ KQ4
♣ 42		♣ AKQJ5
	South	
	♠ 876	
	♥ KQ1062	
	♦ 65	
	♣ 987	

SOLUTION TO junior's OPENING LEAD PROBLEM

Junior found the lead of the ♦A followed by a second diamond, South showing a doubleton. Declarer (West) played a spade to his queen and Junior's ace. Having seen Senior (South) defend before, Junior cashed the ♥A before leading a third diamond for South to ruff — down one, for plus 9 IMPs.

An opening lead of the ♥A will also work if North finds the diamond switch at trick two and declarer plays along the same lines. However, in either case should not declarer have played three rounds of clubs, discarding his third diamond, once South signalled for his ruff?