

## NEC CUP: FINAL ROUND-ROBIN STANDINGS

The final rankings at the end of the NEC Cup Round-Robin were:

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>VPs</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> GREAT BRITAIN	186
2 <sup>nd</sup> JAPAN – PABF OPEN	170
3 <sup>rd</sup> CHINA	136
4 <sup>th</sup> USA	135
5 <sup>th</sup> JAPAN – TAKAYAMA	132
6 <sup>th</sup> JAPAN – YAMADA	126
7 <sup>th</sup> JAPAN – TATAI	121
8 <sup>th</sup> JAPAN – PABF WOMEN	120
9 <sup>th</sup> JAPAN – YOUTH	108
10 <sup>th</sup> JAPAN – NAITO	103

GREAT BRITAIN won the Round-Robin phase of the 1999 NEC Cup with a strong showing. JAPAN – PABF OPEN finished in second place while CHINA came from behind to edge out USA for the third spot in today's Semi-Finals. Carryover in each match will be 20% of the differential when the two teams met in the Round-Robin stage. Today's Semi-Final matches will be:

GREAT BRITAIN (+3.2 imps) vs CHINA

JAPAN – PABF OPEN vs USA (+3.2 imps)

Tables containing all head-to-head match results from the Round-Robin phase, along with each team's VP total, final ranking and the datums for each of yesterday's matches can be found, as usual, at the end of today's Bulletin. See how you did compared to your counterparts.



GREAT BRITAIN: first-place in the round-robin stage



JAPAN – PABF OPEN: second-place in the round-robin stage

## NEC CUP: ROUND SEVEN

Bd: 1	North	
Dir: North	♠ 4	
Vul: None	♥ QJ86	
	♦ KQ953	
	♣ KJ10	
West		East
♠ A109873		♠ K652
♥ 532		♥ K10974
♦ 104		♦ 8
♣ 96		♣ Q54
	South	
	♠ QJ	
	♥ A	
	♦ AJ762	
	♣ A8732	

6♣ is respectable for North/South, especially when any declarer you might encounter at this tournament will tell you that he never misguesses a queen. Here, where West may well show a weak hand with long spades, the winning club guess becomes even more likely. East/West, for their part, can take quite a few tricks in spades (although the defense can arrange to ruff out the ♥K, it will not always be obvious to do so) but are unlikely to compete past 4♠ or sacrifice against slam. If the defense does not lead hearts early enough, declarer might be able to arrange an elimination before tucking South in with the ♥A, and so lose only one heart trick. Taking nine himself.

There were 11-imp gains for CHINA, NAITO, and YOUTH, when Liu-Zhang, Naito-Moriyama, and Akama-Furuta bid and made a slam while their counterparts did not. Both Hisatomi-Teramoto and Hackett-Armstrong bid 6♦ in their head-on match, but Hisatomi made it while Papa Bear did not. 14 imps to PABF OPEN. Noth pairs also bid slam in USA vs YAMADA. Cappelletti made it; plus 920, but Hirata was deprived of the opportunity to duplicate that result because Simpson-Itabashi saved in 6♠. Declarer misguessed the play and went four down; minus 800. USA gained 3 hair-raising imps.

Bd: 2	North	
Dir: East	♠ 7	
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ53	
	♦ K10875	
	♣ K64	
West		East
♠ Q		♠ 98642
♥ A107642		♥ 9
♦ 943		♦ QJ
♣ J83		♣ AQ972
	South	
	♠ AKJ1053	
	♥ J8	
	♦ A62	
	♣ 105	

If East/West do not lead a club and declarer guesses diamonds correctly, he can make 3NT without playing on spades. On a club lead, he essentially has to guess both suits. In truth, he is far more likely to misguess both of them. Although it is possible to stay out of game, it is not likely that this will happen. 4♠ will normally die a natural death, but it is conceivable that someone will make the more popular 3NT.

At the table, no one made a game, with minus 200 the most popular result. Hackett-Armstrong might have suffered the same fate themselves, but when Miyakuni-Imakura competed to 3♣, one of the famous British red doubling cards ended proceedings. Down 500. 12 imps to GREAT BRITAIN. Take that!

In CHINA vs TATAI, Fu-Ju also competed to 3♣, but Hirata-Hara sold out quietly. Down 150 was not quite as good as down 500, but it figured to be a good result opposite the normal 100 or 200 in 3NT, down. Liu-Zhang saved the board for CHINA, however, by stopping in 3♦ and making it; plus 110. Just 1 imp to TATAI.



"Tis a puzzlement."



Board meeting

Bd: 3	North	
Dir: South	♠ AQ5	
Vul: E/W	♥ KJ82	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AKQ87	
West		East
♠ J986		♠ 10432
♥ Q76		♥ A4
♦ A1064		♦ KJ53
♣ 65		♣ 1042
	South	
	♠ K7	
	♥ 10953	
	♦ Q982	
	♣ J93	

Everyone's 4♥? Not quite. Alama-Furuta got all the way to 5♥. We suspect they were not pushed. They made it, though. No harm done. Just a lot of sweat.

And YAMADA's Hirata-Shimizu landed in 3NT...from the North side! The defenders can take only three diamonds and a heart, but declarer really has to guess hearts for the contract in most variations. Hirata finished plus 400 to hold the YAMADA loss to 1 imp vs USA.

More serious was the plus 150 recorded by CHINA's Zhang-Liu in 1♣. Bad luck for them; had their Precision pair been in the North/South seats, they never would have played in 1♣. 7 imps to TATAI, 8-11.

If East gets a club lead or leads a low club to the ten himself, he can enter dummy twice, once to pick up the ♠K, once to lead towards the ♦K. That will enable him to make 4♠, a contract he might attempt as a two-way shot before his opponents get to 4♥. Better this time to double 4♥, given the opportunity, and collect a substantial penalty. How substantial? Well, some of the defenders got only five tricks; others got six. Miyakuni-Imakura got all seven of theirs. Down 1100 against Papa Bear-Armstrong. 14 imps to PABF OPEN, 28-12. None of the other w wings were more than 5 imps, but in USA vs YAMADA, the 3-imp swing was an interesting one: Simpson-Itabashi got only 500 against 4♥ doubled, which wasn't quite as good as the 620 recorded by Kaz Yamada-Takashi in 4♠. The opening lead was the ♣2.

Bd: 4	North	
Dir: West	♠ K9	
Vul: Both	♥ 8643	
	♦ AJ6	
	♣ A963	
West		East
♠ J65		♠ AQ10432
♥ K1052		♥ —
♦ 10987		♦ K432
♣ K10		♣ Q85
	South	
	♠ 87	
	♥ AQJ97	
	♦ Q5	
	♣ J742	

If a doubled game can ever be the normal contract, this deal may qualify. There were five Souths in 4♠ doubled and they all went one down. Two Souths escaped undoubled. YAMADA's Hirata-Shimizu and PABF WOMEN's Ohno-Nishida won 8 imps for their teams by stopping at 2♠, and TATAI's Hirata-Hara sold out to 2♥ (Pass-Pass-1♠-1NT; Pass-2♦\*-Pass-2♥-All Pass?) And beat it two for plus 100 and a 5-imp gain.

Game is reasonable but doomed. You might consider staying out of it if West overcalls 1NT but otherwise, you really ought to try for the vulnerable game bonus. Indeed, you might well make 3NT, with four clubs, two spades, two diamonds (if West wins the first diamond) and a heart, or two hearts and a diuamond (if South takes the first diamond trick.

Bd: 5	North	
Dir: North	♠ 874	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q92	
	♦ J1096	
	♣ K97	
West		East
♠ QJ65		♠ 9
♥ AJ		♥ 108753
♦ AQ542		♦ 873
♣ 54		♣ 10632
	South	
	♠ AK1032	
	♥ K64	
	♦ K	
	♣ AQJ8	

Bd: 6	North	
Dir: East	♠ Q5	
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ9	
	♦ 42	
	♣ AKJ1053	
West		East
♠ AJ43		♠ K762
♥ J5		♥ K642
♦ J96		♦ AQ85
♣ Q874		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ 1098	
	♥ 10873	
	♦ K1073	
	♣ 96	

Although North/South can make 3♣ by using the diamond entry to run the ♣9 and later leading ♥AQ from hand, none of the five declarers in that contract took nine tricks. YAMADA gained 5 imps (16-14) against USA when Hirata-Shimizu got 100 against 3♠ to pair up with their teammates' 100 against 3♣.

Three East/West pairs got all the way to 4♠, down 100 or 200. That looks like a whole lot of bidding, but if East jump-raises spades after opening 1♦, West might go on as a straight quantitative venture. Sakamoto-Toyofuku won a few points for PABF WOMEN by buying the auction at 2♠ and making it.

The popular spot was a diamond partial, East-West, but Takahashi-Kaz Yamada got all the way to 5♦, down 300, and gave USA 10 imps, 14-16 now.

TAKAYAMA's Nagasaka-Takano sold out to Naito-Moriyama's 1NT, which was fine, but they didn't beat it, which was not so fine. 5 imps to NAITO, ahead 20-9.

Sakamoto-Toyofuku played in 3♥, East-West, which was not the winning choice. Down 100 for a 5-imp loss to YOUTH, who led 19-14.

If you're looking for unusual contracts, you will be delighted to learn that the PABF OPEN's Wizards of Odd (Miyakuni-Imakura) landed in 3♠ with the East/West cards and made four, an unusual 1-imp gain against the twins' excellent plus 150 in 3♦ at the other table.

Bd: 7	North	
Dir: South	♠ 972	
Vul: Both	♥ J1098	
	♦ 63	
	♣ KJ85	
West		East
♠ J1065		♠ Q83
♥ Q		♥ AK732
♦ AJ9752		♦ K104
♣ Q7		♣ 93
	South	
	♠ AK4	
	♥ 654	
	♦ Q8	
	♣ A10642	

Bd: 8	North	
Dir: West	♠ 874	
Vul: None	♥ QJ	
	♦ 9854	
	♣ K1074	
West		East
♠ AKQJ10		♠ 532
♥ 104		♥ AK932
♦ KJ		♦ AQ106
♣ QJ53		♣ 8
	South	
	♠ 96	
	♥ 8765	
	♦ 732	
	♣ A962	

Six of ten East/Wests reached the excellent 6♠ on this one, but Maeda-Hayashi (TATAI) and Fu-Ju (CHINA) had the good sense to miss it in the same match. There were 11 imp swings to NAITO (Setoguchi/Ohta reached slam but TAKAYAMA's Nagasaka-Takano did not) and GREAT BRITAIN (the twins bid it but Miyakuni-Imakura did not).

The key is East's club singleton opposite West's length. If East takes control, he will find out about West's good trumps, but East might not be so anxious to use Blackwood with such poor spades. We are willing to publish a pretty auction if you bring it to us.



Bd: 9	North	
Dir: North	♠ K	
Vul: E/W	♥ K986	
	♦ J108643	
	♣ 65	
West		East
♠ A1097		♠ J543
♥ AQ107432		♥ J
♦ —		♦ 52
♣ 74		♣ AJ10932
	South	
	♠ Q862	
	♥ 5	
	♦ AKQ97	
	♣ KQ8	

It's difficult to see the bidding ending at 3NT on this one, but that's what happened in the CHINA vs TATAI Open Room, where Liu finished plus 430 from the North seat on the lead of the ♣10. I can't imagine how Maeda-Hayashi must have felt about this result, but picture the conversation:

Maeda (East): "Say, Nobu, how many of those hearts did you have anyway?"

Hayashi (West): "Five...or so...why do you ask?"

Maeda: "And four spades too, right?"

Hayashi: "Yes, yes, yes."

Maeda: "Can't we make something our way?"

Hayashi: "I don't want to think about it any more."

And, yes, the contract in the Closed Room was 4♥ by West (Ju), plus 620. 14 imps to CHINA, 28-18.

It was more comprehensible in USA vs YAMADA and PABF WOMEN vs YOUTH, where both East/West pairs went one down in 5♦, usually doubled.

Naito/Moriyama doubled 4♥ but didn't beat it (even if North leads the ♠K, the spade ruff doesn't materialize: ♠A, low heart to the jack, diamond ruff, ♥A, ♥Q to the king, club switch, ace, diamond ruff, draw trumps, concede a spade and a club). Plus 790 for Nagasaka-Takano, and 12 imps to TAKAYAMA, 21-31.

If you're looking for excitement (sweetheart), consider the events in GREAT BRITAIN vs PABF OPEN, where the twins allowed Teramoto to make 5♦ doubled (plus 550) while Miyakuni-Imakura did worse, going minus 800 at 5♥ doubled. 6 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 33-29. This one had all the makings of a slugfest from its inception and was showing no signs of easing up.

Bd: 11	North	
Dir: South	♠ 86	
Vul: None	♥ A9752	
	♦ AJ	
	♣ A1062	
West		East
♠ AKQ54		♠ J973
♥ 3		♥ KJ4
♦ Q10952		♦ K87
♣ QJ		♣ 853
	South	
	♠ 102	
	♥ Q1086	
	♦ 643	
	♣ K974	

4♠ was made at both tables in NAITO vs TAKAYAMA and PABF WOMEN vs YOUTH, and failed at both tables in CHINA vs TATAI.

In USA vs YAMADA, Cappelletti-Lipscomb defeated 4♠ while Itabashi-Simpson were permitted to make an overtrick; USA 27-16.

The twins (believe it or not) missed this game. The fact that you can't make it and might go down in three are not valid excuses. But right they were. Their plus 170 brought in 6 imps for GREAT BRITAIN when Hackett-Armstrong defeated 4♠ at the other table. The Brits were ahead 42-29.

If North is not really marked with the ♥A on the bidding, he might well duck it when the suit is led by declarer (sparing declarer the guess is weak bridge, you know), but even if declarer steals the ♥K, he has

to guess diamonds. If North has bid, declarer will lead the first diamond through him. Is that a 2♥ overcall in your circles, dear reader?

Bd: 12	North	
Dir: West	♠ Q109	
Vul: N/S	♥ 109432	
	♦ 95	
	♣ 963	
West		East
♠ AK5432		♠ J7
♥ 5		♥ Q7
♦ K762		♦ QJ103
♣ AK		♣ Q8542
	South	
	♠ 86	
	♥ AKJ86	
	♦ A84	
	♣ J107	

Mizuta-Tanaka doubled Ohta in 4♠ and held her to 590. 5 imps to NAITO against TAKAYAMA, 40-21.

Takahashi-Kaz Yamada missed game against the USA, who gained 6 imps to lead 33-16.

Bd: 13	North	
Dir: North	♠ 10865	
Vul: Both	♥ Q	
	♦ A97	
	♣ KQJ85	
West		East
♠ Q743		♠ AJ92
♥ K532		♥ A8
♦ J643		♦ 1082
♣ A		♣ 10972
	South	
	♠ K	
	♥ J109764	
	♦ KQ5	
	♣ 643	

2♥ was the popular spot on this one. It was made more often than it failed, but it should not have been difficult to defeat, West getting two club ruffs and East having no reason to lose his ♠A.

Teramoto took ten (count 'em) tricks against the twins, who will not include this one in their scrapbook of defensive gems. Meanwhile, Miyakuni-Imakura got all their tricks against Armstrong, so PABF OPEN gained 7 imps, 36-42.

The overtricks were flying fast and furious at both tables of TAKAYAMA vs NAITO and PABF WOMEN vs YOUTH, but in USA vs YAMADA, Itabashi-Simpson beat 2♥ while Takahashi-Kaz Yamada did not. 7 imps to USA, 40-16.

Fu-Ju defeated 2♥, but the contract at the other table was 2♠ by Maeda-Hayashi, East/West. It looks as if Maeda might have maed (sic) it, but he too was down 100. 5 imps to CHINA, 33-19.

Bd: 16	North	
Dir: West	♠ A2	
Vul: E/W	♥ 62	
	♦ KQ42	
	♣ KQJ54	
West		East
♠ J1043		♠ 9876
♥ AQ108		♥ K73
♦ 953		♦ 876
♣ A2		♣ 1098
	South	
	♠ KQ5	
	♥ J954	
	♦ AJ10	
	♣ 763	

In four matches, 3NT was played at both tables. In each of those matches, one declarer made it and the other was defeated when West shifted to a low heart (or perhaps the queen, which is not as good if you're trying to beat 3NT rather than hold it; East might hold king-and-one).

There were four 11 imp swings, thanks to the good work of Imakura-san, Takano-san, Itabashi-san, and Hayashi-san.

In the other match, Masamura-san found the vital heart switch to defeat 3NT but Akama-Furuta inexplicably stopped at 2♦, plus 150, so YOUTH gained only 5 imps to lead 25-16.

Bd: 17	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 865	
Vul: None	♥ A94	
	♦ J653	
	♣ 875	
West		East
♠ QJ		♠ AK10943
♥ KQ852		♥ —
♦ AKQ108		♦ 92
♣ J		♣ AKQ109
	South	
	♠ 72	
	♥ J10763	
	♦ 74	
	♣ 6432	

It is not always easy to show a void in your partner's main suit, and this deal proved to be a difficult one for East/West.

Our guys had a chance after:

West	East
	1♠
2♥	3♣
3♦	3♠
?	

If West had bid 4♦, an advance cue-bid for spades (don't ask what happens when West is 7-6 in the reds), East might jump to 5♥, Exclusion RKCB, find the ♦A, ask for the ♠Q, and have West show it, along with the ♦K. In practice, West used RKCB over 3♠ and reached 6♠

when East did not show his void.

Forgivable, certainly. In the other room, Takahashi/Kaz Yamada also missed seven, but our North guy doubled, presumably for a heart lead. He ran into a redouble this time, got his heart lead, and soon chalked up minus 1820 on his private score. Gee, doesn't the grand slam score only 1510? We don't call him Junior for nothing. 13 imps to YAMADA, 30-51.

Two pairs did bid this grand slam, but one of them (Miyakuni-Imakura) tried it in notrump. This time North's (Papa Bear's) lead-directing double made a lot of sense. Down 100 and 15 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 58-47.

The other grand slam was bid by Sakamoto-Toyofuku for PABF WOMEN, and they chose the right strain. No one doubled, so the swing was 10 imps, 26-25. The score suggests that the bridge in this match was a lot better than it was in the other matches, and I think that the score reflects reality on this occasion.

Bd: 18	North	
Dlr: East	♠ 76	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q108	
	♦ AJ932	
	♣ Q105	
West		East
♠ 108		♠ AK952
♥ 932		♥ J754
♦ Q7654		♦ 8
♣ K98		♣ AJ2
	South	
	♠ QJ43	
	♥ AK6	
	♦ K10	
	♣ 7643	

East/West usually declared 2♠ (or 2♥) and failed, but Akama-Furuta and Hackett-Armstrong overbid to 3NT, down 200 with the North/South cards to turn over 6 imps apiece.

Naito-Moriyama bid and made 2NT with the North/South cards to bring in a couple of imps for NAITO against TAKAYAMA, 44-32.



"You are about to enter another dimension, a dimension not of sight or sound, but of imagination. There's the sign post up ahead, next stop..."

Bd: 19	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 9	
Vul: E/W	♥ 10873	
	♦ AJ10987	
	♣ 75	
West		East
♠ AQ7		♠ K10543
♥ KQJ65		♥ A42
♦ 5		♦ Q42
♣ K1093		♣ 42
	South	
	♠ J862	
	♥ 9	
	♦ K63	
	♣ AQJ86	

It's normal for East/West to reach 4♥ or 4♠, but although the ♣A is inside, both majors break four-one and there is a serious control problem in either contract. This is the sort of deal that tends to produce swings because the defense can proceed in different ways and game might be made legitimately or otherwise.

That doesn't account for Nishida-Ohno stopping in 3♥ (down one), of course. Or the twins competing to 5♥ (down three, undoubled) over 5♦ while Miyakuni-Imakura doubled the diamond sacrifice at the other table to add another 300 to the pot. 12 imps to PABF OPEN, 65-58.

Takahashi made 4♥ doubled against Cappelletti-Lipscomb on the lead of the ♠9 (maybe we're tired and missing something obvious, but that looks like pretty

good work by declarer); plus 790. If ten tricks looks very good, consider that Itabashi took twelve in the same contract (not doubled) only to lose 3 imps. USA over YAMADA, 51-35.

Ju also made 4♥, against Hirata-Hara, giving CHINA 12 imps and a 51-31 lead against TATAI.

Bd: 20	North	
Dlr: West	♠ —	
Vul: Both	♥ K932	
	♦ QJ97432	
	♣ 43	
West		East
♠ AQ42		♠ KJ987
♥ A87		♥ 654
♦ 65		♦ 108
♣ QJ105		♣ A86
	South	
	♠ 10653	
	♥ QJ10	
	♦ AK	
	♣ K972	

If North/South happen to wander into 5♦, perhaps as a save against East/West's doomed (two down) 4♠, they will find that the contract is cold. That is how Messrs Mizuta-Tanaka gained 12 imps for TAKAYAMA against NAITO to tie their match at the eleventh hour.

Everyone else played 4♦ and made five or 4♠ down 200.

The results in	VPs	IMPs
CHINA over TATAI	19-11	51-31
USA over YAMADA	18-12	51-37
PABF OPEN over GREAT BRITAIN	16-14	65-60
PABF WOMEN over YOUTH	16-14	32-28
NAITO tied TAKAYAMA	15-15	44-44



"Damn. This itch is killing me."



"Now listen, see. I'm breakin' out of here, see. Now when the screw isn't lookin' I'll hit him over the head and grab his keys, see. You keep the engine runnin' in the getaway car..."



## NEC CUP: ROUND EIGHT

Going into Round 8 GREAT BRITAIN had an 11 VP lead over second place PABF OPEN and was practically out of reach of third and fourth place YAMADA and USA, with 113 and 112, respectively. With CHINA and TATAI also both in triple digits, the race to qualify was on big time .

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ QJ3		
Vul: None	♥ QJ9		
	♦ QJ852		
	♣ J2		
West		East	
♠ AK98		♠ 642	
♥ A1082		♥ 543	
♦ 976		♦ K104	
♣ 83		♣ Q954	
	South		
	♠ 1075		
	♥ K76		
	♦ A3		
	♣ AK1076		

3NT cannot make against normal defense, but one pair always seems to make such contracts. Don't bother to guess. There are far more challenging things to ponder. Of course it was those partners in crime, Justin and Jason, "Les Enfants Terrible." GREAT BRITAIN gained 7 imps when their counterparts at the other table were held to seven tricks in 1NT. Four other North/South pairs reached the ill-fated game. Two of them, Yoshita-Furuta for YOUTH and Kobayashi-Takayama for TAKAYAMA, were playing each other for a push. The third pair was Cappelletti-Itabashi for USA (ain't we got fun), who lost 5 imps to NAITO when Naito-Moriyama stopped in 1NT and made three. PABF WOMEN pushed the board with YAMADA when both teams stopped in 1NT and made two. But the big swing on the board came in PABF OPEN versus TATAI, when Hayashi-Maeda for TATAI went down in 3NT and Hisatomi-Teramoto for PABF

OPEN stopped to pop Tatai-Hara in 1♥, collecting 500 and 11 imps for their effort.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ QJ32		
Vul: Both	♥ AKJ753		
	♦ K		
	♣ A5		
West		East	
♠ 864		♠ 9	
♥ 96		♥ 842	
♦ AQ97		♦ 10843	
♣ J1084		♣ K9732	
	South		
	♠ AK1075		
	♥ Q10		
	♦ J652		
	♣ Q6		

After a quiet East/West partscore deal in which a few pairs managed to go minus for small losses and an unlucky game deal which a few pairs managed to underbid to a plus score came this instructive little gem. Eight of the ten North/South pairs reached 6♠, six of them pushing the board. Only Kobayashi-Takayama and Cappelletti-Itabashi for USA managed not to bid it, losing 13 imps in the process. The USA's pair's auction was:

North	South
Cappelletti	Itabashi
1♥	1♠
4♠ (strong, BAL)	4NT (RKCB)
5♠ (2 with ♠Q)	Pass

It's not clear which action was more ill-conceived: the failure to splinter with the North hand or South's use of RKCB when he didn't know what to do when found out

he had enough key cards for slam. (Your editors' opinions are divided on this issue.) But the reward for this collaboration *del Diablo* seems only appropriate.



"It's elementary, dearie."



"I come here to pick up chicks. Doesn't everyone?"

Bd: 5	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 93	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q105	
	♦ AQJ	
	♣ A10765	
West		East
♠ 10		♠ AJ764
♥ 742		♥ A86
♦ 106432		♦ K875
♣ Q983		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ KQ852	
	♥ KJ93	
	♦ 9	
	♣ KJ4	

Most auctions we can construct lead to 3NT on this deal, with ten or eleven tricks likely. Cappelletti-Itabashi for USA stopped to double 1♠, and paid for it with 3 imps to NAITO when they ended up plus only 500. Being off two aces and the queen five times in trumps makes 5♣ seem a rather undesirable contract. But Hayashi-Maeda for TATAI chose that course anyhow. When trumps broke four-one, yielding an inescapable loser there to go with the two aces, they paid for their indiscretion with 12 imps to PABF OPEN. A similar fate awaited K Yamada-Takahashi when they played 4♥ against PABF WOMEN.

Bd: 6	North	
Dlr: East	♠ 109	
Vul: E/W	♥ AKJ1092	
	♦ 7	
	♣ KQ73	
West		East
♠ 864		♠ KQJ73
♥ Q85		♥ 3
♦ KJ10865		♦ Q432
♣ 8		♣ 965
	South	
	♠ A52	
	♥ 764	
	♦ A9	
	♣ AJ1042	

On a spade lead both round-suit slams depend on locating the ♥Q, making them basically five-or-seven propositions. Both North/South pairs chose to play it safe in 4♥ in USA versus NAITO, though Naito-Moriyama had to contend with aggressive interference when Colker-san opened 2♠ and Kokish-san's raised to three. When Naito bid 4♥, Moriyama cut her some slack for being under pressure and passed; a pair of plus 450s. Hisatomi-Teramoto for PABF OPEN bid and made 6♣, picking up 9 imps on TATAI when Ino-Chen were doubled in 4♠ for 500. The other three matches produced 11 imp swings. Two of them occurred when K Yamada-Takahashi and Kobayashi-Takayama both misguessed trumps in 6♥ to go down one as their opponents for PABF WOMEN and YOUTH, respectively, stopped in 4♥ at the other table and made five. Finally, in a battle of the titans, *Les Enfants Terrible* got a dose of their own medicine when they reached 6♣ and made seven, only to lose 11 imps to CHINA's Liu-Zhang when they bid and made the grand. *Viola, mes amis!*

Bd: 7	North	
Dlr: South	♠ —	
Vul: Both	♥ J10843	
	♦ AKQJ3	
	♣ A74	
West		East
♠ K2		♠ A1097654
♥ 762		♥ Q
♦ 9862		♦ 105
♣ J1095		♣ 632
	South	
	♠ QJ83	
	♥ AK95	
	♦ 74	
	♣ KQ8	

Board 7 was everyone's 6♥ with two notable exceptions – both in the same match. Liu-Zhang inexplicably stopped in 5♥ and were punished unmercifully by *Las Enfants* when they bid and made the grand; 17 imps to GREAT BRITAIN. It's not nice to fool with the two-headed monster.



"See that table over there. I told them they had only 3 minutes left to play two boards. Can you spell R-E-V-O-K-E?"

Bd: 8	North		
Dir: West	♠ Q854		
Vul: None	♥ 10		
	♦ AKQ1075		
	♣ J2		
West		East	
♠ K7		♠ 96	
♥ AKJ63		♥ Q872	
♦ 843		♦ 96	
♣ Q108		♣ A9654	
	South		
	♠ AJ1032		
	♥ 954		
	♦ J2		
	♣ K73		

South is cold for 4♠ on the lie of the cards, not needing even one of the two black-suit finesses unless West finds the difficult underlead of the ♥AK. And 4♠ making is what happened at all but two tables. At one Ohno-Nishida outbid K Yamada-Takahashi and played in...3♥! When the smoke had cleared they had a plus 140 to go with their teammates' plus 420; 11 imps to PABF WOMEN. At the other YOUTH's Yoshida-Furuta wrong-sided the contract and as a result went down one; 10 imps to TAKAYAMA.

Bd: 9	North		
Dir: North	♠ 9		
Vul: E/W	♥ AK9542		
	♦ K65		
	♣ Q82		
West		East	
♠ AK52		♠ Q1087	
♥ 73		♥ 8	
♦ J1087		♦ AQ943	
♣ 1074		♣ KJ3	
	South		
	♠ J643		
	♥ QJ106		
	♦ 2		
	♣ A965		

4♥ cannot be made unless East leads away from his ♣K, and that's apparently what happened to Hisatomi-Teramoto for PABF OPEN against TATAI and Sakamoto-Toyofuku for PABF WOMEN against YAMADA. They won 11 and 10 imps, respectively when 4♥ failed at the other table (and was doubled in the first match). As for East/West, it just so happens they are cold for 4♠, but this was a double-edged sword in USA versus NAITO. When Colker-san (sitting East – Kokish-san *always* sits West!) doubled 1♥ for takeout, Moriyama (South) found the excellent bid of 4♦ (splinter) to keep them out of the auction as North/South made their way to 4♥. Plus 50 was not the best result to bring back to their teammates. But at the other table Cappelletti-Itabashi took exception to Ohta's 4♠ contract, and darned if they didn't collect 500. 11 imps to USA – the hard way. In PABF YOUTH versus TAKAYAMA both North/South pairs took the 5♥ save against 4♠, got doubled, and went down two and one, respectively. That was 5 imps to TAKAYAMA. And finally, the largest swing on this board came in the match between (you guessed it!) CHINA versus GREAT BRITAIN., when Papa-John went plus 790 in 4♠ doubled while *Les Enfants* suffered an unlucky minus 100 as Fu-Ju sawed them off in 4♥ and beat them one for 100; 12 imps to GREAT BRITAIN.

Bd: 11	North		
Dir: South	♠ 103		
Vul: None	♥ Q1092		
	♦ K109632		
	♣ A		
West		East	
♠ —		♠ AK98752	
♥ AK8653		♥ J	
♦ J85		♦ Q74	
♣ Q764		♣ J9	
	South		
	♠ QJ64		
	♥ 74		
	♦ A		
	♣ K108532		

Time out for a poll. Your editors are embroiled in a major disagreement about who gets the charge for their poor result on Board 11. You can treat this as a Bridge World "You Be the Judge" problem by assigning percentages to each of us according to our culpability for the result. Here was our auction:

West	North	East	South
Kokish-san		Colker-san	
			Pass
1♥	2♦	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

4♠ doubled went down four, minus 800, on excellent defense by Naito and Moriyama, including a trump promotion with North's ♠10.

Which bid was the worst (1♥ or 4♠), and what percentage of the blame would you assign each of us for this? If we get enough feedback, we'll publish the results in a future Daily Bulletin.

Oh, and by the way, we won 7 imps on the board when our teammates collected 1100 against 4♥ doubled at the other table. But no result merchants, we. Our's was still an embarrassing act.

Bd: 12	North	
Dlr: West	♠ A2	
Vul: N/S	♥ A109	
	♦ A8	
	♣ AK10753	
West		East
♠ QJ8		♠ 109754
♥ J7642		♥ 8
♦ Q107		♦ J5
♣ J6		♣ Q9842
	South	
	♠ K63	
	♥ KQ53	
	♦ K96432	
	♣ —	

Both 6♦ and 6NT are both excellent contracts, reached by at least one pair in the event – as were a couple of other less exciting contracts, including two other slams. In NAITO versus USA Naito-Moriyama bid 6♦ and were unlucky to lose 2 imps for their effort when Cappelletti-Itabashi bid to 6NT. K Yamada-Takahashi also bid 6♦ and were rewarded with 12 imps when PABF WOMEN settled for 3NT. PABF OPEN's Hisatomi-Teramoto also bid 6♦ and gained 16 imps when TATAI tried 6♥, which was scuttled by the five-one trump break. And if that wasn't bad enough, TAKAYAMA gained 13 imps by simply stopping in 3NT when YOUTH's Yoshida-Furuta got overly exuberant and reached for the stars with 7♥. But the real shocker on this board came in (you guessed it, again) CHINA versus GREAT BRITAIN when the wild men from the orient and the twin loonies from the island pushed this one when each side settled for...game! Now

ain't that a kick-in-the-poo-juice?

Bd: 15	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 72	
Vul: N/S	♥ 3	
	♦ AQJ976	
	♣ 6542	
West		East
♠ 63		♠ AKQ85
♥ J94		♥ AQ876
♦ 1043		♦ —
♣ QJ1073		♣ AK8
	South	
	♠ J1094	
	♥ K1052	
	♦ K852	
	♣ 9	

When Colker-san picked up the East hand, he was greeted with: Pass-Pass-3♦. He tried 4♦ (ostensibly the majors) and Kokish-san bid 4♥. A 5♦ cue-bid met with an equal lack of enthusiasm from Kokish-san, and Colker-san settled for 6♥. When a club was led by North, Kokish-san had the tempo he needed to bring home the contract, but unfortunately could not bring himself to make the winning (but incorrect) play of finessing South for the king-ten fourth of trumps (a heart to the nine brings in the suit for one loser). So USA lost 11 imps to NAITO when they stopped in 4♥ at the other table. YAMADA bid the same slam and were doubled for their trouble; 11 imps to PABF WOMEN. YOUTH picked up 6 imps against TAKAYAMA when they stopped in 4♥ at one table and conceded only 200 in 4♦ doubled at the other. PABF OPEN bid and made 6♣ while TATAI failed in the same contract, for a 14-imp swing. And finally,

CHINA picked up a cool 11 imps on GREAT BRITAIN when Fu-Ju played 4♥ against the twins while Papa-John tried to emulate the kids' shtick and bid to 7♣ in the other room, down two. Maybe adults should leave kids' play to the kids.



"Once upon a time, in a galaxy far, far away..."



"He thinks I don't know what he's up to, but he underestimates me."

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ A4
Vul: E/W	♥ A65
	♦ KQ543
	♣ Q73
West	East
♠ 983	♠ QJ105
♥ Q97	♥ KJ43
♦ J1086	♦ 972
♣ 852	♣ J6
	South
	♠ K762
	♥ 1082
	♦ A
	♣ AK1094

6♣ is a fine slam on this board, and both Hisatomi-Teramoto for PABF OPEN and Kobayashi-Takayama for TAKAYAMA bid it to win 10 and 11 imps for their teams (versus TATAI and YOUTH), respectively. Good bidding, guys.

There was action at every table on the last board of the set. Colker-Kokish bid the East/West cards to 4♥ against NAITO on the auction:

West	North	East	South
Kokish		Colker	
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dble (neg)
3♥ (WK)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led a club and Colker ruffed, then tried a small heart toward dummy. When South ducked, Colker

played a second trump and claimed ten tricks for plus 620.

At the other table Cappelletti-Itabashi bid the North/South hands to 5♣, got doubled, and came home with eleven tricks for plus 750. That was 16 imps to USA. YAMADA picked up 5 imps on PABF WOMEN when they made 4♥ doubled at one table while conceding 420 to 4♥ at the other. A similar fate befell GREAT BRITAIN against CHINA, but this time the contracts were 5♣ and 5♣ doubled; 4 imps to CHINA. Hisatomi-Teramoto for PABF OPEN found their way to 4♥ doubled, but failed by one trick; minus 200. At the other table Hayashi-Maeda bid and made 5♣ for a 9-imp gain over TATAI.. And finally, Yoshida-Furuta for YOUTH decided to try a different tack and declared 3NT with the North/South cards. With nine top tricks they ended up plus 600. At the other table their teammates, Kohno-Akama, must have had a bidding misunderstanding and played in 2♦ doubled. (Maybe East bid 2NT over North's 1♣ opening, intending it as unusual for the lower two unbid suits, and West thought this showed the minors?) They went down 500 and gained 3 imps against TAKAYAMA.

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ 6
Vul: Both	♥ 107
	♦ A1075
	♣ AKJ752
West	East
♠ QJ1098	♠ K43
♥ QJ96	♥ K8543
♦ Q4	♦ KJ932
♣ 109	♣ —
	South
	♠ A752
	♥ A2
	♦ 86
	♣ Q8643

The results in	VPs	IMPs
PABF OPEN over TATAI	25-5	87-37
PABF WOMEN over YAMADA	21-9	57-30
GREAT BRITAIN over CHINA	18-12	45-29
USA over NAITO	16-14	46-39
TAKAYAMA over YOUTH	15-15	48-46

## NEC CUP: ROUND NINE

Last chance. GREAT BRITAIN and PABF OPEN were sure things, but the other two semifinal berths were up for grabs, with USA, YAMADA, and CHINA the likely suspects.

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q9643		
Vul: None	♥ Q1076		
	♦ Q		
	♣ Q62		
West		East	
♠ 85		♠ 10	
♥ AJ854		♥ —	
♦ 965		♦ AKJ108732	
♣ J53		♣ 10874	
	South		
	♠ AKJ72		
	♥ K932		
	♦ 4		
	♣ AK9		

North/South are cold for 4♠ and can make five if North declares or if West does not lead a heart where South declares. East/West can take nine tricks in diamonds, and will normally bid up to 5♦. The field produced a selection of dignified results. We won't say, "for a change," but you know what we're thinking.

There were six minus 300s in 5♦ doubled, four of them in the same two matches. There were two plus 450s in 5♠, played both times by North, thank you, and two minus 500s in 6♦ doubled, one opposite plus 450 for a 2-imp loss, one opposite plus 300 for a 5-imp loss (YAMADA vs GREAT BRITAIN).

We can't help but wonder how Fu-Ju reached 5♦ with the East/West cards, down just 50 (although trumps are two-two, declarer runs out of tricks. Since Miyakuni-Imakura were plus 120 with those cards, PABF OPEN gained 5 imps.

There were five more reasonable diamond partials, a couple of minuses (100 and 200) in 1NT with the North/South cards, and one minus 200 in 3♥, but none of these results generated more than a 2-imp swing.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K43		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ5		
	♦ Q954		
	♣ K96		
West		East	
♠ J7		♠ Q2	
♥ KJ32		♥ 10874	
♦ J863		♦ K1072	
♣ J104		♣ 532	
	South		
	♠ A109865		
	♥ 96		
	♦ A		
	♣ AQ87		

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J763		
Vul: N/S	♥ J743		
	♦ AJ		
	♣ KJ6		
West		East	
♠ Q9		♠ AK42	
♥ Q862		♥ A	
♦ 108652		♦ 9743	
♣ 75		♣ A1093	
	South		
	♠ 1085		
	♥ K1095		
	♦ KQ		
	♣ Q842		

If the heart finesse works, you'd fail in 6♠ only with all four trumps in the West hand, and perhaps not even then if you elect to play clubs first (if they're three-three, you can safety-play the trumps and if someone ruffs, you're okay unless it's with a singleton trump). Only Cappelletti-Lipscomb and Liu-Zhang bid it, bringing in 10 imps for their efforts.



Bd: 5	North	
Dir: North	♠ AK	
Vul: N/S	♥ AKQJ3	
	♦ AJ76	
	♣ 102	
West		East
♠ J104		♠ 8763
♥ 98		♥ 10742
♦ Q852		♦ 109
♣ J973		♣ KQ8
	South	
	♠ Q952	
	♥ 65	
	♦ K43	
	♣ A654	

With the jack-ten of spades dropping tripleton, North/South have twelve top tricks in notrump without the diamond finesse, and if the defense leads a club, declarer will play his slam that way to maximize his chances. Without a club lead, declarer will unblock the spades but is likely to choose one of the possible diamond plays before cashing the ♠Q, lest he set up the setting trick in spades should he have to lose a diamond trick.

If you treat the North had as roughly a 24-value, you might reach this slam, but it's certainly human to miss it. Hirata-Maeda won 13 imps for TATAI by reaching 6NT, but Kobayashi-Takayama were somewhat fortunate to gain 12 imps against USA by bidding and making 6♦.

Bd: 6	North	
Dir: East	♠ J43	
Vul: E/W	♥ 5	
	♦ 84	
	♣ K1065432	
West		East
♠ A52		♠ K9876
♥ J832		♥ Q764
♦ J109		♦ K32
♣ J87		♣ A
	South	
	♠ Q10	
	♥ AK109	
	♦ AQ765	
	♣ Q9	

Only Cappelletti-Lipscomb and the Hackett twins bid the North/South cards to 5♣, where they fell a trick short. Everyone else stopped in a club partial so USA and GREAT BRITAIN both turned over 5 imps.

Bd: 7	North	
Dir: South	♠ K54	
Vul: Both	♥ 7	
	♦ KQJ1063	
	♣ A92	
West		East
♠ Q9		♠ AJ1076
♥ Q10863		♥ A954
♦ 97		♦ A84
♣ K1053		♣ J
	South	
	♠ 832	
	♥ KJ2	
	♦ 52	
	♣ Q8764	

4♥ needs the spade finesse and just one trump loser, but it's a vulnerable game and worth bidding. In NAITO vs YOUTH, neither East/West pair bid game. Just as well, too, for neither of them took ten tricks.

In all the other matches, the Open Room East/West pair bid 4♥ and made it while the Closed Room East/West pair stopped low or sold out to 2♦. Those four big swings were generated by Fu-Ju for CHINA, Sakamoto-Toyofuku for PABF WOMEN, Nagasaka-Takano for TAKAYAMA, and Papa Bear-Armstrong for GREAT BRITAIN.



"If you want this chair you'll have to fight me for it."



"How can we mount a comeback, Fu, if you stay up there?"

Bd: 8	North	
Dlr: West	♠ K82	
Vul: None	♥ 752	
	♦ J76432	
	♣ 8	
West		East
♠ J		♠ 965
♥ AK104		♥ 963
♦ K95		♦ A108
♣ AK1074		♣ QJ93
	South	
	♠ AQ10743	
	♥ QJ8	
	♦ Q	
	♣ 652	

5♣ is very good for East/West and an easy make with hearts three-three. Anyone reaching 6♣ ought to make it by taking the double finesse in hearts, but Takano, who was in the slam, went down, giving USA 10 sorely-needed imps, 22-28.

Tatai-Hara did not bid 5♣, but they got 500 from PABF WOMEN's Shimamura-Fukuda's 4♠ pre-sacrifice to gain 3 imps, 16-11.

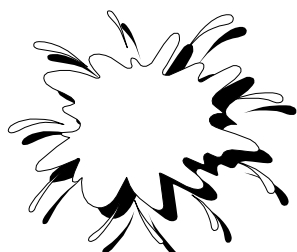
IN PABF OPEN vs CHINA, 5♣ seemed like a pipe dream. Wu-Ju sold out to Ino-Chen in 2♠ and beat it; down 50, while Miyakuni-Imakura sold out to 4♠ and beat it just one for the same 50. No swing!

Bd: 9	North	
Dlr: North	♠ A2	
Vul: E/W	♥ 75	
	♦ A97	
	♣ Q97653	
West		East
♠ 1076		♠ J94
♥ AJ104		♥ 932
♦ 10843		♦ QJ65
♣ A4		♣ KJ8
	South	
	♠ KQ853	
	♥ KQ86	
	♦ K2	
	♣ 102	

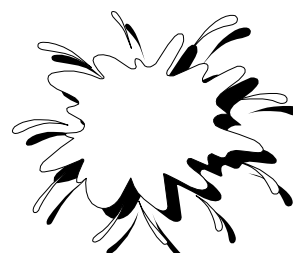
North/South would like to be in 2♠ or 3♣ on this one, for plus 110, or perhaps in 2NT, for plus 120, but at the table, only one pair in each match stayed low, and one of those went down in 2♠ while his counterpart went the same one down in 4♠. Three 4-imp swings, and one 5-imp swing.

Bd: 10	North	
Dlr: East	♠ Q8543	
Vul: Both	♥ K6	
	♦ 975	
	♣ Q53	
West		East
♠ 976		♠ AK2
♥ Q32		♥ A108
♦ AKQ102		♦ 86
♣ 62		♣ AKJ94
	South	
	♠ J10	
	♥ J9754	
	♦ J43	
	♣ 1087	

If diamonds come in and the defense has not yet established a heart winner (the likely scenario), declarer can play clubs from the top, losing only to queen-ten-fourth or fifth outside. 6NT is really not that bad a contract. Two pairs (Setoguchi-Ohta and Hackett-Armstrong) gained slam swings for their teams (NAITO and GREAT BRITAIN) by bidding and making 6NT. We're projecting a 2NT opening (or its equivalent) by East and a direct raise to slam by West. Sakamoto-Toyofuku reached 6♣ and Miyakuni-Imakura 6♦, both making for big gains to PABF WOMEN and PABF OPEN. Neither pair bid slam in USA vs TAKAYAMA.



"I am *not*, repeat, *not* un-bear-able!"





Bd: 11	North	
Dlr: South	♠ K953	
Vul: None	♥ 4	
	♦ K1073	
	♣ Q873	
West		East
♠ Q108		♠ AJ76
♥ 62		♥ AK10
♦ J9642		♦ A85
♣ 962		♣ J54
	South	
	♠ 42	
	♥ QJ98753	
	♦ Q	
	♣ AK10	

Two making heart partials in NAITO vs YOUTH. Very civilized. Two doubled heart games, down only one (no spade lead), in YAMADA vs GREAT BRITAIN. Not very civilized, but life in the fast lane. We expected no less. 2♥ making four, 2♥ down one in USA vs TAKAYAMA. Civilized, but undignified. 6imps to TAKAYAMA, ahead 39-22. 2♥ making three, 4♥ doubled down three. Just a bit too high. 12imps to TATAI vs PABF WOMEN, 33-25. And last, but not least, 2♥ on time, plus 110, 3NT doubled by East, down thryree, minus 500. 9imps to CHINA against PABF OPEN, 35-18.

East/West's hand for a low partial. Sertoguchi-Ohta overbid to 4♠ and gave YOUTH 6imps, 12-18. As did Nagasaka-Takano to give USA 5imps, 27-39.

Bd: 12	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 105	
Vul: N/S	♥ K10862	
	♦ K2	
	♣ Q932	
West		East
♠ KJ73		♠ AQ98
♥ AJ3		♥ Q
♦ QJ10		♦ 98765
♣ K54		♣ 876
	South	
	♠ 642	
	♥ 9754	
	♦ A43	
	♣ AJ10	

Bd: 13	North	
Dlr: North	♠ K32	
Vul: Both	♥ AQ10842	
	♦ J1043	
	♣ —	
West		East
♠ AQJ		♠ 975
♥ —		♥ K976
♦ KQ65		♦ A8
♣ AKQ1086		♣ J753
	South	
	♠ 10864	
	♥ J53	
	♦ 972	
	♣ 942	

In NAITO vs YOUTH, Yoshida-Masamura played in 3NT while Setoguchi-Ohta reached 5♣. That really looks awful, but we can't be sure how they were affected by North/South competition. Both pairs must have been delighted not to lose heavily for missing 6♣.

Takahashi-Kaz Yamada reached 7♣ and had to fail, which cost them 16imps against GREAT BRITAIN when Papa Bear-

Armstrong stopped in six. GB led 46-12.

Simpson-Itabashi had a serious accident for USA against TAKAYAMA, stopping at 3♣ to turn over 15imps, 27-54.

Fu-Ju and Sakamoto-Toyofuku both missed slam while their opponents didn't, so PABF OPEN and TATAI both gained 13imps.

Hirata-Shimizu for YAMADA played the North/South cards in 3♣. Everyone else bid 3NT or got a significant penalty. GREAT BRITAIN gained another 8imps, 54-12.

Bd: 14	North	
Dlr: East	♠ K105	
Vul: None	♥ A65	
	♦ AKQ7	
	♣ J109	
West		East
♠ QJ6		♠ A9432
♥ K874		♥ J1032
♦ J42		♦ 963
♣ 763		♣ Q
	South	
	♠ 87	
	♥ Q9	
	♦ 1085	
	♣ AK8542	

Bd: 15	North	
Dir: South	♠ 9	
Vul: N/S	♥ 108753	
	♦ 10865	
	♣ Q94	
West		East
♠ AJ104		♠ Q7653
♥ AKJ9		♥ Q64
♦ 932		♦ J7
♣ 73		♣ 1082
	South	
	♠ K82	
	♥ 2	
	♦ AKQ4	
	♣ AKJ65	

This time Shimizu-Hirata sold out to 3♠, which made easily. Their counterparts (the twins) bid and made 5♣ doubled for plus 750 (a trump lead or switch would have beaten it), so GB gained a further 13imps, 67-12.

PABF WOMEN gained 7imps when both their pairs made a black-suit partial, 33-46.

Bd: 16	North	
Dir: West	♠ AQ	
Vul: E/W	♥ 9753	
	♦ K952	
	♣ 975	
West		East
♠ 975		♠ K8642
♥ AKQ104		♥ 6
♦ 763		♦ A8
♣ KQ		♣ A6432
	South	
	♠ J103	
	♥ J82	
	♦ QJ104	
	♣ J108	

Nagasaka-Takano bid and made 4♠ for TAKAYAMA, but Itabashi-Simpson played in 3♣. 11imps to TAKAYAMA, sitting pretty on a 65-28 lead.

Sakamoto-Toyofuku were plus 650 but Tatai-Hara went down in 3NT, which should have been made. 13imps to PABF WOMEN, tying the match at 46.

Setoguchi/Ohta missed game for NAITO, giving YOUTH10imps and the lead, 25-18.

Bd: 17	North	
Dir: North	♠ 6543	
Vul: None	♥ Q42	
	♦ KJ4	
	♣ A92	
West		East
♠ 10		♠ KJ982
♥ KJ106		♥ 95
♦ Q9876		♦ 32
♣ QJ8		♣ 10753
	South	
	♠ AQ7	
	♥ A873	
	♦ A105	
	♣ K64	

Masayuki Ino was the only declarer to fail in 3NT, but then, he was the only declarer to play from the North side. Nearly everyone else got a helpful diamond lead. 10imps to CHINA, 46-32.

Bd: 18	North	
Dir: East	♠ QJ43	
Vul: N/S	♥ 9865	
	♦ 4	
	♣ AKJ4	
West		East
♠ 10		♠ K985
♥ 74		♥ KJ2
♦ AJ1073		♦ 952
♣ Q10972		♣ 853
	South	
	♠ A762	
	♥ AQ103	
	♦ KQ86	
	♣ 6	

On this slightly awkward game deal, there were nine scores of 620, 650, or 680 for North/South. And one plus 1100, garnered by Naito-Moriyama, who doubled Yoshida-Masamura in 4♣ (we suspect the Unusual Notrump of mild crimes and misdemeanors). 10imps to NAITO, 28-25.

Bd: 20	North	
Dir: West	♠ 9532	
Vul: Both	♥ 742	
	♦ QJ63	
	♣ 92	
West		East
♠ KJ1086		♠ AQ4
♥ AQ		♥ J9865
♦ K7		♦ 954
♣ J1063		♣ Q8
	South	
	♠ 7	
	♥ K103	
	♦ A1082	
	♣ AK754	

YOUTH pulled out their match with NAITO on this deal when Yoshida-Masamura made 4♠ (650) while Akama-Furuta conceded 400 in 5♣ undoubled. Those 6imps made it 32-28, YOUTH.

USA lost another 4imps on this one when Cappelletti-Lipscomb went down 300 in 3♦ while Itabashi-Simpson missed 4♠. It ended 71-30 for TAKAYASHI and USA were extremely fortunate to qualify.

The same pair of results were turned in by Shimamura-Fukuda and Sakamoto-Toyofuku, and the 4imps they lost were the margin of victory for TATAI.

The results in	VPs	IMPs
GREAT BRITAIN over YAMADA	25-4	70-12
TAKAYAMA over USA	23-7	71-30
CHINA over PABF OPEN	17-13	46-37
TATAI over PABF WOMEN	16-14	51-47
YOUTH over NAITO	16-14	32-28



"Ah, this is the life!"



"Hmm, eight ever, nine never...uh, no, seven if ever, so six whenever..."



"I need help and noone knows it."



"The odds be damned, I'm finessing!"

## CLUE-RICH IN LILLE

Lille, France, autumn of 1998. Semifinals of the Vivendi Open Teams (Rosenblum Cup). A very excited Italian (is there any other kind?) alleges that he was deceived by his American opponent and so lost his contract through no fault of his own. He is threatening to sue everyone, including the waiter, who apparently giggled when he saw what happened. Here is the crime scene report...

Bd: 2	North		
Dir: East	♠ K843		
Vul: N/S	♥ A		
	♦ AK10		
	♣ AK984		
West		East	
♠ AQJ		♠ 10	
♥ 54		♥ QJ963	
♦ QJ8		♦ 97643	
♣ QJ652		♣ 107	
	South		
	♠ 97652		
	♥ K10872		
	♦ 52		
	♣ 3		
<b>ANGELINI vs BRAMLEY</b>			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Versace	Lazard	Lauria	Bramley
		Pass	Pass
1♣(i)	Dble	1♥	1♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		
(i) 2+♣, NF			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Buratti	Garner	Lanzarotti
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	1♥	2♠(i)
Pass	3♣(ii)	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♠(iii)	All Pass	
(i) Preemptive; (ii) Strong, with spade support; (iii) Trump quality inquiry			

Slam requires two-two trumps with the ace onside. Sidney Lazard was hoping for better odds when he bid 6♠, and Alfredo Versace's double gave the Americans the news that they had misjudged the position. Versace led the ♥5 and Bramley won the ace, played ♦A, ♦K, diamond ruff, then a trump. Had Versace been dealt 3-1-3-6 distribution, ruffing a diamond rather than a club would have prevented Lorenzo Lauria from ruffing in with a worthwhile singleton trump. Versace played ace-queen of trumps, but Bramley lost only a second trump trick to go one down; minus 200.

In the high-powered Italian methods, Massimo Lanzarotti jumped twice in spades to show weakness, but Andrea Buratti could not resist raising to 5♠ to check on trump quality. Against 5♠, Howard Weinstein led the ♥5 to dummy's ace and Lanzarotti played ♣A, club ruff, spade towards the king. When Weinstein followed with the jack, Lanzarotti sagaciously played low from dummy... which proved to be his undoing. Weinstein continued with ace-queen of trumps, and with clubs five-two, the hapless Italian declarer was a trick short, one down in his apparently laydown contract; minus 100. ANGELINI gained 3 imps but would have gained 13 had Lanzarotti made 5♠.

Lanzarotti played the trumps as he did because Weinstein had followed high-low to the first two clubs (playing natural count signals), convincing Lanzarotti that clubs could be established with only one more ruff in the closed hand. If clubs were indeed four-three, he could guard against East holding the blank ace of trumps (which was not impossible if Weinstein had opened light in third

position). Mr Lanzarotti was very upset when he discovered that Weinstein had played his cards in random order and he would no longer be able to establish the long club. He launched an investigation into the American signaling methods (clearly described as standard) and decided to take it further by summoning the arbitrage. The TD pointed out that the defenders were under no obligation to give an honest count and that declarer was on his own in such situations.

Lanzarotti, still feeling somewhat put upon, issued a few appropriate silent curses, but returned to the table to advance the battle.

Somewhat eerily, the beleaguered Lanzarotti was subjected to another trial by fire much later in

the match...

Bd: 54	North		
Dir: West	♠ Q1032		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q106		
	♦ J76		
	♣ 874		
West		East	
♠ A9		♠ 765	
♥ A8532		♥ KJ97	
♦ 9		♦ AQ54	
♣ AKJ92		♣ Q6	
	South		
	♠ KJ84		
	♥ 4		
	♦ K10832		
	♣ 1053		
ANGELINI vs BRAMLEY			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lazard	Lauria	Bramley	Versace
1♥	Pass	3♥(i)	Pass
5♥(ii)	Pass	6♥	All Pass
(i) Limit raise; (ii) Trumps?			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Garner	Buratti	Weinstein
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥(i)	Pass	6♥	All Pass
(i) Trumps?			

Although Lazard's decision to focus exclusively on the trump situation worked well here, the Americans might have missed slam if Bramley held J10xx or five small trumps and an otherwise suitable hand. On the passive club lead, Lazard won cheaply, led a trump to the king, a trump to the ace, and a second club, claiming six; plus 980.

Lanzarotti too decided to concentrate on trumps (there would be a play for slam opposite a balanced hand with king-fifth of hearts). Although the spade lead is hardly safe, I think it is the most attractive choice on these two auctions. Steve Garner thought so to, starting with the ♠3 (third from an even number). Lanzarotti took Weinstein's ♠K with the ace and gave up on trying to deal with all four trumps in South. He played ace of trumps, trump to the king. Weinstein did well to discard the ♠4 rather than a "reflex" diamond that would have tipped his diamond length. Lanzarotti continued with two rounds of clubs, both opponents giving true count. Lanzarotti had to decide whether to continue clubs, succeeding when Garner held at least one more club, or take the diamond finesse.

After the adventure on Board 2 (when Lanzarotti had gone down in 5♠ by taking Weinstein's count signal at face value), there was virtually no chance that he would read anything into the defender's carding in clubs. Weinstein's failure to discard a diamond, however, might have been more

significant. If Weinstein had only four diamonds, Garner would be 4-3-4-2 and would ruff the third club with the master trump to cash a spade. After considerable deliberation, Lanzarotti decided to back his judgment and led the ♦9 to dummy's queen. Weinstein won the king and returned a spade, and Lanzarotti was two down, minus 100. 14 imps to BRAMLEY. With two boards left in the match, the Italian lead was down to 3 imps, 105-102.

After a spade lead, the correct play in the trump suit is not clear. Ace first would work very well if South showed out, but very badly if North were void. Low toward the king would leave you in the running if either opponent showed out, but would give up some flexibility if South were void.

On the passive club lead, low to the king is the right technical play. If North holds all the trumps, declarer would require little more than four-two clubs. When South shows out on the ♥K, declarer can continue: ♣Q, ♦A, diamond ruff, clubs. If North ruffs in, the rest is easy, so North discards (first his last diamond, then spades) as declarer throws two spades. Declarer cashes the ♠A before leading the last club to throw a diamond, then takes his spade ruff and ruffs dummy's last diamond with the ♥A to lead towards the ♥J in the two-card ending. If South has all the trumps, declarer can play on trumps to restrict him to one trump trick, then take the diamond finesse.

As for Lanzarotti, he was last seen shaking his head in a pasta bar on Rue Principale, refusing all attempts to console him. There are rumors that he intends to join Jason Hackett in his pursuit of a sumo wrestling career in Japan, but so far...thank heaven...the rumors remain unconfirmed.

## TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S SCHEDULES

### Today's/Tomorrow's Times

10:00-12:20 (SEMI-)FINAL 1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
12:30-14:50 (SEMI-)FINAL 2<sup>ND</sup> QTR  
14:50-16:00 LUNCH BREAK  
16:00-18:20 (SEMI-)FINAL 3<sup>RD</sup> QTR  
18:30-20:50 (SEMI-)FINAL 4<sup>TH</sup> QTR

Play will be held today and tomorrow on the fourth floor Pacifico, Rooms 415 (Open) and 416 (Closed). Each 16-board quarter will be allotted two-hours and twenty-minutes, with a ten-minute break between the first and second quarters, a one-hour and ten-minute lunch break after the second quarter, and a ten-minute break between the third and fourth quarters. From our "Business as Usual Department," Richard "El Supremo" Grenside warns, "Don't be late. Sessions will start *on time!* The Secretariat remains in Room 417, where we are thinking of doing some serious redecorating.

## 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>

# The 4th NEC CUP Qualifying

TEAMS	Rank	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. GREAT BRITAIN	1	186		25	18	13	22	24	25	14	25	20
2. NAITO	10	103	1		8	24	14	14	11	12	15	4
3. CHINA	3	136	12	22		18	12	9	12	17	15	19
4. PABF WOMEN	8	120	17	6	12		11	16	21	8	15	14
5. USA	4	135	8	16	18	19		19	18	18	7	12
6. PABF YOUTH	9	108	6	16	21	14	11		11	0	15	14
7. YAMADA	6	126	4	19	18	9	12	19		5	17	23
8. PABF OPEN	2	170	16	18	13	22	12	25	25		14	25
9. TAKAYAMA	5	132	3	15	15	15	23	15	13	16		17
10. TATAI	7	121	10	25	11	16	18	16	7	5	13	

# DATUM

## Round 7

No	DATUM	GR. BRITAIN		NAITO		CHINA		PABF WOMEN		USA		PABF YOUTH		YAMADA		PABF OPEN		TAKAYAMA		TATAI	
		N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
1	710	-13	-5	5	7	5	7	-7	-5	5	-3	5	7	3	-5	5	13	-7	-5	-7	-5
2	-110	12	3	-3	3	6	-6	-3	0	-3	3	0	3	-3	3	-3	-12	-3	3	6	-6
3	440	0	0	0	0	-7	1	0	0	-1	1	0	0	-1	1	0	0	0	0	-1	7
4	-360	-12	-4	5	-2	-4	-2	5	-2	-6	4	2	-5	-4	6	4	12	2	-5	2	4
5	-100	-3	3	0	3	0	-5	6	3	-3	-6	-3	-6	6	3	-3	3	-3	0	5	0
6	-20	6	1	-2	-8	-1	2	-1	3	-2	-3	-3	1	3	2	-1	-6	8	2	-2	1
7	-70	-3	2	4	1	-1	2	-1	-5	9	2	5	1	-2	-9	-2	3	-1	-4	-2	1
8	-800	8	5	8	5	7	-8	-5	5	-5	5	-5	5	-5	5	-5	-8	-5	-8	8	-7
9	-10	13	-11	-13	3	10	12	-3	3	-1	3	-3	3	-3	1	11	-13	-3	13	-12	-10
10	-650	0	1	1	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	-1	1	-1
11	-210	6	-1	-5	5	6	-6	-5	5	7	6	-5	5	-6	-7	1	-6	-5	5	6	-6
12	-420	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	-1	0	-6	0	0	-5	0	0	0
13	90	-5	-2	2	-2	0	5	2	-2	2	5	2	-2	-5	-2	2	5	2	-2	-5	0
14	440	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	-1	0	-1	0	0	1	0	0	-1	0	0	-1
15	-450	0	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	1	0
16	170	-6	-7	-6	-7	-6	-7	-6	1	7	6	-1	6	-6	-7	7	6	7	6	7	6
17	-1070	15	-2	2	-2	2	-2	2	10	-13	-2	-10	-2	2	13	2	-15	2	-2	2	-2
18	10	-5	-1	3	-1	1	3	1	5	1	-3	-5	-1	3	-1	1	5	1	-3	-3	-1
19	-130	-5	-10	6	-6	6	10	6	-8	-12	11	8	-6	-11	12	10	5	6	-6	-10	-6
20	180	1	1	-2	-11	-1	1	1	-1	-1	-1	1	-1	1	1	-1	-1	11	2	-1	1
IMP +		61	17	36	33	45	43	24	36	37	46	23	31	18	48	43	52	39	31	38	20
IMP -		52	43	31	39	20	38	31	23	48	18	36	24	46	37	17	61	33	36	43	45



# DATUM

## Round 8

No	DATUM	GR. BRITAIN		NAITO		CHINA		PABF WOMEN		USA		PABF YOUTH		YAMADA		PABF OPEN		TAKAYAMA		TATAI	
		N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
1	90	7	0	2	4	0	-7	1	-1	-4	-2	-4	4	1	-1	9	4	-4	4	-4	-9
2	-90	4	1	-1	1	-1	-4	-1	0	-1	1	-1	1	0	1	4	1	-1	1	-1	-4
3	-60	0	1	-1	-7	-1	0	-1	1	7	1	-4	1	-1	1	5	1	-1	4	-1	-5
4	1340	3	-3	3	12	3	-3	3	-3	-12	-3	3	12	3	-3	3	-3	-12	-3	3	-3
5	500	4	-4	3	0	4	-4	4	12	0	-3	4	-4	-12	-4	0	12	4	-4	-12	0
6	510	10	-14	-2	2	14	-10	-2	11	-2	2	-2	11	-11	2	9	0	-11	2	0	-9
7	1460	13	13	0	0	-13	-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	290	4	-4	4	-4	4	-4	4	10	4	-4	-8	-4	-10	-4	-10	-4	4	8	4	10
9	20	-3	13	-2	-10	-13	3	9	2	10	2	-8	3	-2	-9	9	3	-3	8	-3	-9
10	190	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3	0	0	0	0	7	0	3	0	0	-7	0	0	0
11	210	-4	4	11	-13	-4	4	0	-1	13	-11	-3	2	1	0	-6	4	-2	3	-4	6
12	850	-4	4	11	-11	-4	4	-4	-11	11	-11	-14	4	11	4	11	14	-4	14	-14	-11
13	100	0	0	-5	5	0	0	3	-3	-5	5	0	-3	3	-3	0	0	3	0	0	0
14	-60	0	1	-1	1	-1	0	5	4	-1	1	0	1	-4	-5	5	2	-1	0	-2	-5
15	-220	-6	-8	7	6	8	6	-5	-8	-6	-7	1	6	8	5	-12	-8	-6	-1	8	12
16	-50	-2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	-2	0	5	-5	0	0	-2	2	5	-5	-2	2
17	-100	0	1	4	1	-1	0	-2	1	-1	-4	4	-2	-1	2	-1	1	2	-4	-1	1
18	-440	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	1	0	0	-1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
19	640	-5	4	-5	5	-4	5	7	-7	-5	5	-6	-7	7	-7	7	5	7	6	-5	-7
20	250	8	-11	-13	-11	11	-8	-13	14	11	13	8	-6	-14	13	-2	-8	6	-8	8	2
IMP +		53	42	45	39	44	24	36	55	57	30	25	52	35	31	62	49	32	50	23	33
IMP -		24	44	30	57	42	53	31	35	39	45	50	32	55	36	33	23	52	25	49	62

# DATUM

## Round 9

No	DATUM	GR. BRITAIN		NAITO		CHINA		PABF WOMEN		USA		PABF YOUTH		YAMADA		PABF OPEN		TAKAYAMA		TATAI	
		N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
1	360	4	2	-2	-3	-2	2	-2	2	3	-4	3	2	-2	-4	-2	2	4	-3	-2	2
2	-140	-2	0	0	0	1	-5	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	5	-1	0	-1	-2	0
3	570	-2	2	-2	2	9	2	-2	2	9	2	-2	2	-2	2	-2	-9	-2	-9	-2	2
4	640	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5	790	-2	3	-3	2	-2	3	-2	-12	-3	-11	-2	3	-3	2	-3	2	11	3	12	2
6	110	-4	-1	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	-4	-1	1	-1	1	4	1	-1	1	4	1	-1
7	-330	9	7	4	-4	6	7	6	7	-7	-3	4	-4	-7	-9	-7	-6	3	7	-7	-6
8	-310	-3	3	-3	3	8	-5	-5	3	8	3	-3	3	-3	3	5	-8	-3	-8	-3	5
9	10	-2	-3	3	2	-2	2	-2	-3	-2	-3	-2	-3	3	2	-2	2	3	2	3	2
10	-970	6	10	7	11	-9	-6	6	9	6	-7	-11	-7	-10	-6	6	9	7	-6	-9	-6
11	50	-4	4	2	-3	10	-2	-11	-3	-3	-3	3	-2	-4	4	2	-10	3	3	3	11
12	-110	-1	0	-2	-4	-2	1	1	-1	4	1	4	2	0	1	-1	2	-1	-4	1	-1
13	-850	14	11	5	-6	-11	-6	-11	-6	-11	-12	6	-5	-11	-14	6	11	12	11	6	11
14	480	0	8	1	0	0	1	0	1	-2	0	0	-1	-8	0	-1	0	0	2	-1	0
15	-40	13	3	-4	3	3	-5	5	3	-2	3	-3	4	-3	-13	5	-3	-3	2	-3	-5
16	-530	-3	3	-3	-8	-3	3	12	3	-3	-9	8	3	-3	3	-3	3	9	3	-3	-12
17	400	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	0
18	650	-1	1	10	0	0	-1	-1	0	1	0	0	-10	-1	1	1	0	0	-1	0	1
19	-660	0	1	-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	-1
20	-240	4	-2	-9	4	1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-4	9	2	-4	2	-1	2	2	2	2
IMP +		50	58	33	28	39	31	32	32	32	10	29	29	6	24	33	32	55	39	28	38
IMP -		24	6	29	29	32	33	38	28	39	55	28	33	58	50	31	39	10	32	32	32