



# NEC Bridge Festival

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## 1998 NEC CUP: Final Results

	Carryover	1-16	17-32	33-48	49-64	Final
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	2.6	34	58	19	39	152.6
<b>POLAND-USA</b>		14	3	51	42	110

## PLAYOFF FOR 3rd PLACE

	Carryover	1-16	17-32	Final
<b>HISATOMI</b>	2.6	34	28	64.6
<b>ICELAND</b>		18	26	44

Congratulations to GREAT BRITAIN, the 1998 NEC CUP Champions. Congratulation also to the POLAND-USA team, who fought gamely until the very end, winning the third and fourth quarters outright. Both teams deserve our applause for an exciting and entertaining final.

Congratulations are also in order for the JAPAN-HISATOMI team, who bested ICELAND in the third-place playoff. Their match was also an exciting one, remaining in doubt until the final few boards.



Left to right: Justin, Jason, Papa, John and Bridgitte — Beatles, '98

# THE NEC CUP FINAL

## (POLAND-USA vs GREAT BRITAIN)

### FIRST QUARTER (Boards 1-16):

GREAT BRITAIN started the match with a 2.6-IMP carryover advantage. We'll call this 2 IMPs in our running score, keeping in mind that POLAND-USA would have to win by 3 IMPs to claim the trophy and the big prize money.

Bd: 4		North	
Dir: West		♠ K62	
Vul: Both		♥ 94	
		♦ KQ64	
		♣ AJ54	
West		East	
♠ AJ753		♠ 1084	
♥ 87532		♥ KJ106	
♦ A3		♦ J105	
♣ 7		♣ 982	
		South	
		♠ Q9	
		♥ AQ	
		♦ 9872	
		♣ KQ1063	
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	P Hackett	Gawrys	Armstrong
2♥(♥+x)	Pass	2♠(P/C)	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
2♦(x+x)	Pass	2NT(INQ)	Pass
3♥(♥+♠)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

POLAND-USA won an IMP on Board 3 but Board 4 brought the first significant swing in the match on a fun deal for the VUGRAPH audience. At both tables, West started with a two-suited two-bid, **Jason's Hackett's** being completely nonspecific, **Marcin Lesniewski's** promising the suit he had bid. Both Easts saw an opportunity for some thievery, but their approaches to the task varied. **Piotr Gawrys**, certain of a big heart fit, tried to pick off the opponents' potential spade fit, but since his convertible 2♠ implied no special strength, **John Armstrong** was willing to risk 3♣; a few moments later, he found himself declaring 3NT, plus 630 on a heart lead.

In contrast, **Justin Hackett** tried 2NT, theoretically stronger than any "pass or correct" alternatives. This effectively cowed **Michael Polowan**, and when Jason confirmed that he held both majors, Justin decided to see his gambit through by raising to 4♥. Jason misguessed the spades for three down, minus 300, but GREAT BRITAIN was on the board with an 8-IMP gain for a 10-0 lead (including the carryover).

There were some opportunities available on Board 5, but both tables produced identical auctions, ending at 5♥, so we'll never know what would have happened had either East competed to 5♠. We can see that it takes an underlead in spades (to obtain a diamond ruff) to defeat 6♥, and that 5♠ is very cheap. Although East has some hope of beating a five-level contract, his spades are good enough to believe that he won't go far wrong by bidding on over 5♥. Indeed, either contract or both might be making. Perhaps, however, the random element in the 4♠ overall is greater for both these pairs than it would be for mere mortals. At the table, both declarers took twelve tricks without breathing hard, so this

Bd: 5		North	
Dir: North		♠ J52	
Vul: N/S		♥ QJ86	
		♦ QJ103	
		♣ 107	
West		East	
♠ AQ108764		♠ K9	
♥ 109		♥ 73	
♦ ---		♦ K754	
♣ Q532		♣ K9864	
		South	
		♠ 3	
		♥ AK542	
		♦ A9862	
		♣ AJ	
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	P Hackett	Gawrys	Armstrong
	Pass	Pass	1♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	5♥	All Pass	
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
	Pass	Pass	1♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

one went into the record books as another push. An important construction for serious partnerships, however. Ask yourself this question: if East competes to 5♠ over 5♥, would a pass by South be forcing? Furthermore, if South did make a forcing pass, what would North do with the hand he held? And if a pass would be forcing, should South pass or double?

Bd: 6		North	
Dir: East		♠ 932	
Vul: E/W		♥ KJ6	
		♦ AQJ102	
		♣ 54	
West		East	
♠ Q6		♠ AJ107	
♥ 1054		♥ A9873	
♦ K9754		♦ ---	
♣ J98		♣ Q762	
		South	
		♠ K854	
		♥ Q2	
		♦ 863	
		♣ AK103	
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	P Hackett	Gawrys	Armstrong
		1♥	Double
2♥	2NT	3♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
		1♥	Double
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

If Paul “Papa” Hackett’s 2NT had some conventional meaning, we are not privy to it, so his double-clutch 3NT looks like a classic undisciplined action. Nonetheless, as such gambits often do, this one worked very well, with Papa wrapping up nine easy tricks (he could have made more, but played safe for his contract); plus 400.

Bd: 7		North	
Dir: South		♠ Q864	
Vul: Both		♥ Q9	
		♦ AQ3	
		♣ KQ53	
West		East	
♠ 732		♠ A10	
♥ K654		♥ J83	
♦ 8752		♦ J1064	
♣ J7		♣ A1092	
		South	
		♠ KJ95	
		♥ A1072	
		♦ K9	
		♣ 864	
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	P Hackett	Gawrys	Armstrong
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

At the other table, **Sam Lev**, sadly deprived of the opportunity to bid his values more than once by his opponents’ reticence, languished in 2NT, where he took no less than twelve tricks on a line which will escape our scrutiny . . . just this once; plus 240. 4 IMPs more to GREAT BRITAIN, ahead now 14-1.

Which game would you prefer to play on Board 7? With spades breaking and the heart honors divided, 4♠ handles easily enough, as Lev soon discovered; plus 620. Three notrump, as Papa soon discovered, is in some jeopardy . On Gawrys’s low diamond lead, Papa won the king and led a low club, seven, king, ace. A second club now would have been best, but Gawrys continued diamonds, then played a third diamond when he won the ace of spades. Now Papa could run the queen of hearts, and later finesse against the jack to take three spades, three diamonds, a club, and two hearts for plus 600. 1 IMP to POLAND-USA, 2-14, but a missed opportunity for a big pickup.

Three flat boards followed in quick succession (the players were speeding in this set), but Board 11 initiated a series of swing deals . . .

Papa’s 1NT was never really in jeopardy, but he did very well to finish with nine tricks. He got a

Bd: 11	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 95		
Vul: None	♥ Q953		
	♦ QJ973		
	♣ K9		
West		East	
♠ K4		♠ AJ1076	
♥ 102		♥ J764	
♦ A8642		♦ K	
♣ J863		♣ Q42	
	South		
	♠ Q832		
	♥ AK8		
	♦ 105		
	♣ A1075		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	P Hackett	Gawrys	Armstrong
Pass	1NT	All Pass	1♠
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
All Pass			

low spade lead from Gawrys, and ducked to the king. Back came a low diamond to the king, and Gawrys continued with the ♠J. Papa put on the queen and chased the ♦A, taking one spade, three hearts, three diamonds, and two clubs for plus 150.

From here it looks as if Lev might have made his four-three 2♥ too, after a low club lead ran to his nine. He cashed the ♣K, crossed to the ♥A, cashed the ♣A for a spade discard, and played the fourth club, discarding his remaining spade when the jack came up on his right. He took the ensuing spade force with the ♥5 and led a diamond, but Justin won perforce and led a second trump, depriving Lev of the vital spade ruff he sought. Lev won the ♥K, crossed to the ♥Q, and conceded a trick to the ♦A. There was no eighth trick, however. Minus 50. 5 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, ahead now 19-1.

On Board 12, Jason's 14-16 HCP 1NT got him to game without incident, Justin deciding not to look for a four-four heart fit after his Puppet Stayman 2♣ failed to unearth a five-card major opposite. He got the lead of the queen of spades, won the ace, and called for a low heart. When the king appeared, he soon had nine winners; plus 400. A great result for the twins. At the other table, the Polish Club located the heart fit early and limited the East/West hands accurately, but when they quit at 2♥ and Armstrong got his side to 2♠, Gawrys refused to take the push to the three-level opposite marked four-card support and a maximum, and the British pair stole the auction. Perhaps Gawrys, who had shown at least 8 points with his 1♥ response, expected Lesniewski to bid again once he had redoubled. No big thing once the Poles were not going to reach game, but the potential psychological advantage in this type of successful thievery can be worth something over the course of a long match. 2♠ ran out of tricks and finished one down; minus. 7 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, extending their lead to 24 IMPs, 26-2.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ QJ92		
Vul: N/S	♥ 10972		
	♦ KJ8		
	♣ 85		
West		East	
♠ K103		♠ A7	
♥ AQ64		♥ J853	
♦ A42		♦ 965	
♣ J32		♣ KQ106	
	South		
	♠ 8654		
	♥ K		
	♦ Q1073		
	♣ A974		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	P Hackett	Gawrys	Armstrong
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Redouble	2♠	All Pass	
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
!NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Bd: 13		North	
Dir: North		♠ AQ96	
Vul: Both		♥ 5	
		♦ KJ8	
		♣ A9754	
West		East	
♠ K74		♠ J85	
♥ J108643		♥ A7	
♦ A6		♦ Q109532	
♣ Q10		♣ 32	
South			
♠ 1032			
♥ KQ92			
♦ 74			
♣ KJ86			
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	P Hackett	Gawrys	Armstrong
	1♣	1♦	3♣
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
	1♣	2♦	Double
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On Board 13, Justin's aggressive 2♦ and the ensuing rhythm of the auction drove Lev-Polowan to 3NT. Lev went down three when he won the third diamond, cashed three clubs and ran the ♠10. Minus 300 was a painful result on those cards. At the other table, Gawrys settled for 1♦ and Armstrong, playing four-card majors, opted for a limit raise in clubs. That pushed Lesniewski around a bit, but the Poles gave up when their opponents came to rest in 4♣. After ♥A and a diamond switch, the rest was smooth sailing for Papa, who claimed five when trumps behaved, plus 150. GREAT BRITAIN gained 10 IMPs to lead by 34, 36-2.

Bd: 14		North	
Dir: East		♠ K	
Vul: None		♥ AQJ6	
		♦ K10952	
		♣ AJ7	
West		East	
♠ AJ9843		♠ 1065	
♥ 8754		♥ 10932	
♦ 83		♦ AQ76	
♣ 2		♣ K9	
South			
♠ Q72			
♥ K			
♦ J4			
♣ Q1086543			
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	P Hackett	Gawrys	Armstrong
		Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
		Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Against Polowan's 5♣ Jason led the ♠A, a good shot. Justin followed with the ten, and Jason, seeing suit-preference implications in this card, duly switched to the heart that he thought the ten suggested, ending the defense with a thunk. Plus 400 for Polowan. Why did this happen? "Because," revealed Justin, "this is what we play: high encourages, low asks for the obvious switch. Since I thought hearts the "obvious switch" suit, I encouraged spades so Jason would NOT play a heart. Isn't this more complicated than it seems?"

Well, yes. I am quite sympathetic to the twins' fate on this one, but then, I have a date with the Marquis de Sade tonight at ten.

Lesniewski-Gawrys did better at the other table against Armstrong's 5♣. Lesniewski too led the ♠A, noted Gawrys's five, and switched to the diamond he thought that the five suggested, playing "the other" suit-preference-oriented style. A quick two down, minus 100, and 11 IMPs to POLAND-USA, who rather needed them, 13-36.

After sixteen deals, GREAT BRITAIN had outscored POLAND-USA 34-14 at the table, and led, with carryover, 36-14. A good start for the Brits.

## SECOND QUARTER (Boards 17-32):

Bd: 17		North	
Dir: North		♠ A	
Vul: None		♥ 4	
		♦ KJ952	
		♣ AKJ865	
West		East	
♠ J53		♠ KQ108	
♥ Q75		♥ AJ82	
♦ Q10743		♦ 8	
♣ Q2		♣ 10943	
		South	
		♠ 97642	
		♥ K10963	
		♦ A6	
		♣ 7	
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Gawrys	Justin	Lesniewski
	1♣(Polish)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣(F)	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lev	Paul H	Polowan	Armstrong
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Gawrys's 3NT might have made had Justin led something other than a spade, but the ♠Q set up three winners in that suit for the defense and put him under some pressure. He won, crossed to the ♦A, and led a club to the jack. He cashed two more clubs, then the ♦K (somewhat strangely), before exiting with a club. He took seven tricks for two down; minus 100.

Papa and Armstrong conducted a classic Acol auction in which no one felt any obligation to keep bidding once the music stopped. 3♦ looked promising on a spade lead. Papa won, played ♣A, club ruff, ♦A, spade ruff, king of trumps, and a high club. Lev ruffed in and cashed queen of trumps before reverting to spades, and Papa could come to only eight tricks; minus 50. 2 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, 38-14.

Good defense holds hearts to eight tricks on Board 19, and there was good defense at both tables, neither West losing his ♦A. That meant 2 IMPs to POLAND-USA, and IMPs were hard to come by for them. GREAT BRITAIN's lead was down to 22 IMPs, 38-16.

No one knew it but POLAND-USA was to score only one more IMP for the rest of the session, while their opponents . . . well, let's see about their opponents . . .

The twins reached 4♠ in the blink of an eye on Board 20 (see the diagram on the following page), and since there was no heart ruff and the trumps were two-two, that was an easy make; plus 620. It's easy to understand the initial actions of both Polowan (bid a good suit on a weak hand) and Lev (show support immediately with minimum values), but the combined effect of these two practical bidding decisions was to lose the spade suit and the sense of optimism that tends to accompany a nine-card fit. 3♥ made four; plus 170. 10 IMPs

Bd: 19		North	
Dir: South		♠ Q52	
Vul: E/W		♥ QJ85	
		♦ K106	
		♣ J95	
West		East	
♠ KJ106		♠ A94	
♥ 4		♥ 103	
♦ A9432		♦ QJ85	
♣ 864		♣ AQ32	
		South	
		♠ 873	
		♥ AK9762	
		♦ 7	
		♣ K107	
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Gawrys	Justin	Lesniewski
	2♥	Pass	1♥
Pass	Redouble	2NT*	Pass
Double			3♥
All Pass			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lev	Paul H	Polowan	Armstrong
	3♥	Pass	1♥
Pass			4♥
All Pass			

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ Q3		
Vul: Both	♥ A4		
	♦ AKQ842		
	♣ KJ3		
West		East	
♠ AK87		♠ 96542	
♥ J53		♥ KQ1098	
♦ 63		♦ 107	
♣ A865		♣ 2	
	South		
	♠ J10		
	♥ 762		
	♦ J95		
	♣ Q10974		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Gawrys	Justin	Lesniewski
1♠	Double	4♠	All Pass
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lev	Paul H	Polowan	Armstrong
1♣	Double	1♥	Pass
2♥	3♦	3♥	All Pass

to GREAT BRITAIN, owing as much to Jason's systemic 1♠ opening (and some good fortune) as to their counterparts' preferences. GREAT BRITAIN by 32 IMPs, 48-16.

It's true that the West hand is worth a lot more than its raw point count on Board 23, but it's a far cry from a maximum, and Lev was really stretching when he went on to 3NT. Nonetheless, game was certainly a fair bet on this combination, with an opening bid on his right. He won the spade lead in dummy and wisely called for a low heart, collecting the king. Now all he needed was the ♣A onside. He ran the ♦9 to the king and when Armstrong switched to a low club, he put on the king with some confidence. Two down; minus 200. Not too lucky for Lev.

In 2NT, Jason got a heart lead from Gawrys, low, king, ace. He cashed his eight winners and exited with a diamond, but found he could take no further trick; plus 120. 8 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, 56-17.

On Board 24 (see the diagram on the next page), North/South are on for 4♥ with very little between them (if West gets a spade ruff, the defense loses its diamond trick) and Papa-Armstrong did well to reach it, even if Papa's 4♥ was a bit of a shot. Lev-Polowan did rather nicely themselves in context by finding their club save at the eleventh hour. Minus 100.

Perhaps Lesniewski should have volunteered 3♥ over Justin's gentle 3♣ at the other table, but he was reluctant to cut across Gawrys's intentions if there was a club stack out against the twins. When the hearts died on the vine, it was difficult for the Poles to do anything other than sell out to 4♣, but minus 130 was a truly horrid result. 6 IMPs more to GREAT BRITAIN, ahead 62-17 now.

Bd: 23	North		
Dir: South	♠ 8		
Vul: Both	♥ 97542		
	♦ 1072		
	♣ AJ97		
West		East	
♠ KJ103		♠ AQ5	
♥ AQ108		♥ J63	
♦ Q96		♦ J854	
♣ K2		♣ 1063	
	South		
	♠ 97642		
	♥ K		
	♦ AK3		
	♣ Q854		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Gawrys	Justin	Lesniewski
1NT	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠(2)	Pass
2NT	All Pass		
(1) ♥ or BAL; (2) BAL INV			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lev	Paul H	Polowan	Armstrong
1NT	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Bd: 24	North		
Dir: West	♠ AK1075		
Vul: None	♥ 1096		
	♦ A3		
	♣ A74		
West		East	
♠ 4		♠ J962	
♥ 83		♥ AK	
♦ QJ1064		♦ K97	
♣ KJ532		♣ Q1096	
	South		
	♠ Q83		
	♥ QJ7542		
	♦ 852		
	♣ 8		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Gawrys	Justin	Lesniewski
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
2NT(1)	Double	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	4♣	All Pass
(1) Two-suiter			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lev	Paul H	Polowan	Armstrong
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(1)
Double	2♥(3+♥)	3♦	3♥
4♣	4♥	5♣	Double
All Pass			

With the ♦A onside, East can make 4♥ on Board 27 as long as he guesses trumps correctly. It's not a spectacular game, but one you don't mind reaching, even nonvulnerable. I can't help thinking that the Poles might have helped to nudge the twins into this game, but as ugly as that 1♠ overcall might be, I think it's probably the winning action in the long run. With that hand, you're competing for the partscore, not aiming to direct the lead. Justin made four; plus 420. While I can understand Lev's pass of 2♥, I could never bring myself to duplicate his choice at the table. In my opinion it's putting too much pressure on opener to jump with indifferent suits and a bit extra to pass with such good support. Plus 140 for Polowan, who seems to have adopted an unusual line of play after a diamond lead and continuation, trying to set up clubs by ruffing the third round with the king and leading a low trump to the nine and ten. 7 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, ahead now 70-17. Still time for POLAND-USA to turn the match around, but they were not in that sort of mode on the evidence to date.

Bd: 27	North		
Dir: South	♠ K103		
Vul: None	♥ 106		
	♦ AJ54		
	♣ 10973		
West		East	
♠ Q85		♠ A7	
♥ A9		♥ KJ87532	
♦ 963		♦ K8	
♣ K8642		♣ Q5	
	South		
	♠ J9642		
	♥ Q4		
	♦ Q1072		
	♣ AJ		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Gawrys	Justin	Lesniewski
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lev	Paul H	Polowan	Armstrong
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT(1)	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Take Board 28, for example (see the next page).

It's one thing to play aggressive bridge when you're behind, but quite another to swing from the trees like George of the Jungle. Perhaps I am being unfair to Michael Polowan, whose redouble of 4♥ might have meant something other than first control in his methods, but the combination of the redouble and 6♠ over five looks very deep to these weary eyes. Perhaps he had a heart in with his diamonds all the time.

Although the opening lead was a club and not a heart, the lie of the cards made it impossible for Lev to get home. He tried a second round of clubs immediately but Gawrys ruffed, cashed ace of trumps, and played another trump. Lev had to lose another trick in the wash for two down; minus 100. Certainly a just result.

At the other table, neither of the twins was willing to



Bd: 28	North		
Dlr: West	♠ A96		
Vul: N/S	♥ 108432		
	♦ KJ96		
	♣ 10		
West		East	
♠ J107543		♠ KQ2	
♥ KJ7		♥ 9	
♦ ---		♦ AQ87543	
♣ AKJ9		♣ Q4	
	South		
	♠ 8		
	♥ AQ65		
	♦ 102		
	♣ 876532		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Gawrys	Justin	Lesniewski
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠(FG)	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lev	Paul H	Polowan	Armstrong
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥(SPL)	Double
Pass	Pass	Redouble	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

say anything about his heart control, but both were willing to subside in game, the right thing to do on this combination. Jason took eleven tricks after a heart to the ace and a club switch. Plus 450 and 11 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, 81-17.

This one is not the same story at all. Here it was Papa Hackett who took a flyer, unwilling to trust Armstrong to appreciate a black king. As luck would have it, Lev led a diamond and not a club, so Armstrong could win, clear trumps, and claim a fortunate plus 980. Hey, Papa, didn't you know you were sitting on a big lead?

Bd: 30	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AQJ8		
Vul: None	♥ A		
	♦ AKQ43		
	♣ A83		
West		East	
♠ 63		♠ K104	
♥ 1098753		♥ QJ4	
♦ J109		♦ 52	
♣ 94		♣ KQ652	
	South		
	♠ 9752		
	♥ K62		
	♦ 876		
	♣ J107		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Gawrys	Justin	Lesniewski
		1♣	Pass
2♥(PRE)	Double	3♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lev	Paul H	Polowan	Armstrong
		Pass	Pass
2♦(Multi)	Double*	3♥(P/C)	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Gawrys, bidding infinitely more sensibly at the other table, gave up at 4♠, but Jason led a diamond too, so there were twelve tricks for Lesniewski; plus 480. 11 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, whose lead had mounted to 75 IMPs, 92-17. GREAT BRITAIN won 2 more IMPS on the last deal of the set, on which they had outscored their formidable opponents 58-3.

With 32 deals remaining in the 1998 NEC CUP final, it would take a leprechaun and a genie to take the title away from the Brits, who were leading 94-17.

### THIRD QUARTER (Boards 33-48):

Today's parody of longtime British captain Raymond Brock: "Lots of points on our side, lads, just go out there and play normal bridge, hold the line, and all that. Right?"

Sure.

Bd: 33	North		
Dir: North	♠ K1082		
Vul: None	♥ AJ		
	♦ KJ1092		
	♣ J2		
West		East	
♠ Q5		♠ AJ9763	
♥ Q107542		♥ 6	
♦ ---		♦ Q85	
♣ K8543		♣ Q76	
	South		
	♠ 4		
	♥ K983		
	♦ A7643		
	♣ A109		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♠	Pass	3♣	All Pass
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
	1♦	1♠	Double*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Double	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

If you must open 1♠ with the North hand, go ahead and do so, but how can you rationalize a nonforcing 1NT response and no further action with the South cards? The defense to 3♣ was based on ruffs rather than trump plays, but my spies tell me that two down was fairly normal. Minus 100 for Gawrys. Were those red faces on the fronts of the heads of Papa and Armstrong?

Meanwhile, in the other chamber, Lev got a low spade lead to the queen and king, and, given no hint by Jason's (mostly) silence, proceeded to misguess diamonds, as who would not. He conceded a diamond, won the ace on the club return, closed his eyes, and finessed the jack of hearts; plus 400 and 7 IMPs to the dogs, 24-94.

"So, sit tight, boys, right?"

Sure.

Justin opened a frivolous one-bid on the next deal (see Board 34 below). Were these boys trying to blow someone out of the rink, caring little whether it was we or they?

That didn't get them to 5♦, and Polowan's ugly but necessary overcall coupled with Lev's unbelievably heavy raise worked out well enough; plus 650.

Meanwhile, back at the OK Corral, Gawrys had a toy for the East hand and used it. Had Lesniewski bounced to the five-level, even the intrepid Papa Bear might have been silenced, but he chose a quite correctible 4♣ and the Light Brigade entered, laughing. It all ended at the six-level, which was a tad higher than the Poles would have liked. Down 800. 4 IMPs back to the leaders, 98-24.

Steady as she goes, now. Give them nothing, right?"

Enough of this Horatio Nelson stuff, already.

With diamonds four-three and trumps three-one, there wasn't much to the play at 4♠. Justin's double handed 5 IMPs to POLAND-USA, 29-98.

Bd: 34	North		
Dir: East	♠ Q97		
Vul: N/S	♥ AKJ84		
	♦ 4		
	♣ K964		
West		East	
♠ 86432		♠ J5	
♥ 10		♥ Q2	
♦ AJ6		♦ KQ109852	
♣ Q1073		♣ J5	
	South		
	♠ AK10		
	♥ 97653		
	♦ 73		
	♣ A82		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
		3NT(4m)	Pass
4♣	4♥	Pass	5♣
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♥
6♣	Double	6♦	Double
All Pass			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
		1♦	1♥
1♠	4♥	All Pass	

Bd: 35	North		
Dlr: South	♠ QJ9862		
Vul: E/W	♥ A10		
	♦ 874		
	♣ A5		
West		East	
♠ 1053		♠ A	
♥ Q7653		♥ KJ842	
♦ 1093		♦ AK52	
♣ 64		♣ QJ7	
	South		
	♠ K74		
	♥ 9		
	♦ QJ6		
	♣ K109832		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
Pass	1♠	Double	2♣
Pass	2♠	Double	4♠
All Pass			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♥
Double	4♠	Double	All Pass

3♠ would appear to be the limit for North/South on Board 37, but both declarers took ten tricks in somewhat similar fashion. This was much more important for Polowan than for Armstrong, of course.

Lesniewski led a low heart to the queen and king, and it was not easy for Gawrys to switch to clubs (you might argue that since Gawrys had bid them, Lesniewski might have led them, but a Polish Club is not a strong statement about anything), and Gawrys's double of 3♥ was more relevant here. Gawrys switched to the crafty ♠2, and Armstrong craftily played low, so he had time to ditch a club on a diamond for plus 170.

"Well done, men, that's the spirit, more of the same" beseeched the ghost of Raymond Brock.

But, no, three plus one was not enough. Jason did lead a club, ducked to the king, no jack from Polowan. It was not easy now for Justin to switch to a heart, with the queen in dummy, so he tried the ♦2, seven, nine, ace. Well concealed by Polowan, who led the ♠4 from dummy . . . low, jack. Now ace of trumps, king-queen of diamonds, jack of clubs . . . low. Oops. Stuck in hand. Two hearts to lose. Pity.

Minus 100. 7 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, 105-29.

Did anyone know what he was doing here (see Board 40 on the following page)? South has a sensational hand, but it must be possible to stay out of slam when there is no play (doubleton club). Armstrong's Blackwood didn't serve to convince him that Papa could take care of the second round of clubs, so it looks like the wrong bid. Polowan's Blackwood 4NT opposite a different type of 2♥ bid might have done the job on its own had Lev guessed the key card response correctly, but as it was, they too were going to miss slam . . . until Lev realized that he had a big card that he inadvertently had not shown. He raised himself to six, and that was that. POLAND-USA won the board 980 to 480, scooped up 11 IMPs, and closed to within 65 IMPs, 41-106.

"Oy, vay, " gasped the ghost of Raymond Brock.

Bd: 37	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 9764		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q10		
	♦ A843		
	♣ A102		
West		East	
♠ 5		♠ KQ2	
♥ A9654		♥ KJ7	
♦ 1096		♦ J52	
♣ Q875		♣ K963	
	South		
	♠ AJ1083		
	♥ 832		
	♦ KQ7		
	♣ J4		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
2♥	Pass	1♣(Polish)	1♠
All Pass	3♥	Double	3♠
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
2♣	Pass	1♣	1♠
	4♠	All Pass	

Bd: 40	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J2		
Vul: None	♥ KJ1098		
	♦ QJ943		
	♣ 9		
West		East	
♠ 6		♠ Q1087543	
♥ 542		♥ ---	
♦ 865		♦ 102	
♣ Q108752		♣ AK63	
	South		
	♠ AK9		
	♥ AQ763		
	♦ AK7		
	♣ J4		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
Pass	2♥	4♠	4NT(RKCB)
Pass	5♦(1/4)	Pass	5♥
All Pass			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
Pass	2♥(♥+x)	2♠	4NT(RKCB)
Pass	5♦(0/3)	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥(oops)	All Pass	

On Board 45, there were some strange doings indeed. In the Closed Room, unless we're missing something, Jason opened 1♥ in fourth seat on a hand that fits squarely into his 14-16 1NT range. When Justin responded 1♠, Jason was trapped and had no rebid. He tried 1NT, about an ace heavy, and that was that. Since there is no eight-card major fit and not enough strength or club stoppers for 3NT, it would seem that this was a lucky chip shot from the rough for the bemused Jason, who managed seven tricks and plus 90 after ♣K, spade switch.

We'd like to tell you about the Poles' lovely sequence to the obscure 4♥, but of course we can't (no documentation, you see). As it happens, this was a contract that could have been made, but Lesniewski misguessed the trumps and finished two down, so there is only a small story, after all. 7 IMPs to GREAT BRITAIN, 113-42.

Two rather different auctions on Board 46 (see the diagram on the following page), with Gawrys stealing the pot with his strong notrump. He got a club lead (a spade might have given it to him) and later guessed diamonds but lost the spade finesse, so he was one down, minus 50.

At the other table, it was all about spades versus hearts, and inevitably, the spades won. Polowan had no trouble making 4♠ for plus 420 and POLAND-USA recouped 9 IMPs, 51-113.

Board 47 was an amazing deal, for everyone except the twins, I guess. Lesniewski hit a home run when he started with the strong version of his Polish 1♣ rather than 1♦ (from which he had no way to extricate himself in this partnership). He forced to game with an artificial 2♦ over Gawrys's 2♥, then raised hearts. Note that diamonds had not yet been mentioned in a natural sense. When Gawrys splintered in spades, Lesniewski saw the magic situation developing. He could count thirteen tricks in diamonds but not in hearts as long as Gawrys produced three small diamonds and nothing bad happened, so there he was, plus 1440. Lovely,

Bd: 45	North		
Dlr: North	♠ J109		
Vul: Both	♥ A32		
	♦ 74		
	♣ KQ1062		
West		East	
♠ KQ8		♠ A763	
♥ KQ95		♥ 1064	
♦ KJ8		♦ A653	
♣ J84		♣ 75	
	South		
	♠ 542		
	♥ J87		
	♦ Q1092		
	♣ A93		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣(INQ)	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Bd: 46	North		
Dir: East	♠ J642		
Vul: None	♥ J		
	♦ A5		
	♣ AQ9865		
West		East	
♠ 105		♠ AQ	
♥ A972		♥ KQ1065	
♦ K832		♦ 9764	
♣ J104		♣ K3	
	South		
	♠ K9873		
	♥ 843		
	♦ QJ10		
	♣ 72		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Double	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
		1♥	Pass
2♥	Double	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

really. Poor Jason. He invented a 1♠ rebid, then invented a 2♣ rebid, thinking this was fourth suit forcing. Alas, Justin read this as natural and weak and passed it. Tomorrow, perhaps, in an undiscussed situation of this ilk, he will raise clubs and ask questions later. Two clubs produced an overtrick, plus 110. But that was 16 IMPs to POLAND-USA, who moved closer at 67-113.

The last deal of the set gave POLAND-USA an overtrick. They won the third quarter 51-19 and with sixteen deals remaining, had cut their deficit to 45 IMPs, 68-113.

#### FOURTH QUARTER (Boards 49-64):

Both East/West pairs got into the bidding and found their spade fit, but only Gawrys-Lesniewski reached game, where Gawrys made ten easy tricks on the lead of the ♥K, plus 420. The twins sold out to 4♣ at the other table, didn't double it, and set it two; plus 200. 6 IMPs to POLAND-USA, 74-113. A good start. The British lead was under 40 IMPs now.

On Board 51, Gawrys held: (E) ♠AK62 ♥92 ♦K742 ♣AQ5. Over Lesniewski's strong notrump, he launched an inquiry and discovered that his partner was two-four-three four. Far behind in the match, he took a shot at 6♣ on the four-three fit and found a hand that gave him a play. The key was partner's ♣K1087, but the jack had three little friends and there was an ace to lose, so POLAND-USA turned over 13 IMPs where they might have gained a like number. GREAT BRITAIN, 126-74 now.

Board 52. Science at its best. When Jason heard of Justin's spade support he launched into the bridge players' favorite convention: Roman Keycard Blackwood. He found out that his partner had all three of the important missing cards on the hand (♠Q, ♥A, ♣K) and bid the grand. Polowan employed the time-honored ploy of doubling to protect his partner's trump holding. From Jason's point of

Bd: 50	North		
Dir: East	♠ 10		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q7		
	♦ KJ74		
	♣ 1096543		
West		East	
♠ AQ765		♠ K432	
♥ 1098643		♥ ---	
♦ A		♦ 108632	
♣ Q		♣ KJ87	
	South		
	♠ J98		
	♥ AKJ52		
	♦ Q95		
	♣ A2		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
		Pass	1NT
Double(1)	Pass	2♠(P/C)	Pass
3♠	4♣	All Pass	
(1) Majors or minors			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
		Pass	1NT
Double(1)	2♣	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass
(1) ♥+♠, or ♣ or ♦			

view the double might have been one of the “seven early warning signs” of an impending ruff on opening lead, but Jason decided to tough it out. After all, real men don’t run — especially not British men. When Lev placed a trump on the table, Jason must have breathed a sigh of relief. The threat of a ruff had been averted. But when Polowan showed out of trumps a new problem arose. Jason solved it in fine form by carefully cashing his side-suit winners (♥K, a club to dummy’s king, ♥A pitching a diamond) before playing the ♣10 to his ace and continuing with the ♣Q. Lev saw that he could ruff or not, but would not take a trump trick. Without further ado he capitulated and 2470 was entered on the plus side of the twins’ scorecard.

Bd: 52	North		
Dir: West	♠ 76543		
Vul: Both	♥ 98		
	♦ J1094		
	♣ 96		
West		East	
♠ AKJ9		♠ Q1082	
♥ K		♥ AJ63	
♦ A3		♦ 762	
♣ AQ8742		♣ K10	
	South		
	♠ ---		
	♥ Q107542		
	♦ KQ85		
	♣ J53		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jason	Lev	Justin	Polowan
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦(1)	Double
5♥(2)	Pass	6♣(3)	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			
(1) 1-4 KC; (2) ♠Q ASK; (3) ♠Q+♣K			
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lesniewski	Paul H	Gawrys	Armstrong
1♣(1)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣(2)	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
(1) Polish club (usually a weak notrump)			
(2) 15+ HCP with clubs			

At the other table the Polish clubbers had a bit more trouble with the hand than the Acolites. Gawrys’s limited 2NT theoretically denied a four-card major, so 3♥ was values and 5♣ an attempt to show where his values were located. I am amazed that Armstrong did not invest a few IMPs to make a Lightner double, but perhaps he feared that this would not get him the spade lead that was not unnatural on the auction. Just as well, since Lesniewski would have redoubled 6♣ and saved some of the 14 IMPs they turned over by missing 7♠. Papa led a diamond, so Lesniewski soon claimed all thirteen tricks. This was a real blow at a bad time for POLAND-USA, with GREAT BRITAIN leading now 140-74.

Although the cards were quite lively and there were five significant swings left in the cards, POLAND-USA was simply too far behind. They won the final set 42-39, but GREAT BRITAIN won the 1998 NEC CUP in fine style, by 42 IMPs, 152-110. Well done, lads. You too, Brigitte.

The ghost of Raymond Brock can sleep easier now.

PS: Friends of Raymond and Sally Brock should not worry unduly; Raymond is still alive and kicking.

## THE NEC CUP PLAYOFF: THE RACE FOR 3rd

After a close loss to GREAT BRITAIN in the semi-finals, ICELAND may not have been in a good frame of mind to begin the playoff for 3rd place. HISATOMI, on the other hand, had never really been close to POLAND-USA, so they figured to be much more relaxed going into today's playoff. And of course HISATOMI had a 2.6 IMP carryover working in their favor. So much for the psychology. Now, for the bridge. . .

### FIRST HALF (Boards 1-16):

HISATOMI won an extra overtrick in 3NT on the first board of the playoff, sprinting out to a 1-0 lead over ICELAND before the coffee in the players' cups could stop steaming. The next two boards produced identical results, so it was up to Board 4 to produce the first really important swing in the match.

Bd: 4		North	
Dir: West		♠ K62	
Vul: Both		♥ 94	
		♦ KQ64	
		♣ AJ54	
West		East	
♠ AJ753		♠ 1084	
♥ 87532		♥ KJ106	
♦ A3		♦ J105	
♣ 7		♣ 982	
		South	
		♠ Q9	
		♥ AQ	
		♦ 9872	
		♣ KQ1063	
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Karl S	Hirata	Bjorn E	Shimizu
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Imakura	Jonsson	Ino	Saevar T

Unfortunately the auctions were unavailable from the playoff, so we'll have to rely on our infallible insight and world-renown clairvoyance as to what happened at the tables.

In the Open Room **Sigurhjartarson**, playing in 3♥, would have been unable to reach dummy to hold his spade losers to only one. With a loser in each minor and two more in trumps, six losers were inevitable for down two, minus 200.

In the Closed Room **Jonsson** found 3NT. On the ♥10 lead **Imakura** would have had to guess what to play when he got in with the ♦A. The lead could have been from an original holding of either ♥109x(x) or ♥KJ10(x). In the former case

a spade shift might beat the contract, while in the latter case a heart continuation would hold Jonsson to the minimum number of overtricks. Apparently Imakura guessed wrong. On a spade shift Jonsson had eleven tricks (five clubs, three diamonds, two hearts and a spade) for plus 660. That was 10 IMPs to ICELAND, to take the lead 10-1.

Board 5 provided the next swing result. Both Wests were doubled in a high-level spade contract, Sigurhjartarson in 5♠ and Imakura in 4♠. With three inescapable losers, Imakura scored up plus 590 while Sigurhjartarson was minus 100. That was 12 IMPs to HISATOMI, to retake the lead 13-10.

On Board 6, in the Open Room, **Hirata** bid to a "safe" 3♦ contract and made exactly three, for plus 110, when the trumps broke five-zero — leaving him with a

Bd: 6		North	
Dir: East		♠ 932	
Vul: E/W		♥ KJ6	
		♦ AQJ102	
		♣ 54	
West		East	
♠ Q6		♠ AJ107	
♥ 1054		♥ A9873	
♦ K9754		♦ ---	
♣ J98		♣ Q762	
		South	
		♠ K854	
		♥ Q2	
		♦ 863	
		♣ AK103	
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Karl S	Hirata	Bjorn E	Shimizu
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Imakura	Jonsson	Ino	Saevar T

trump loser. In the Closed Room Jonsson plowed into 3NT and found that he had nine winners before the defense could find five. Plus 400 was worth 7 IMPs to ICELAND, who regained the lead 17-13.

Boards 7 and 8 were exact pushes, while on Board 9 Jonsson-**Thorbjornsson** overbid to 3NT and went down one, for minus 50, while Hirata-**Shimizu** played in a more circumspect 1NT, scoring plus 90. The 4 IMPs for HISATOMI threw the match into a dead tie, 17-17.

An overtrick on Board 10 gave the Icemen the lead again, 18-17.

Board 11 once again proved the old adage that both sides should not play in the same strain. In the Open Room **Eysteinnsson** found himself in the relatively normal contract of 2♠. When the

defense found their club ruff with the short trump hand and Bjorn could not get rid of the rest of his losers without establishing an extra trump trick for the defense, he ended up down two for minus 100.

Bd: 11	North			
Dlr: South	♠ 95			
Vul: None	♥ Q953			
	♦ QJ973			
	♣ K9			
West		East		
♠ K4		♠ AJ1076		
♥ 102		♥ J764		
♦ A8642		♦ K		
♣ J863		♣ Q42		
	South			
	♠ Q832			
	♥ AK8			
	♦ 105			
	♣ A1075			
	OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
Karl S	Hirata	Bjorn E	Shimizu	
	CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
Imakura	Jonsson	Ino	Saevar T	

In the Closed Room his teammate Jonsson tried to do him one better by declaring 3♠ from the North seat in his four-two fit. The good news was that he did end up scoring two more tricks than his countryman. The bad news was that he was playing a level higher, and had to go down one. Minus 50 was 4 IMPs to HISATOMI, to regain the lead, 21-18.

On Board 12 Sigurhjartarson-Eysteinnsson took their turn overbidding, this time reaching 4♥. With four losers and a relatively easy defense to collect them, they ended up down one for minus 50. At the other table Imakura-**Ino** played in a sedate 2♥ and managed to score ten tricks. Plus 170 was worth 6 IMPs to HISATOMI, to widen their lead to 27-18.

HISATOMI picked up an overtrick IMP on Board 13 to widen their lead to 28-18.

On Board 14 it was Thorbjornsson-Jonsson's turn again to overbid. They reached 5♣ with four ready losers on either of two promising opening leads. Imakura found one of them and 5♣ finished down two, minus 100. At the other table the defense was not quite as accurate. Shimizu scored ten tricks, but since the contract was only 4♣, that was plus 130 and 6 more IMPs to HISATOMI.

With the last two boards of the first half pushes, HISATOMI took their twenty-minute break with a healthy 16-IMP lead at 34-18.



## SECOND HALF (Boards 17-32):

To start the second half, both **Hisatomi-Teramoto** and Sigurhjartarson-Eysteinnsson reached an unmakeable game on Board 17 with only 23 combined HCP and a misfit (eleven minor-suit cards opposite ten major-suit cards). Even though all three key adversely held honors were favorably placed, when the realities of the deal were settled, HISATOMI was down three in 5♦ (minus 150) while ICELAND was down only one in 3NT (minus 50). That was 3 IMPs for ICELAND, the lesser offender, to reduce their deficit to 34-21.

It was Thorbjornsson-Jonsson's turn to overbid on Board 18; this time to 3NT. The result was down one, minus 50. At the other table Hirata-Shimizu settled in a comfortable 3♦ contract which made painlessly. Plus 110 was worth 4 IMPs to HISATOMI, who widened their lead to 38-21.

On Board 19 Hisatomi-Teramoto climbed all the way to 4♥. With five top losers in addition to carrying charges, they were fortunate to go down only two, minus 100, and were even more fortunate not to have been doubled. At the other table their teammates bid to a reasonable 4♦, but with two kings lying badly and a two-way guess for a queen they ended up down one, for minus 100. That was 5 IMPs to ICELAND, who pulled to within a dozen at 38-26.

As the pendulum swung back toward the HISATOMI team, it was their turn to pick up a partscore swing. On Board 20 Hisatomi-Teramoto bid to a fine 3♣ contract and scored it up for plus 110. At the other table Hirata-Shimizu competed to 3♠, which made with an overtrick when trumps split two-two. Plus 170 was worth 7 IMPs to HISITOMI, to lead 45-26.

Boards 21 and 22 were exact ties, and the score still stood at 45-26 when HISATOMI broke the match wide open with a two-board run.

Bd: 23	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 8		
Vul: Both	♥ 97542		
	♦ 1072		
	♣ AJ97		
West		East	
♠ KJ103		♠ AQ5	
♥ AQ108		♥ J63	
♦ Q96		♦ J854	
♣ K2		♣ 1063	
	South		
	♠ 97642		
	♥ K		
	♦ AK3		
	♣ Q854		
OPEN ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Saevar T	Hisatomi	Jonsson	Teramoto
CLOSED ROOM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hirata	Bjorn E Shimizu	Karl S	

On Board 23 Hirata-Shimizu bid an impossible 3NT on the layout at the left. When Eysteinnsson led his singleton spade, Hirata still had only eight tricks (with careful play in hearts). But somehow he managed to bring home nine tricks and a vulnerable game swing as the Icemen stopped in 2NT at the other table and took eight tricks on the same lead. That was 10 IMPs to HISATOMI, to increase their lead to 55-26.

Then, on Board 24, it was Hisatomi-Teramoto's turn to bid to a dangerous game (4♥) which just happened to be cold on the lie of the cards. At the other table Sigurhjartarson-Eysteinnsson stopped in a 3♠ partial, which made only three when trumps broke four-one. Plus 420 and minus 140 added still another 7 IMPs to HISATOMI's lead, to put them comfortably ahead at 62-26.

Board 25 was a push, while ICELAND gained 2 IMPs on overtricks on Board 26.

With the score at 62-28, ICELAND made a final run at HISITOMI with a game swing on Board 27. The key to the hand was a "guess" in the trump suit holding ace-and-one opposite king-jack seventh. Jonsson got it right when he banged ace-king, while Shimizu failed by a trick when he lost a trump. The resulting 10-IMP gain reduced HISATOMI's lead to 62-38, barely within reach if ICELAND could sustain a flurry over the final five boards.

Unfortunately that was not to be. Although ICELAND did manage to pick up 6 more IMPs along the way, when all the scores were in (including HISATOMI's carryover), the final score stood at 64.6-44. HISATOMI had prevailed over a game, aggressive, ICELAND squad.

## HAMMAMET: APPEAL CASE FIVE

Venice Cup, Round 11: Canada vs Tunisia

**Appeal Committee:** Joan Gerard (USA), Ernesto d'Orsi (BRA), Steen Moller (DEN), Dan Morse (USA), Barbara Nudelman (USA).

Bd: 13	Cimon	
Dlr: North	♠ A54	
Vul: Both	♥ Q6	
	♦ A102	
	♣ Q10852	
Klibi		Jellouli
♠ J106		♠ KQ973
♥ 10873		♥ KJ954
♦ 873		♦ Q5
♣ J74		♣ 9
	Paul	
	♠ 82	
	♥ A2	
	♦ KJ964	
	♣ AK63	

West	North	East	South
	1♣	2♦	2♠
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	DBL	6NT
Pass	Pass	DBL	7♣
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass

**Facts:** The TD was called after the double of 6♠. By then North had learned that the 2♦ bid had shown the majors. North claimed that 2♦ had not been Alerted and that her subsequent bidding was predicated on 2♦ being natural. The TD's examination of the bidding suggested that South had been given the correct explanation of the 2♦ bid

but that North had been acting under the belief that it was natural.

**TD's Ruling:** The TD's determined that North was emphatic that no Alert of 2♦ had occurred, while East asserted that she Alerted the bid and that North had nodded in acknowledgment. The TD concluded that East had not ensured that the Alert was seen by North, as was required by the Regulations. The TD then decided that he could not determine a bridge result on the deal and thus awarded an artificial adjusted score of +3 IMPs to N/S.

**Appeal:** E/W appealed the ruling. East and North repeated their statements as to the Alert of 2♦. When East demonstrated for the Committee how she had made the Alert it was determined that this had not been done in the manner prescribed by Regulation. The Tunisian (E/W) Captain asked the Committee to note that the general procedures followed at the table during the match had not, in his view, been in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, especially in the matter of Alerting.

**Committee's Decision:** The Committee accepted the presentations by both sides as being accurate as to their experience at the table, but decided that there had been a failure to Alert the 2♦ bid as prescribed by the Regulations. The Committee informed the players' of the fact that, if an Alert is not made correctly, when something subsequently goes wrong the player making the Alert bears the responsibility. This is true even though, as the E/W team asserted here, there has been a general inattention to correct procedure to that point in the match. The Committee awarded an Average Plus (+3 IMPs) on the board to N/S, as had the TD, and recommended that attention be drawn to the correct procedure for Alerting through publishing a description of that procedure in the Daily Bulletins.

**Analysis:** The Committee's decision is correct and self-explanatory. It carries a valuable lesson which, had it been heeded, could have avoided two of the problems which caused appeals in Hammamet.

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## TODAY'S & TOMORROW'S SCHEDULES

Play in the FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP will be held Saturday and Sunday on the fifth floor of the Pacifico, Rooms 501 and 502. Each day there will be two three-hour sessions, with a one-hour break in between. Between sixty and seventy percent of Saturday's field will qualify for Sunday's final.

### Times

10:00-13:00	1st Qualifying
13:00-14:00	BREAK
14:00-17:00	2nd Qualifying

## 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>



Hirata, Imakura, Shimizu and Teramoto — "Now whose fault is this?"



Hisatomi, Hirata, Imakura, Shimizu and Teramoto — "Where's Ino?"