

USA VICTORS IN OUCHI CUP – FLIGHT A ENGLAND TAKES FLIGHT B; JAPAN-ARAI FLIGHT C

USA are the winners of the 1999 Ouchi Cup, Flight A. All are first-time winners except for Kokish-san, who is planning to build a separate new trophy case just to display his Japanese hardware. The top three teams from each flight are listed in the winners' box below. Congratulations to all the players.



Flight A 2/3 – OHNO
Takahashi, A Yamada, Ohno, K.
Yamada, Hirata (not shown)



Flight A winners – USA
Colker, Itabashi, Kokish (hiding),
Cappelletti, Lipscomb, Masamura



Flight A 2/3 – HISATOMI
Ino, Chen, Teramoto, Hisatomi

OUCHI CUP Results

Flight A

- 1 Mark ITABASHI, Yuichi MASAMURA, Shannon LIPSCOMB, Michael CAPPELLETTI, Jr, Eric KOKISH, Richard COLKER
- 2= Kyouko OHNO, Akihiko YAMADA, Kazuhiko YAMADA, Katsumi TAKAHASHI, Makoto HIRATA
- 2= Hiroshi HISATOMI, Tadashi TERAMOTO, Masayuki INO, CHEN Dawai

Flight B

- 1 Brigitte MAVROMICHALIS, John ARMSTRONG, Paul HACKETT, Jason HACKETT, Justin HACKETT
- 2 Kikuo TATAI, Teruyoshi HARA, Tosirou NOSE, Hideki TAKANO
- 3 Kimiaki HUKUDA, Yoshitaka AGATA, Mitsuo ARAI, Shigeyuki MURANO

Flight C

- 1 Ikuko ARAI, Teruyo TURUNO, Kiwako IIDA, Taiko BANDO
- 2 Seizo HIRAO, Seiichi KAZAMA, Takanao YOKOYAMA, Ryouji MASUMI
- 3 Mayumi KATAGIRI, Youko TAKAHASHI, Masaaki MATSUSHIMA, Toru SHIMOICHI

MIKEY TO THE RESCUE

USA had started badly, losing its first two matches, but a sound win in the penultimate match had helped them climb to third going into the last round. This deal was the key to the American win in Round Seven:

Bd: 22	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 5		
Vul: E/W	♥ K9743		
	♦ 10987		
	♣ K82		
West		East	
♠ Q9742		♠ A63	
♥ 2		♥ AQ108	
♦ AJ		♦ KQ654	
♣ AJ1094		♣ 5	
	South		
	♠ KJ108		
	♥ J65		
	♦ 32		
	♣ Q763		

East/West reached 4♠ at both tables. Where Yuichi Masamura declared for USA, the opening lead was the ♦10. He won the ace, played trump to the ace, trump. South played the ten and Yuichi won the queen, cashed the ♦J, played ♣A, club ruff, and a high diamond. South ruffed in as Yuichi shed a club, and cashed his high trump before leading a club. North won the king but could not reach his partner's club winner, and dummy had plenty of red winners remaining; plus 620.

At the other table, Mike Cappelletti, Jr found the excellent lead of a low heart, removing the late entry to dummy's diamonds. Declarer had no real reason to finesse, so he won the ace and called for a low trump, ducked by Shannon Lipscomb, South. The queen won and declarer unblocked the high diamonds before

crossing to the ♠A. ♣A, club ruff, and a high diamond wouldn't make the hand with the ♥A no longer in dummy, so declarer tried a different plan; he led a club to the jack and king, and suddenly, Cappelletti was faced with a crucial decision. A club exit would give declarer a free finesse and allow him to ruff a club to establish the suit. The ♥K, at first glance less costly, was in truth just as bad. Declarer would ruff, trump a club, cash the ♥Q, and lead a red winner, South getting only her two high trumps.

Fortunately for the stripes and stars, Mikey saw that. He exited with a diamond. Shannon ruffed that, allowing declarer a club discard, but now she could cash her high trump and exit with a heart, and declarer had to lose a second club trick to the queen to go one down.



"Many of you may not know that I discovered Kokish-san in a basket among the bullrushes."



Masakatsu Miwa, on behalf of NEC, greeted everyone warmly at yesterday's opening reception.



Kensuke Yanagiya, JCBL president and eloquent master of the short speech.

THE SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Jxx		
Vul: E/W	♥ KQxxx		
	♦ 10x		
	♣ 9xx		
West		East	
♠ Kxxx		♠ x	
♥ A9xx		♥ J10	
♦ x		♦ AKQJxxxx	
♣ Kxxx		♣ Ax	
	South		
	♠ AQ98x		
	♥ xx		
	♦ xx		
	♣ QJ10x		

	Table One		
	North	East	South
West	Armstrong		Justin
Pass	2♠	3♠	1♠
Dble	Pass	4NT	4♠
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Dble	5NT	Pass
			All Pass

	Table Two		
	North	East	South
West		Paul	
Brigitte			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣(i)	1♠
Dble	2♠	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass
(i) Strong club			

Question: How do you get your opponents to stop in 5NT when your teammates are bidding and making slam? Answer: You create a giant bidding problem for them. So says Justin Hackett, partner in crime of John Armstrong, in our featured hand from yesterday's Group B Ouchi Cup final.

At Table One Justin was just a tad heavy for his usual 8 HCP opening, but that didn't stop him. "One spade." When John raised him to 2♠ East suspected someone was lying, but there were still a lot of HCPs floating around out there. Better to see if partner can provide the needed spade stopper for 3NT – 3♠!

Justin's 4♠ bid qualifies for the picture above the caption "pushy" in anyone's glossary of bridge terms, but East couldn't stand the heat and tried 4NT. We can only surmise what that meant to West, who appears to have taken a minor-suit preference for clubs, playing East for some sort of two-suiter. When East converted to 5♦ West took the obvious heart preference. North's double was now superfluous as East was never playing there, but what was 5NT?

Whatever it was, West was having none of it and made as graceful an exit as we ever hope to see. With a heart lead East had eleven top tricks and took them for plus 660.

At Table Two Brigitte and "Papa Bear" Hackett bid their way to 6♦ with hearts having been cue-bid by Brigitte and no double from North to help South in the opening lead department. When the smoke had cleared Papa claimed twelve tricks for plus 1370 and 12 IMPs on way to the Group B

TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S SCHEDULES

Play will be held today and tomorrow on the fourth floor Pacifico, Rooms 415 (Open) and 416 (Closed). Two-hours and fifty-minutes are allotted for each 20-board match, with a one-hour-and-ten-minute lunch break. The Secretariat is in Room 417.

Times

10:00	MATCH ONE/FOUR
12:50	LUNCH BREAK
14:00	MATCH TWO/FIVE
17:10	MATCH THREE/SIX

NOMINATIONS FOR THE DECLARER HALL OF FAME – AND SHAME

by Bob Geller

Here are two hands from sessions one and four of the Ouchi Cup. My partner was Setsuko Oyihara. In hand one Setsuko made a “Declarer Hall of Fame”-worthy play to land her 3NT contract.

Bd: 24	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 54		
Vul: None	♥ QJ10632		
	♦ 2		
	♣ 10984		
West		East	
♠ AKQ3		♠ J1062	
♥ K87		♥ A94	
♦ Q94		♦ AJ7	
♣ 532		♣ QJ7	
	South		
	♠ 987		
	♥ 5		
	♦ K108653		
	♣ AK6		
West	North	East	South
Geller		Ogihara	
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass	3NT	AllPass

Against 3NT South led the ♦6. (If they’re good enough to bid, they’re good enough to lead.) Setsuko won dummy’s nine and four rounds of spades ending in dummy, North pitching high-low in hearts and South a diamond. A club was then led to the nine, queen, and ace, and South exited a heart. Setsuko won the king in dummy and played a heart to her ace as South pitched another diamond. Reading the position correctly Setsuko played ace and a diamond to South, who could then cash her last diamond and the ♣K but had to give Setsuko her ninth and game-going trick in clubs. Had South bared her ♣K Setsuko would have exited a low club, setting up her jack and endplaying South for an extra diamond trick.

At the other table East/West reached 4♠ and lost seven tricks for minus 200. Nicely played, Setsuko!

This next hand illustrates my own skills at declarer play. If you are impressed, as I think you will be, I have a few dates open for future JCBL games.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ QJ		
Vul: Both	♥ AQ10963		
	♦ KQ6		
	♣ A3		
West		East	
♠ 10987		♠ K53	
♥ 74		♥ K52	
♦ 10752		♦ A4	
♣ KJ8		♣ Q10974	
	South		
	♠ A642		
	♥ J8		
	♦ J983		
	♣ 652		
West	North	East	South
	Geller		Ogihara
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

My 4♥ bid can be explained by the fact that this was the third session of the final day of the Ouchi Cup. If I was to take my place next to Setsuko in the Declarer’s Hall of Fame, time was definitely running out.

East led the ♣9 (Russinow). I cleverly ducked West’s king to avoid a later spade lead from East, won the ♣J continuation, and played ♥AQ. East won the king and I tried the ♣Q, which I ruffed. On the third round of trumps West signaled with the ♠10. East took my ♦K with the ace and produced a small spade, but I was ready for that. I rose with the ace, played a diamond to my queen, and prepared a pointed-suit squeeze against West. I ran my remaining trumps, coming down to the ♦J9 in dummy and the ♦6 and ♠Q in my hand. Alas, when I finally played a diamond to dummy’s jack West still held the guarded ♦10, which he won at trick 13. Minus 100, lose 12. Ouchi!

Hmm. I may have to wait till the new “Hall of...Shame” nominations come out next year.

OUCHI, THE FINAL FRONTIER

Bd: 25 Dir: North Vul: E/W West ♠ J76 ♥ K3 ♦ Q73 ♣ KQ842	North ♠ Q104 ♥ J1074 ♦ 954 ♣ J95 East ♠ AK832 ♥ 952 ♦ KJ102 ♣ A South ♠ 95 ♥ AQ86 ♦ A86 ♣ 10763
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With one match remaining in the Flight A Final, there were only four teams with a realistic chance to win. The leaders HISATOMI (Hisatomi/Teramoto, Ino/Chen), on 164 VP, had to face CHINA (Fu/Ju, Li/Zhang), longshots on 139 VP. Meanwhile, second-ranked YAMADA (A Yamada/Ohno, Takahashi/K Yamada, M Hirata), on 163 VP, drew hard-charging USA (Cappelletti/ Lipscomb, Itabashi/Masumara/Colker/ Kokish), who had climbed back into contention after losing their first two matches.

The first deal, Board 25, was flat in both matches, East/West losing two red aces and a trump trick in 4♠ for plus 620.

On to Board 26.

If Akihiko Yamada had been able or willing to redouble 1NT for business or reopen with a takeout double, his side might have collected some large number ending in 60 or at least 500 points, but as it went, the intrepid Mark Itabashi was able to record minus 170 instead. Deep sigh.

While every action at the other table is understandable, the truth is that Takahashi/Kaz Yamada had escaped a fate similar to Masumara/Itabashi. Shannon Lipscomb was plus 130 in 3♣ and YAMADA was on the board with a 1-imp gain.

In the other match, Hisatomi/Teramoto were plus 130 in 3♣ while Fu/Ju finished plus 120 in 2NT. Still no score.



"How can we lose with our new mascot, Eric, at the table?"

Bd: 26 Dir: East Vul: Both West ♠ J9 ♥ KQ93 ♦ A654 ♣ KJ8	North ♠ A1084 ♥ 10 ♦ 10987 ♣ AQ109 East ♠ Q732 ♥ 8642 ♦ J32 ♣ 52 South ♠ K65 ♥ AJ75 ♦ KQ ♣ 7643
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USA vs YAMADA TABLE 1

West	North	East	South
Masa	A Yama	Itabashi	Ohno
		Pass	1NT
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

TABLE 2

West	North	East	South
Takah	Capp	K Yama	Lipscomb
		Pass	1♣
1♥	Double*	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Bd: 27	North	
Dlr: South	♠ J1054	
Vul: None	♥ K9	
	♦ AJ965	
	♣ K6	
West		East
♠ AK9763		♠ 8
♥ J86		♥ A7543
♦ 8		♦ Q42
♣ AQ7		♣ J1053
	South	
	♠ Q2	
	♥ Q102	
	♦ K1073	
	♣ 9842	

At all four tables, West declared 2♠ uncontested: 1♠-1NT; 2♠-All Pass. The North hand is not an easy one to lead from. Akihiko led the ♦A against Masamura, and continued with the jack. Masamura ruffed, cashed two high trumps, and ducked a heart. In with the nine, Akihiko craftily refrained from cashing the high trumps, continuing with a third diamond. Masamura ruffed, went to the ♥A, and ran the ♣J. Akihiko won, drew trumps (Ohno unblocking the ♦10), and took two high diamonds for two down; minus 100. Cappelletti led the ♥K against Kaz, who ducked in dummy. He ducked again when Mikey continued with the ♥9, and a third heart was ruffed with a natural trump trick. The defense played on diamonds now but got only one diamond, one more trump trick, and the ♣K for one down; minus 50. 2 imps to YAMADA, ahead 3-0.

In the other match, both Norths led ace-jack of diamonds, but declarer took the club finesse early on and so got out for one down; minus 50. A third successive push. Time was running out for China.

Bd: 28	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 854	
Vul: N/S	♥ A76	
	♦ 85	
	♣ KJ432	
West		East
♠ AQ73		♠ 1092
♥ KJ104		♥ 9532
♦ Q104		♦ KJ976
♣ A5		♣ 10
	South	
	♠ KJ6	
	♥ Q8	
	♦ A32	
	♣ Q9876	

The wonderful lie of the North/South cards makes it possible for East/West to take at least ten tricks in hearts (even if both defenders withhold their red aces twice after declarer ruffs a heart in East, the spades come in for one loser), but surely no one would bid it. Right?

West	North	East	South
Masa	A Yama	Itabashi	Ohno
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dble
2♥	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠!	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Yuichi Masamura assumed that Itabashi would not have a weak hand with only one major, and so competed to 3♠. He soon discovered that he was wrong, but his serendipitous contract was cold. Club

lead, club ruff, trump to the jack, ducked, ♦10 to the jack and...ace, spade to the queen, diamond queen overtaken for a second trump lead; plus 450. No one else reached game but everyone took eleven tricks. 6 imps to USA, who took the lead 6-3. Still no score in CHINA vs HISATOMI. Two boards left in the event.



"This could be the start of a beautiful friendship."

Bd: 29 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q9873
 Vul: Both ♥ Q7
 ♦ KJ64
 ♣ J10

West
 ♠ A1052
 ♥ K94
 ♦ 85
 ♣ KQ52

East
 ♠ —
 ♥ J10853
 ♦ A9732
 ♣ 874

South
 ♠ KJ64
 ♥ A62
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ A963

TABLE 1

West	North	East	South
Masa	A Yama	Itabashi	Ohno
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	2♠	3♥	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

TABLE 2

West	North	East	South
Takah	Capp	K Yama	Lipscomb
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The activities of certain North/West members of Team USA give new definition to the word “aggressive” but perhaps there is more to it than meets the eye. Itabashi was down 200 in 4♥, which figured to be a small loss against the normal plus 140 North/South at the other table. However, Mikey had just reclaimed his PARTIALS ARE FOR SISSIES sweatshirt from the hotel laundry and fetched up in game. He got a heart lead, ducked to the king, and the unfriendly switch to the ♣K, tangling his communications while the hearts were blocked. He followed with the jack, won the ace, and tried the ♠K, ducked by Katsumi Takahashi. A low spade to the nine won, and a third trump went to the jack and ace. Kaz Yamada’s carding (discouraging club, heart, ♦7, club) apparently convinced Takashi to switch to diamonds. Even if the defense does not take the club trick, the contract is beaten if Yamada pays ♦A, diamond because hearts are still blocked, but Yamada won the ♦A and played a heart. Oh no (pardon the pun). ♥Q, ♠Q, diamond to dummy, ♥A to throw the club; plus 620. 10 imps to USA where it was going to be 7 to YAMADA. 15-3 for the Americans.

In the other match, Hiroshi Hisatomi passed Tadashi Teramoto’s raise to 2♠. He made four after a heart lead to the king when Qiang Zhang continued hearts; plus 170. At the other table, Fu/Ju drove to game (sorry, no auction available) and were permitted to make it; plus 620. 10 imps to China, the first swing in the match.



“Brigitte, see what we’ve won for answering the skill-testing question correctly.”



“There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that we will allow only 5 minutes per board tomorrow.”

Bd: 30	North	
Dlr: East	♠ Q854	
Vul: None	♥ AQ62	
	♦ AK	
	♣ Q92	
West		East
♠ K103		♠ A6
♥ 1073		♥ J984
♦ 43		♦ J985
♣ AJ875		♣ K43
	South	
	♠ J972	
	♥ K5	
	♦ Q10762	
	♣ 106	

At one table in each match, North's strong notrump was passed out. Cappelletti and Hisatomi both took eight tricks; plus 120. At the other two tables, North/South found spades. The weak notrump style worked well for Akihiko/Ohno, who could bid 1♣-1♠; 2♠/// but Fu/Ju reached 3♠ after a strong club opening by North, South trying for game after Stayman hit a fit. As it happened, both declarers in spades took lots of tricks on neutral leads, Ohno 10 (plus 170) and Ju nine (plus 140).

YAMADA gained 2 imps, but lost the match, 5-15, 6-24 in VP, finishing with 169 VP.

CHINA gained another imp to win 11-0, 25-5 over HISATOMI. That moved CHINA up to 164 but still 5 VP behind HISATOMI, whose 169 VP tied them with YAMADA for second. All of those things were

particularly good for USA, who finished with 175, making them kings of the hill. Quite a parlay.

The key to success in Victory Point Swiss events, dear readers, is to lose early but not by too much, get a good draw in the process, drop any extraneous journalists for the home stretch, and contrive to play for the win on the last round. Not to mention enjoying a heavy dose of good fortune.

THE NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL IS ON THE INTERNET

We are happy to announce that our Daily Bulletins are once again available on the Internet. Call your family and friends and tell them they can follow the adventures of the **NEC Bridge Festival** players by surfing the net to either of the following addresses:

<http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html>
 - or -
<http://www.jcbl.or.jp>



"Let's see if I can touch my nose to the table without leaving a wet spot."



"And when I produced another diamond he almost fell off his chair."

NOTE: The following article was written for the 1999 edition of WORLD BRIDGE NEWS, a bit before Marc Hodler revealed that IOC members had in the past accepted bribes for their votes in choosing venues for the Olympics. Although all the news has been negative since Hodler came forward, the staging of the first IOC Grand Prix in Lausanne was nonetheless a grand moment for bridge and a sure sign that the game has a real future in the Olympic movement.

The IOC Grand Prix

Sept 7-11, 1998: Lausanne, Switzerland

In his opening address to the players and officials gathered at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne for the first IOC Grand Prix of Bridge, José Damiani spoke of his twenty-year dream that bridge would one day become an Olympic sport. On behalf of bridge players everywhere, he thanked Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the International Olympic Committee, for taking the initiative in allowing the World Bridge Federation to organize this ground-breaking event at this particularly appropriate site. A special debt of thanks was paid also to IOC Vice President Marc Hodler, who has done so much to develop the relationship between bridge and the Olympic movement.

Mr Samaranch's welcoming remarks went a long way toward realizing José's dream. When he stated that "Bridge is a sport and as such your place is here, like all other sports," the IOC had gone farther than ever before toward the recognition of bridge as a sport. At this stage we can dare to believe that bridge will indeed be part of the Winter Olympic games in 2002 (as a demonstration sport) and beginning in 2006, as a full participant.

The Grand Prix brought together teams representing the nations that have won the Open Teams Olympiad since its inception in 1960: France (with wins in 1960, 1980, 1992 and 1996); Italy (with victories in 1964, 1968 and 1972); Brazil (1976); Poland (1984), and the USA (1988). China, the nation that has made such great strides on the world scene in the last decade, was also invited, ensuring full global representation. These six teams played a round robin of 24-board matches, IMPs converted to Victory Points, with the top two teams qualifying for a 72-board final for the gold and silver medals, and total prize money of \$30,000 (US), with \$20,000 going to the winners. The bronze medals went to the team finishing third in the round robin.

The Players:

France: Paul Chemla, Alain Levy, Christian Mari, Hervé Mouiel, Franck Multon, Michel Perron

Italy: Dario Attanasio, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Giuseppe Failla, Ruggero Pulga, Giampaolo Rinaldi; Carlo Mosca npc

Brazil: Marcelo Branco, Joao Paulo Campos, Gabriel Chagas, Miguel Villas Boas

Poland: Cezary Balicki, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Martens, Jacek Romanski, Marek Szymanowski, Adam Zmudzinski; Andrzej Orlow, npc

USA: Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Dan Morse, Eric Rodwell, Paul Soloway, Bobby Wolff (Morse replaced Seymon Deutsch, who had to cancel at the last moment)

China: Jianming Dai, Hiaojun Shi, Weimin Wang, Xiaojing Wang, Hongjun Xu, Zejun Zhuang; Zelan Chen, npc

Although the Italian team did not include its front-line players, the field was very strong, and it figured to be a real battle for the two places in the final, although France was probably the favorite.

The Round Robin:

The East hand (see the diagram on the following page) is certainly good enough to open in Hamman's style, but he passed because his methods (strong club, four-card majors, canape) would have prevented him from describing his lengths with certainty. Soloway's hand revalued badly after Kowalski's 2♦ overcall, and slam was never really in the picture. Hamman got the spades wrong for plus 650.

Board II-22: East deals; East/West vulnerable			
Bd II-22	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 9		
Vul: E/W	♥ K5		
	♦ AQ98732		
	♣ J42		
West			East
♠ Q872			♠ K10543
♥ A974			♥ J102
♦ KJ10			♦ —
♣ K6			♣ AQ983
	South		
	♠ AJ6		
	♥ Q863		
	♦ 654		
	♣ 1075		
Poland vs USA			
West	North	East	South
Soloway	Kowalski	Hamman	Romanski
		Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Szym	Meck	Martens	Rodwell
		1♠	Pass
2♣(i)	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
(i) Natural, or balanced			

Martens, playing five-card majors, opened 1♠. Meckstroth jammed the auction with 3♦ and Szymanowski might have jumped to 4♠ to limit his hand, but when he settled for a potentially stronger 3♠ (Meckstroth's 3♦ did not promise a strong suit), Martens bid aggressively and finally extracted a slam bid from his partner. Rodwell was torn between the red suits for his opening lead choice, and must have cursed himself when he selected a diamond. Martens ruffed away Meckstroth's queen, crossed to the ♣K, and tried a spade to the nine, king, and ace. Rodwell returned the ♠6, but Martens played low from dummy and soon claimed his pushy slam.

With one round remaining, Italy and Poland, who were out of it, were facing one another. The other four teams all had a legitimate shot, with Brazil and China, tied at the top with 70 VP, due to meet. The remaining match pitted France (on 66) against USA (on 65). When the leaders played to a rapid-fire draw, the stage was set for a dramatic finish, but under the prevailing Victory Point scale, one of the trailing teams needed a significant win (by at least 25 IMPs) to stake a claim on a spot in the finals. The Americans had the best of it, but when a French declarer found a winning guess on the final deal, US hopes for a 20-10 win had disappeared. The match ended 18-12 in their favour, and the co-leaders moved on to the final while the Americans had to settle for the bronze medals.

Results of the Round Robin Matches were: (1) France 21/Italy 9, USA 20/Brazil 10, China 24/Poland 6; (2) Poland 16/USA 14, China 20/Italy 10, Brazil 25/France 3; (3) Poland 20/Brazil 10, France 20/China 10, USA 17/Italy 13; (4) China

16/USA 14, France 22/Poland 8, Brazil 25/Italy 2; (5) Brazil 15/China 15, Poland 15/Italy 15, USA 18/France 12

The final Round Robin standings were: (1)= Brazil and China, 85 VP; (3) USA, 83 VP; (4)France, 78 VP; (5) Poland, 65 VP; (6) Italy, 49 VP.

The Final (6 x 12 boards):

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 106		
Vul: Both	♥ AQ1054		
	♦ 9853		
	♣ A8		
West		East	
♠ AKJ983		♠ Q5	
♥ 9863		♥ KJ7	
♦ 4		♦ A72	
♣ 74		♣ KQJ63	
	South		
	♠ 742		
	♥ 2		
	♦ KQJ106		
	♣ 10952		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
X Wang	Chagas	W Wang	Branco
		1NT	Pass
4♥(i)	Dble	4♠	All Pass
(i) Spades			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Campos	Xu	V Boas	Zhuang
		1NT	Pass
2♥(i)	Dble	All Pass	
(i) Spades			

Brazil started slowly in the first segment, conceding a series of big swings with some uncharacteristically poor bridge. Their only gain of the set came on this deal (see diagram on the following page), which was somewhat unlucky for China.

It seems straightforward to follow the course chosen by Xiaojing Wang, but his transfer sequence left Branco on lead with the singleton heart and the defense took two aces and two heart ruffs without breathing hard for one down; minus 100. At the other table, Campos started with a two-level transfer since the four-level version would have shown slam interest (I believe).

Bd: 26	North		
Dlr: East	♠ ---		
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ96		
	♦ AJ952		
	♣ K542		
West		East	
♠ J1074		♠ AQ83	
♥ 7		♥ J105	
♦ Q1076		♦ K3	
♣ Q1083		♣ J976	
	South		
	♠ K9652		
	♥ K8432		
	♦ 84		
	♣ A		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Campos	Dai	V Boas	Shi
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Xu	Chagas	Zhuang	Branco
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦(i)	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	
(i) Game-forcing			

Villas Boas's pass over the double denied three spades, so Campos expected to find some heart length in dummy and decided to take his chances in 2♥ doubled (it is not clear whether he could have redoubled for business). Xu led the ♣A and switched to a diamond, but Campos took the ace and played on clubs, forcing Xu. Campos took the diamond force, led a trump to the jack, and played on spades, holding Xu to two more trump tricks. Campos made three for plus 870 and a 14-IMP gain.

After twelve deals, China had built a 48-IMP lead, 62-14. The South Americans recouped a couple of IMPs in the flat second stanza, and after one-third of the match, China led 73-27.

Brazil came back in earnest in the third set, aided by this slam swing (see next page):

Apparently, Dai had to go through the fourth suit to create a force in hearts, but Shi's 3♥ rebid deprived him of the opportunity to offer an unambiguously strong raise below game. Perhaps he should have risked 5♥ in his methods, but that seems dangerous and might not have sent the right message. Playing carefully, Shi took eleven tricks; plus 650.

Chagas was able to force with 3♥, and when Branco volunteered a 4♣ cue-bid, Chagas drove to the reasonable slam. This is one of those annoying deals on which you have no losers but can't quite count twelve winners. Branco won the club lead with his ace, crossed to the ♦A, threw his diamond loser on the ♣K, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade, and led another diamond. Had Zhuang ruffed in with a trump honor, Branco could have succeeded by over-ruffing, then cross-ruffing the black suits and finishing by scoring his last trump *en passant*. Zhuang threw a spade on the third diamond, however, so Branco ruffed low, ruffed a spade, and led a fourth diamond, over-ruffing Zhuang's ten

to ruff a third spade, felling the ace. Branco cashed the ♥A and played the established diamond. Zhuang could score his ♥J now or later, but Branco had his twelve tricks for plus 1430;13 IMPs to Brazil, who won Set III 33-13. At the half, China's lead had been cut to 26 IMPs, 86-60.

The fourth set brought Brazil a further 24 IMPs and the match was virtually even. This deal was probably the one that determined the outcome:

If this was one of the things that could happen to him, Villas Boas should probably have opened the bidding (he couldn't bid 2♣ over 1♠ because that would have been Drury-Fit, and a jump to 3♣ would have shown spades and clubs, so the club suit never came into play). He did well to take eleven tricks on the lead of the ♥Q; plus 460.

After Zhuang opened 1♣ at the other table, Weimin Wang was able to bid his hand slowly and accurately to reach the excellent contract of 6♣. Zhuang got the lead of the ♥Q, won the ace, played ♣K, ♠A, spade ruff, ace-queen of trumps, discarding hearts from dummy. He cashed both the king and queen of diamonds to cater to doubleton jack, and had reached the crossroads. He would have succeeded from here by ruffing a spade to isolate the menace in North, then conceding the trump. North could part with his last heart but then the forced heart return would squeeze him in spades and diamonds. There are other interesting winning lines, too, which involve using the diamond entries to establish the fifth spade, but Zhuang simply played the third diamond and had to go one down; minus 50. That was 11 IMPs to Brazil where China would have gained 10 had Zhuang brought home his slam.

Bd: 38	North	
Dlr: East	♠ K873	
Vul: N/S	♥ 754	
	♦ J973	
	♣ 83	
West		East
♠ AJ1092		♠ 5
♥ AK62		♥ 93
♦ KQ10		♦ A854
♣ K		♣ AQ10764
	South	
	♠ Q64	
	♥ QJ108	
	♦ 62	
	♣ J952	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Campos	Dai	V Boas	Shi
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT(i)	Pass
2NT(ii)	Pass	3♣(iii)	Pass
3♥(iv)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(i) Forcing; (ii) Forcing, unbalanced;
(iii) Inquiry; (iv) Natural, not 5/5+

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
W Wang	Chagas	Zhuang	Branco
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦(i)	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

(i) Artificial force (2♥ would have been non-forcing)

With 24 boards remaining, China led by 2 IMPs, 106-104.

The momentum was very much behind Brazil now, although they were not playing particularly well. They took the lead on the first board of the fifth set on another slam deal that might have gone either way.

These were the East/West cards on Board 49, neither side vulnerable:

West	East
♠ Q952	♠ —
♥ KJ10753	♥ A86
♦ —	♦ AKQJ106
♣ AK2	♣ QJ106

Campos/Villas Boas had lots of room after a 1♠ opening by North and they were able to determine that the ♥Q was missing, settling for 6♥. Campos, West, ruffed the ♠A in dummy, and led the ♥8 to his jack, a nice technical play that netted him twelve tricks when North turned up with the doubleton ♥Q. At the other table, the bidding started with 2♠, and over Weimin Wang's takeout double, Branco raised to 3♠ on a complete yarborough. Xiaojing Wang

jumped to 6♥ and was boosted to seven. Here it was very reasonable to ruff the spade lead and play ♥A, heart to the jack. Xiaojing was two down; minus 100. 14 IMPs to Brazil where it might have been 11 to China.

Bd: 54	North		
	♠ Q		
	♥ AK10		
	♦ K96543		
	♣ QJ10		
West		East	
♠ 1098754		♠ A3	
♥ Q72		♥ J6543	
♦ J7		♦ 10	
♣ K8		♣ A7632	
	South		
	♠ KJ62		
	♥ 98		
	♦ AQ82		
	♣ 954		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhuang	Chagas	Weimin	Branco
	1♦	1♥	Dble(i)
2♥	3♦	3♥	5♦
All Pass			
(i) Negative			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Campos	Dai	V Boas	Shi
	1♦	1♥	Dble(i)
2♥	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(i) Negative			

It was difficult to withstand two body blows of that magnitude in close proximity, and

North	South
♠ AK98	♠ J76432
♥ Q103	♥ 5
♦ AQJ5	♦ K4
♣ AK	♣ 10964

although it was not all sweetness and light after that for China, they kept their focus. Xu/Zhuang bid their hands more successfully than their counterparts on the combination at the right to recoup 13 IMPs for China:

North showed 22-24 HCP, balanced with strong four-card spade support by jumping to 4♠ after South's second round three-level transfer. Branco cue-bid 5♦ with the South cards, but Chagas could not know that he was facing a heart control and so signed off at 5♠, where it ended. Zhuang used RKCB instead, which worked much better on this layout. The ♠Q was doubleton so twelve tricks were easy. Switch North's clubs and hearts and 6♠ would not be the contract of choice, although it would take a club lead to beat it.

3NT on Board 54 was touch-and-go but was bid and made by both North/South pairs, the Brazilians getting a much easier ride after blowing off the most dangerous lead. Xu made four by combining his chances, but Branco, who had no problems at all, simply claimed his ten tricks. Had he played it out, he would have made at least eleven. Perhaps it wouldn't matter.

The Chinese held their loss on the set to 12 IMPs, 30-42, and with one set left to play, Brazil led by 10 IMPs, 146-136.

China rallied immediately. First, a speculative double by Dai, followed by perfect defence, netted his side 800 points against 5♦ while the same contract was not doubled and set only 200 at the other table. Then:

Weimin's 3♥ bid proved remarkably effective. It was difficult for Branco to maneuver toward 3NT with his big diamond fit and weak doubleton in hearts, but if he had been so inclined, he might have tried 3♠, since he had shown precisely four cards in that suit. At the other table, Villas Boas's pass left Shi room to ask for a stopper and 3NT was reached easily enough. You might wish to ask your favorite partner whether 3♥ and 3♠ both relate to stopping the heart suit, with one of them showing a half stopper. Or perhaps a full stopper.

Brazil was 20 IMPs behind with six boards left when Board 67 brought a problem for Zhuang that did not arise at the other table. With both sides vulnerable, he doubled a weak 2♦ opening for takeout with: ♠ A943 ♥ AQ3 ♦ A8 ♣ 10987. That was boosted to 3♦ on his left and Weimin competed with a responsive double. What would you have bid with Zhuang's hand?

He passed, which strikes me as a very reasonable action, with excellent defense and a balanced hand, with no guarantee of an eight-card major fit. Although Weimin also held a balanced hand (he was 3-4-2-4 with the ♠K and ♣AJ), 3♦ doubled could not be beaten; plus 670. Campos/Villas Boas went one down at 3♣ in the other room, so Brazil gained 11 IMPs to cut the deficit to nine.

Brazil took the lead on Board 70 when Branco engineered a miraculous escape for minus 200 in a hair-raising 2♣ doubled while his teammates were making an easy vulnerable 3NT at the other table for plus 660. Those 10 IMPs gave Brazil a 1-IMP lead, which survived the penultimate deal.

The last board was a fair 4♥ for North/South, but both pairs stopped at 3♥. This appeared to be open-and-shut for ten tricks, but Chagas, given a trick on the lead, was presented with a losing option in a side suit that was not available to Dai at the other table. Entirely reasonably, Chagas held himself to plus 140. China tied the match at the last possible moment, winning the last set 31-21 to bring both teams to 167 IMPs.

Although the Conditions of Contest called for a four-board playoff, both teams agreed that this was a match that should not have a loser. They shook hands, linked arms, smiled for the group picture, and settled for perhaps the most honorable draw in the history of sports.

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Final
Brazil	14	13	33	44	42	21	167
China	62	11	13	20	30	31	167

THE 1999 OUCHI CUP: First Final Session

We aim to print what we receive from the players (see us in Room 417 almost any hour of the day), but when we're short of stories, we have to expose you to our own adventures.

Round One

Bd: 1	North	
Dir: North	♠ AJ8	
Vul: None	♥ QJ6432	
	♦ A10	
	♣ A6	
West		East
♠ K9		♠ Q1065432
♥ AK7		♥ 109
♦ Q7643		♦ 2
♣ 1092		♣ J75
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ 85	
	♦ KJ985	
	♣ KQ843	

For USA, Cappelletti/Itabashi finished in 4♥, cold even if East gets a diamond ruff. Plus 420. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Fu	Colker	Ju
	1♥	2♠	Dble*
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

3NT was a scary place to be after a low spade lead to the king. Zhong (call me "invincible") Fu ducked, then played the jack on the continuation of the ♠9 (heart from dummy). Colker won the queen and had to choose between clearing spades, acting like a man with an entry, and trying to do something positive by switching. When he opted to switch to the ♥10, Fu brightened considerably. He lost only two hearts now and so made 3NT to hold China's loss to 1 IMP. Had Colker cleared

spades, Fu might well have made 3NT anyway, using two entries to dummy to play on hearts, but if he placed Colker with a heart honor, he might instead have tried to take nine tricks in the minors and failed. Or not...say that he runs clubs. West has discarded a club on the third spade, and proceeds to discard diamond, heart, diamond on the clubs. By now it would appear that the diamond finesse will not work. Declarer cashes the ♦A and exits with a heart; West has to lead into the ♦KJ at the end.

You are East, at unfavorable vulnerability. You hold: ♠ A642 ♥ Q62 ♦ AQJ9 ♣ 74

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT(ii)	???	2♣(i)
(i) natural, limited			
(ii) Puppet to 3♣ (weak raise to 3♣ or a game-forcing two-suiter)			

Do you take any action?

You have some jeopardy either way. If you double, would you be confident that you were making a takeout double of clubs and not showing a strong balanced hand? If you pass, South bids 3♣ (virtually forced), which is passed back to you. Would you double now?



"Nothing like a camel at the end of a long match."



Miho: "Look what we bought Jason at the Ginza."

Here is the full deal...

Bd: 3	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 10983	
Vul: E/W	♥ K54	
	♦ K5	
	♣ 9853	
West		East
♠ KQ75		♠ A642
♥ A93		♥ Q62
♦ 10862		♦ AQJ9
♣ J10		♣ 74
	South	
	♠ J	
	♥ J1087	
	♦ 743	
	♣ AKQ62	

If you double, as Colker-san did, South (Ju) raises himself to 4♣, proving that he has not come to Yokohama to pass. Turn now to West. If North/South have 10 or 11 clubs, as their bidding suggests, the East/West hands should fit very well. It is tempting to take a shot at 4♠, but to an extent this decision turns on West's expectations for East's delayed (rather than direct) double. At the table, West passed and 4♣ went quietly two down; minus 100. Li/Zhang were plus 140 at the other table, so China gained an IMP and trailed 1-3 at the half.

Bd: 4	North	
Dlr: West	♠ QJ	
Vul: Both	♥ AQ10963	
	♦ KQ6	
	♣ A3	
West		East
♠ 10987		♠ K53
♥ 74		♥ K52
♦ 10752		♦ A4
♣ KJ8		♣ Q10974
	South	
	♠ A642	
	♥ J8	
	♦ J983	
	♣ 652	

4♥ is a good contract for North/South, a bit worse than one of two finesses. Neither pair reached game in our match. Fu made the obvious 10 tricks on a club lead, but Cappelletti held himself to three by playing for a spade-diamond squeeze (after losing to the ♥K and ♦A, he cashed the ♠A and ran his winners). 1 IMP to China, 2-3.

The score remained the same after Board 5, on which both East/West pairs went minus 100...

Bd: 5	North	
Dlr: North	♠ AQ7	
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ62	
	♦ 8754	
	♣ A9	
West		East
♠ 2		♠ KJ10
♥ 843		♥ A975
♦ A62		♦ KQ1093
♣ KJ10543		♣ Q
	South	
	♠ 986543	
	♥ J10	
	♦ J	
	♣ 8762	

This was our auction:

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Fu	Colker	Ju
	1NT	Dble	2♠
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠*	Pass	5♦	All Pass

This might have had a chance on a spade lead and a better lie, but Ju led a heart and there were four sure losers. I think West bid too much. So why didn't I bid less? Very mysterious, Kokish-san.



"The octopus is great, but Alpaca is really my dish."

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ 65
Vul: E/W	♥ 3
	♦ A974
	♣ AKJ1087
West	East
♠ KJ1042	♠ 87
♥ 1097	♥ A842
♦ Q6	♦ 10832
♣ Q92	♣ 654
	South
	♠ AQ93
	♥ KQJ65
	♦ KJ5
	♣ 3

Cappelletti/Itabashi stopped sensibly in 3NT; plus 460. Fu/Ju were more ambitious...

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Fu	Colker	Ju
		Pass	1♣ (strong)
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

6♣ is not a good contract, but it is a lot better played by South; any lead but a trump gives away a trick or a tempo. With the ♣Q onside with fewer than three little sisters, Ju got the lead of the ♦6 from Kokish and took the club finesse for twelve tricks, conceding the ♥A. On a trump lead, declarer draws trumps and leads a heart,

ducked by East. A high heart is conceded to the ace, and South still has two entries to establish the long heart and to cash it.

How revolting. China, 12-3. 24-6 in VP. The start of a long day for USA. Rounds Two and Three:

Bd: II-5	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K76		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQJ10		
	♦ Q652		
	♣ Q7		
West	East		
♠ 2	♠ QJ5		
♥ 843	♥ 9762		
♦ A98743	♦ KJ		
♣ A52	♣ K964		
	South		
	♠ A109843		
	♥ A5		
	♦ J		
	♣ J1083		
West	North	East	South
Kokish		Colker	
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣(i)
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠(ii)
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Double	All Pass		
(i) Puppet to 2♦; (ii) Invitational			

We seemed to be doing better in our next match, but the penultimate board gave us an opportunity to commit hara-kiri, and like the true pressure players that we are, we rose to the occasion...

4♠ is a good contract, perhaps because South has such a good hand for an invitational sequence. West doubled because trumps were not breaking and North/South would have nothing in reserve.

To defeat 4♠, West must lead or underlead a minor-suit ace, else declarer discards her diamond on a heart. West duly led a club and chose the deuce in case dummy had a holding that left declarer a guess. Declarer called for the seven and East put in the nine. After which declarer lost only a club and a trump for plus 990.

The comparison was no fun for East/West. Cappelletti/Itasbashi had made 620 on a heart lead, so the American team's loss was 9 imps. We lost the match by 2 imps, 11-19 in VP. "If you'd held them to four, we'd have won anyway, even with the double," opined our South. When you're right, you're right.

We are not worthy. In the wonderful hockey movie *Slapshot*, an early scene features a TV interview with the

French-Canadian goalie who had allowed eight goals. "How do you feel about that?" asked the interviewer. Replied the goalie: "I feel shame." ...As do we.

Bd: III-5	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q10		
Vul: N/S	♥ QJ10863		
	♦ 7		
	♣ A875		
West		East	
♠ AJ852		♠ 9763	
♥ A74		♥ 2	
♦ 92		♦ AQ1063	
♣ Q43		♣ K106	
	South		
	♠ K4		
	♥ K95		
	♦ KJ854		
	♣ J92		
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Koshi	Colker	Nakanishi
	2♦(i)	Pass	2♥(ii)
Pass	Pass	Dble	Rdbl
4♠	All Pass		
(i) Multi; (ii) Pass or correct			

Haruko Koshi/Meiko Nakanishi had already achieved a good result with the Multi 2♦ opening on the first deal of the match. Here, on Board 5, Koshi-san's 2♦ opening propelled her opponents into a game they might not have bid on their own.

North led her singleton diamond and declarer had his work cut out for him. He won the ♦A, played ♥A, heart ruff, spade (four from South) to the ace, heart ruff, spade. South won and found herself endplayed. South was blaming herself for not playing the king on the first trump lead, but that would not have beaten the contract outright. North would have been able to exit safely with a heart to force declarer, who would counter with the ♦9. South wins and must exit with the ♦K, establishing a winner in dummy. Now declarer has to guess clubs for the contract, but every dog has his day. Why not me?



NOT HEARTLESS – BUT CLOSE!

Bd: 29	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 96		
Vul: Both	♥ A107		
	♦ K109762		
	♣ 94		
West		East	
♠ KJ732		♠ AQ1054	
♥ J865		♥ 942	
♦ J8		♦ —	
♣ J5		♣ AKQ76	
	South		
	♠ 8		
	♥ KQ3		
	♦ AQ543		
	♣ 10832		
West	North	East	South
Hara	Shioya	Tatai	Teruko
—	Pass	1♠	2♦
4♠	5♦	5♥!	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	AllPass

It was the second session of the Ouchi Cup and Kikuo Tatai was tired of getting pushed around. He picked up the East hand and we'd bet if we'd been at the table we might have seen a twinkle in his eyes as he perpetrated the diagrammed auction on his unsuspecting opponent Teruko Nishimura who, in recognition of Kikuo's clever bid, reported this hand to us.

Teruko led the ♦A and Kikuo lost no time drawing trumps and pitching three of dummy's hearts on his long clubs to score up plus 1430.

At the other table the auction was slightly different:

West	North	East	South
Junko N.		Kamiyo	
—	Pass	1♠	2♦
4♠	Pass!	Pass	Pass

South led the ♥K and when she shifted at trick two, Kamiyo scored up plus 680. That was a welcome 13 IMPs. to the Tatai team.