

## NEC CUP FINALISTS: GREAT BRITAIN vs JAPAN – PABF OPEN

GREAT BRITAIN and JAPAN –PABF OPEN won their respective semifinal matches and will meet today in the 64-board final of the NEC Cup. There will be a 32-board playoff between CHINA and USA for third place. Both matches will begin at 10:00 am. Here are the scores by quarters for each of the semifinal matches:

TEAM	c/o	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	Total
GREAT BRITAIN	3.2	59	39	27	51	179
CHINA		35	16	29	19	99

TEAM	c/o	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	Total
JAPAN – PABF OPEN		39	36	28	55	158
USA	3.2	27	28	27	17	102

The match between GREAT BRITAIN and CHINA was broken open in the second quarter when GB took a 47-imp lead. When the teams played to a virtual draw in the third quarter, the fourth quarter became almost a foregone conclusion. Still, the valiant CHINA team fought to the very end but this was not to be their day.

In the other semifinal JAPAN led USA from start to finish. The match was still close at 103-82 going into the fourth quarter, but USA fell even further behind and picked upimps on only three boards. The JAPAN team played extremely well and the best two teams, from both the round-robin and playoff stages are meeting today in the final.

Join us for the final on VuGraph today beginning at 10:00. We want to congratulate to the two semifinalists and wish good luck but most of all good bridge to both the finalists and playoff teams in today's matches.

Reports of the two semifinal matches begin on page 2.

## NEC CUP SEMIFINALS: JAPAN vs USA

With only one Japanese team remaining in the event, we'll refer to them simply as JAPAN.

### First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

USA began the set with a 3.2-imp carryover. Based on our performance in the round-robin, this could be a much needed advantage.

Bd: 1	North		
Dir: North	♠ 10975		
Vul: None	♥ —		
	♦ 986532		
	♣ QJ10		
West		East	
♠ Q6		♠ AKJ2	
♥ A105		♥ KQ98732	
♦ AK4		♦ QJ	
♣ 97653		♣ —	
	South		
	♠ 843		
	♥ J64		
	♦ 107		
	♣ AK842		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

7♥ is laydown and there's no excuse for missing it, especially in an unimpeded auction such as both North/South pairs enjoyed. In the Open Room Simpson's 6♥ bid is give-up. If Itabashi held only the three missing aces and a doubleton spade (the latter, was virtually guaranteed on the auction) the grand would be a heavy favorite. Hisatomi's 5NT bid in the Closed Room appears to be Grand Slam Force. If so, then 6♣ must have shown one of the top heart honors (it most certainly didn't show a club control). So Hisatomi was in an even better position to bid the grand than Simpson. What should have been a push at plus 1510 apiece could have been an 11-imp gain for either side but ended up a 1010 embarrassment for everyone.

Bd: 2	North		
Dir: East	♠ 7		
Vul: N/S	♥ A86		
	♦ KJ7652		
	♣ 1093		
West		East	
♠ AJ10843		♠ K9	
♥ 74		♥ KJ105	
♦ 103		♦ Q98	
♣ J74		♣ Q862	
	South		
	♠ Q652		
	♥ Q932		
	♦ A4		
	♣ AK5		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
		Pass	1NT
2♣*	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
		Pass	1NT
2♦*	3♦	3♠	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Open Room Itabashi led the ♠J against 3NT. Simpson rose with the king and returned the suit, Itabashi getting the bad news when he cashed the ace and Simpson wasting a trick to signal with the encouraging ♥5 (odd-even). Itabashi dutifully led a heart and Ino rose with the ace and led toward the queen. Simpson won the king and exited a second heart, and later came to his ♦Q for a one-trick set. In the Closed Room Teramoto led the 0/2 ♠10 and Hisatomi rose with the king to return the suit. Lipscomb unaccountably tried the ♠Q and now the

defense was able to take six spades and a heart for down three, minus 300; 5 imps to JAPAN.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K1098		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ865		
	♦ K		
	♣ 764		
West		East	
♠ —		♠ A654	
♥ K1032		♥ 9	
♦ J7632		♦ AQ98	
♣ KJ98		♣ AQ105	
	South		
	♠ QJ732		
	♥ J74		
	♦ 1054		
	♣ 32		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥
3♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
Pass	2♦*	Dble	3♠
3♠	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

In the Open Room neither Ino nor Chen bid their best suit, in which they had a nine-card fit. Even so, both Itabashi and especially Simpson took quite conservative actions to come to rest in 3♦; plus 170. In the Closed Room Cappelletti-Lipscomb forced Teramoto to bid his diamonds at the four-level, which he did willingly. Now Hisatomi had an easy raise to game; plus 620 and 10 more imps to JAPAN, to lead 15-0.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ —		
Vul: Both	♥ 8765		
	♦ QJ108763		
	♣ 64		
West		East	
♠ A6543		♠ KQ1097	
♥ Q9		♥ J43	
♦ 94		♦ K2	
♣ 9873		♣ AQJ	
	South		
	♠ J82		
	♥ AK102		
	♦ A5		
	♣ K1052		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
Pass	3♦	3♠	5♦
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Against 4♠ Chen started a low trump. Simpson won, drew trumps ending in dummy (North discarding the ♦Q and two others), and played a club to the queen and king. Chen now cashed the ♥AK and ♦A, to settle for plus 100. In the Closed Room, USA quickly drove Teramoto-Hisatomi to the five-level where they punished them for their indiscretion. The defense came to the same five tricks, this time for 500. 9 imps back to USA, trailing 15-9

Board 5 saw USA pick up 1 imp on a second overtrick in 3NT. JAPAN 15, USA 10.

Then came this little gem on which Dawei Chen showed his mettle as declarer.



"You see, it's +2490 or -2000."



If it walks like a duck...

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 52		
Vul: E/W	♥ 10754		
	♦ KJ5		
	♣ A843		
West			East
♠ KQJ764			♠ 1098
♥ Q86			♥ K93
♦ Q83			♦ 1097642
♣ 9			♣ 6
	South		
	♠ A3		
	♥ AJ2		
	♦ A		
	♣ KQJ10752		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	6♥
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	4♠*

The auction in the Open Room was as subtle as a sledge hammer. Dawei Chen drove the hand to 6NT, a contract which was vastly inferior to the 6♣ reached in the Closed Room by Cappelletti-Lipscomb. But justice was blind on this deal, aided by a little sand in the eyes by Dawei. Itabashi led the ♠K, which Dawei won. He then proceeded to run all seven of his clubs, stranding his diamonds in dummy. Of course Simpson and Simpson did not know this. On the run of the clubs Itabashi pitched his three small spades, then all three of his hearts. Simpson pitched the ♦2, ♠10, two more diamonds, ♥3, and then his last spade. Declarer now cashed his ♥A, ♦A, and led a low heart. Simpson was forced to win this and held nothing but small diamonds to lead to the good dummy! Plus 990. In the Closed Room, USA's 6♣ had very good play. On the high spade lead declarer can win, go to dummy and throw the second spade on the ♦K, strip the pointed suits, and then decide how to play hearts. If there's a singleton or doubleton heart honor lurking about, cashing the ♥A will either win perforce or endplay the player with the doubleton. If both honors are onside, then a club to dummy followed by a heart to the jack will succeed. The former line will win far more often than the latter, but on this deal neither succeeds. In point of fact Lipscomb tried the latter and down went poor Shannon. Minus 50 was 14 imps to JAPAN, leading now 29-10.

Both sides reached 3♥ after the auction began 1♣-Dble-1♥-2♦ and East then competed with 3♥ later. In the Open Room Simpson received a diamond lead and guessed to pitch his club loser on dummy's ace. After a heart to the king and a second heart revealed the bad news in trumps, he lost a spade and three trumps to go plus 140. In the Closed Room Hisatomi received the same lead and guessed to pitch a spade on dummy's ♦A. playing for the clubs finesse to be on (for North's double) and spades to be four-two. A reasonable decision, but this time, wrong. Minus 100 sent 6 imps back to USA. JAPAN 29, USA 16.



"We three kings of orient are..."

Bd: 7	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A92		
Vul: Both	♥ AQJ3		
	♦ Q6532		
	♣ 7		
West			East
♠ KQ5			♠ J876
♥ 6			♥ K987542
♦ A107			♦ —
♣ QJ9862			♣ A5
	South		
	♠ 1043		
	♥ 10		
	♦ KJ984		
	♣ K1043		

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ QJ653		
Vul: None	♥ 64		
	♦ J3		
	♣ AQ75		
West		East	
♠ A10		♠ 742	
♥ KJ9		♥ AQ8	
♦ A10986		♦ 72	
♣ 864		♣ KJ1092	
	South		
	♠ K98		
	♥ 107532		
	♦ KQ54		
	♣ 3		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
1♦	1♠	2♣	2♠
3♣	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
1♦	1♠	2♥*	2♠
3♣	All Pass		

In the Open Room Chen led a low heart against Simpson's 3♣, won with dummy's jack. A low club was then led to the jack and a diamond ducked to Ino's jack. The ♠J switch held trick 4, after which Simpson won the spade continuation, led a heart to the ace, ruffed a spade, and played a club to Ino's ace. The spade return was ruffed, as was the ♥Q, so declarer was able to draw Ino's remaining trump for plus 110. In the Closed Room Lipscomb started the ♠8 to Cappelletti's queen. Hisatomi won the heart shift with the queen, led a spade to the ace, the ♥K to the ace, ruffed a spade, and played a trump to...the king. Cappelletti now had the tempo to force Hisatomi and score his fourth trump to go with the defense's ♣AQ, spade and diamond. Plus 50 was 4 imps to USA, trailing JAPAN now 29-20.

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ J86		
Vul: E/W	♥ 6		
	♦ KJ52		
	♣ AK865		
West		East	
♠ K94		♠ 2	
♥ AQJ1074		♥ K9532	
♦ Q74		♦ A10863	
♣ Q		♣ J9	
	South		
	♠ AQ10753		
	♥ 8		
	♦ 9		
	♣ 107432		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
4♣*	1♣	1♥	2♠*
4♥	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♥	4♠	5♦	Pass
	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
2♥	1♣	Pass	1♠
5♥	Dble*	4♦*	4♠
All Pass	Pass	Pass	5♠

Both sides judged well in the Open Room, Itabashi-Simpson to save over 4♠ and Ino-Chen to sell out to 5♥. No one really knowing whose hand it was, and neither Ino nor Chen had much in the way of defense to double. Plus 100 to JAPAN. In the Closed Room Lipscomb, after hearing of Cappelletti's three-card support, chose to bid five-over-five – usually not a very sound tactic. In this case the maxim held true as minus 50 resulted in 4 more imps to JAPAN, 33-20.

Boards 10 and 12 were routine games bid and made at each table, while board 11 was a pushy game that was bid and failed at both tables. Still 33-20, JAPAN.



Just your average girl next door?

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 42		
Vul: Both	♥ AKJ8		
	♦ 982		
	♣ KJ62		
West	East		
♠ Q85	♠ AKJ1063		
♥ 653	♥ Q2		
♦ J765	♦ K		
♣ Q94	♣ A1075		
	South		
	♠ 97		
	♥ 10974		
	♦ AQ1043		
	♣ 83		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
	1♣	1♠	Dble*
Pass	2♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
	1♥	Dble	2♦*
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♦
3♠	All Pass		

In the Open Room Simpson-Itabashi seemed to be bidding at cross purposes. Itabashi was a bit conservative, from our perspective, when he failed to raise Simpson's 1♠ overcall cheaply to two. Still, West has a pretty miserable collection. Add to that the likelihood Simpson probably would have bid the game had he raised, and Itabashi was in a no-win situation. Simpson clearly had a lot in reserve for his 1♠ overcall, but 3♠ seems too rich for our blood at his second turn. 2♠ would show a good hand and East's red-suit values are simply in the wrong places. Make the ♦K a deuce and a small club the queen and 3♠ would get our nod. In this case, down one, minus 100, was not good bridge. The East/West auction in the Closed Room is a good illustration of our thinking on this sort of deal. East acts modestly twice and West can compete to the three-level. Hisatomi-Teramoto's good judgment was rewarded with plus 140 and 6 more imps to JAPAN, leading 39-20.

Boards 14 and 15 were routine games, bid and made at both tables, so when the final board of the first segment appeared on the table the score remained the same.

"Bid what you can make," they say, and that appears to be what happened on this one. In the Open Room Ino-Chen stopped in 3♥ and scored up plus 140 for a fine result – until, that is, they compared with their teammates. Cappelletti-Lipscomb took no time to bounce into game in the Closed Room. Hisatomi led a small trump and Cappelletti won in hand to play a low club toward dummy. Hisatomi rose with the king and tried the ♠10, which rode to the queen. Another high heart was cashed before Cappelletti led the ♣9 from his hand and put on the queen. Teeramoto won the ♣A, cashed the ♦A, and continued with a second diamond. that was all Cappelletti needed. He ruffed, drew the last trump, and pitched his losing spades on dummy's established clubs; plus 420. 7 imps to USA, trailing JAPAN at the end of the first segment, 39-27.



"Two more boards till Miller time."

Bd: 16	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AQ32		
Vul: E/W	♥ AKJ94		
	♦ 9		
	♣ 1095		
West	East		
♠ 987	♠ K105		
♥ 76	♥ 1053		
♦ AQJ32	♦ K10854		
♣ A73	♣ K6		
	South		
	♠ J64		
	♥ Q82		
	♦ 76		
	♣ QJ842		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Capp	Hisatomi	Lipscomb
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

JAPAN entered the second segment with a 12-imp lead, 39-27 (not counting USA's 3.2-imp carryover). Many of the hands didn't hold much potential for swings, but we'll begin our somewhat abbreviated coverage with Board 17.

Bd: 17	North		
Dir: North	♠ 63		
Vul: None	♥ KJ9		
	♦ A1054		
	♣ AK42		
West	East		
♠ A82	♠ QJ9754		
♥ AQ104	♥ 632		
♦ Q8	♦ K97		
♣ QJ65	♣ 9		
	South		
	♠ K10		
	♥ 875		
	♦ J632		
	♣ 10873		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Hisatomi	Colker	Teramoto
	1NT	2♣*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Simpson	Miyakuni	Itabashi
	1NT	2♠*	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Colker-Kokish reached the pushy 4♠ game and fate was set to deal them a rocky start. Teramoto led the ♣7, ducked it to Hisatomi's king, and with nothing better to do Hisatomi exited with ace and another diamond, won by dummy's queen. Having already shown up with the ♣AK and ♦A, the 14-17 notrumper's hand must contain one or both of the two remaining kings. If North's holding included the doubleton ♠K, Colker saw a way to avoid a heart loser even if that king was offside as well. He ruffed out the ♣A, cashed the ♦K pitching a low club from dummy, and led a spade to dummy's ace, feeling a bit ill when the ten appeared on his left. He cashed the ♣J pitching his third heart, and hoping against hope, exited with a small spade. Had North held the ♠K doubleton, he would now be endplayed. Even if he held the ♠K third, there would still be the chance that South held the ♥K. Alas, neither holding was to materialize. South produced the ♠K and led a heart through dummy's ace-queen to set the contract one trick; minus 50. Very unlucky, the ♠K was onside doubleton. "Could I have made it partner?" "Well played," said Kokish-san, meaning it. It's nice when your partner appreciates the effort as much as the result. To add insult to injury, in the Closed Room Imakura-Miyakuni stopped in 3♠ and made an overtrick when Itabashi led a low diamond to Simpson's ace, and Simpson then tried to cash

two top clubs. Minus 170 and 6 imps to JAPAN; 45-27.

JAPAN added another imp when they chose to play in 3NT rather than 5♦ on Board 18 and came home with an overtrick; JAPAN 46, USA 27.



"Moi?"



"What's he thinking about? Any Hackett would open that!"

Bd: 19	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J8		
Vul: E/W	♥ K964		
	♦ AQ974		
	♣ 53		
West		East	
♠ K1054		♠ 3	
♥ 875		♥ AQ1032	
♦ J8		♦ K32	
♣ A1096		♣ Q742	
	South		
	♠ AQ9762		
	♥ J		
	♦ 1065		
	♣ KJ8		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Hisatomi	Colker	Teramoto
Pass	1NT*	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	2♠
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Simpson	Miyakuni	Itabashi
Pass	1NT*	Dble	1♠
All Pass			2♠

It's not often that Colker-san passes when his counterpart at the other table bids, but this was one of those rare exceptions. As it turned out, less was more on this deal as Hisatomi-Teramoto got to 3♠ which careful defense defeated. Kokish started a low heart to the queen and jack. Colker returned a low club to the jack and ace and Kokish played a second heart for Teramoto to ruff. Now ♣K, club ruff, ♠J to the king. Now the ♦J sealed declarer's fate; minus 50. In the Closed Room Simpson-Itabashi score up plus 110 in 2♠ for a 4-imp gain for USA, trailing now 46-31.

Bd: 20	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 64		
Vul: Both	♥ Q1093		
	♦ 65		
	♣ KQ732		
West		East	
♠ K1085		♠ AQ93	
♥ AJ5		♥ K742	
♦ 10743		♦ AJ82	
♣ 85		♣ 6	
	South		
	♠ J72		
	♥ 86		
	♦ KQ9		
	♣ AJ1094		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Hisatomi	Colker	Teramoto
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Simpson	Miyakuni	Itabashi
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Dble	2♦	3♣	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Colker-Kokish turned up snake-bit again when they reached the excellent 4♠ contract, only to find three finesses offside to go one down; minus 100. In the Closed Room Imakura-Miyakuni stopped in 3♠ and scored nine tricks for plus 140; 6 imps to JAPAN, to lead 52-31.

Bd: 21	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 974		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q10		
	♦ 98742		
	♣ A93		
West		East	
♠ K6		♠ AQ1082	
♥ 9		♥ K854	
♦ KQJ10		♦ 53	
♣ QJ8764		♣ 105	
	South		
	♠ J53		
	♥ AJ7632		
	♦ A6		
	♣ K2		

When Colker-Kokish stopped in 2♠, Teramoto started ♥A, then ace and a second diamond. On the third diamond Teramoto ruffed as Colker pitched a club, followed by a low club to Hisatomi's ace and another diamond, Colker pitching a heart as Teramoto ruffed again. Well, that's one way to draw trumps. Colker ruffed the low heart return, cashed the ♠K, and ruffed a club back to hand to draw the remaining trump; plus 110. In the Closed Room Simpson-Itabashi reached 3♥ on the North/

South cards. With eight tricks easy and nine tricks nowhere in sight, this one looked like a push until...well, just watch. Miyakuni's 2♥ opening showed at least four-four in the majors. Imakura led



the  $\diamond K$  and Itabashi won this and played a second diamond. Why not just play a club to dummy and try the heart finesse? Or, why not just play a low heart from your hand? Anyhow, back to our story. Imakura won the second diamond and continued with a third, on which Miyakuni pitched a club as Itabashi ruffed. Now it was time for clubs.  $\clubsuit K$ , club to the ace – ruff! Now Itabashi could not get to dummy to finesse the hearts and he ended up losing three spades and the  $\heartsuit K$  in addition to the two tricks he'd already lost. That was minus 200; 3 imps to JAPAN, leading 55-31.

Bd: 22	North	
Dlr: East	$\spadesuit$ 1098	
Vul: E/W	$\heartsuit$ J987	
	$\diamond$ 5	
	$\clubsuit$ AKJ53	
West		East
$\spadesuit$ A2		$\spadesuit$ QJ653
$\heartsuit$ 532		$\heartsuit$ AK104
$\diamond$ QJ10972		$\diamond$ K6
$\clubsuit$ 92		$\clubsuit$ 104
	South	
	$\spadesuit$ K74	
	$\heartsuit$ Q6	
	$\diamond$ A843	
	$\clubsuit$ Q876	

Both East/West pairs reached  $2\spadesuit$  and received the  $\clubsuit 7$  lead. Against Colker Hisatomi cashed the  $\clubsuit AK$  and led his singleton diamond to Colker's king and Teramoto's ace and ruffed the diamond return. When he returned the  $\heartsuit 9$ , Colker won the ace and led the  $\spadesuit Q$ , passing it when Teramoto erred by playing low. Covering the  $\spadesuit Q$  is far from obvious when ducking guarantees a spade trick, but watch what happens when the  $\spadesuit Q$  holds. Colker was now able to play a second spade to dummy, drawing Hisatomi's last trump, and cash two high diamonds to pitch his heart losers while Teramoto followed suit helplessly. Only the  $\spadesuit K$  had to be lost; plus 110. Had Teramoto covered the  $\spadesuit Q$  Colker would have had no counter. If he wins the ace, North still has a trump remaining to stop the diamonds while if he draws a second round of trumps, he has no

way back to dummy. Simpson-Itabashi found a different way to defeat  $2\spadesuit$  in the Closed Room. Simpson won the  $\clubsuit K$  at trick 1 and returned his singleton diamond. Itabashi won the king and gave Simpson a ruff – with the suit-preference  $\diamond 3$ . Simpson then underled his  $\clubsuit A$  to Itabashi's queen for a third round of diamonds as Simpson dealt the contract its death blow by ruffing again. Miyakuni overruffed, but the defense would prevail from there. In practice Miyakuni ducked a spade to Simpson's ten, won the heart return, and played the  $\spadesuit Q$  to dummy's ace. Now the  $\diamond Q$  afforded him one heart discard but Imakura still had the  $\spadesuit K$  coming for down one. Minus 100, 5 imps to USA, to close to 55-36.

On the next board JAPAN picked up 2 imps for two partscore overtricks to increase their lead to 57-36. Then JAPAN had this disaster...sort of.

Colker-Kokish sold out to  $3\spadesuit$  when  $5\diamond$  was quite makeable, as was  $4\spadesuit$ . When they held  $3\spadesuit$  to three, for minus 140, somehow that didn't ease the pain. The fault here was Colker's. He forgot that they had agreed to reverse the usual meanings of  $3\clubsuit$  and  $3\diamond$  over 2NT (showing diamonds). Colker intended his  $3\clubsuit$  bid as "I like my hand for diamonds" when in fact their agreement was the opposite. Thus, Kokish did not bid on over  $3\spadesuit$ . In the Closed Room Imakura-Miyakuni allowed themselves to get pushed to  $6\diamond$ , which failed by one trick. But minus 50 still resulted

Bd: 24	North		
Dlr: West	$\spadesuit$ QJ10		
Vul: None	$\heartsuit$ 74		
	$\diamond$ Q106		
	$\clubsuit$ 109764		
West		East	
$\spadesuit$ 53		$\spadesuit$ 764	
$\heartsuit$ 1086		$\heartsuit$ AJ	
$\diamond$ A87543		$\diamond$ KJ2	
$\clubsuit$ K5		$\clubsuit$ AQJ32	
	South		
	$\spadesuit$ AK982		
	$\heartsuit$ KQ9532		
	$\diamond$ 9		
	$\clubsuit$ 8		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Hisatomi	Colker	Teramoto
Pass	Pass	1NT	$2\clubsuit^*$
2NT*	Pass	$3\clubsuit^*$	$3\heartsuit$
Pass	$3\spadesuit$	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Simpson	Miyakuni	Itabashi
Pass	Pass	1NT	$2\diamond^*$
$2\spadesuit$	Dble	$3\diamond$	$4\spadesuit$
$5\diamond$	Pass	Pass	$5\heartsuit$
Pass	$5\spadesuit$	$6\diamond$	All Pass

in 3-imps for JAPAN, 60-36.

Bd: 25	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 43		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q108		
	♦ 5		
	♣ AK98753		
West			East
♠ J82			♠ Q965
♥ J75			♥ K62
♦ KJ8743			♦ Q10
♣ J			♣ Q1064
	South		
	♠ AK107		
	♥ A943		
	♦ A962		
	♣ 2		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Hisatomi	Colker	Teramoto
	3♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Simpson	Miyakuni	Itabashi
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Then, this board started a USA comeback. Clearly Hisatomi and Simpson had different ideas about the value of the North hand. It turned out that Simpson was wrong, but he won imps anyhow. In the Open Room Hisatomi lost only one heart and two trump tricks in 3♣, plus 130. In the Closed Room things went a little differently. In 3NT Itabashi ducked Imakura's diamond lead and the ♦10 continuation as well. Kenji shifted to a spade and Itabashi rose with dummy's ace to play a heart to the eight and king. A second spade was won by Imakura with the eight and a third spade rode around to the king. Now the count was rectified for a squeeze. Three rounds of hearts and the ♦A brought Kenji under unbearable pressure. He could afford to pitch one club on the fourth heart but he had no answer to the following diamond. Imakura must find a shift to his singleton club at trick 6 to break up the squeeze. Tough play. Plus 400 was 7 imps to USA, trailing now only 60-43.

Then came this nice pickup for USA. In the Open Room Colker raised Kokish's 1♠ response to two and Kokish followed up with an artificial 2NT bid asking for the cheapest suit in which Colker would reject a help- or fitting-suit game try. Colker, never having met a game try he didn't like, bid 3NT, accepting in any suit and showing only three trumps. Kokish then began a cue-bidding sequence which he finished with a leap to slam. Hisatomi led a trump to Kokish's six and Eric drew a second round with dummy's queen. Then passed the ♦J losing to the king. Back came a third spade to dummy's king, Teramoto pitching the ♣4. Kokish played ace, king and ruffed a third club, cashed his last trump, and then cashed the ♦AQ, coming down to ♥KJ4 in his hand opposite ♥A107 in dummy. Since South was known to have started with seven black-suit cards and at least three diamonds while North was known to hold only five black-suit cards and at least three diamonds, he went with the odds and played North for the ♥Q – making six; plus 1430. When Imakura-Miyakuni stopped in 3NT and made six in the Closed Room, USA picked up 12 much-needed imps to trail now by only 5 imps, 60-55.

Bd: 26	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J82		
Vul: Both	♥ Q863		
	♦ K943		
	♣ 76		
West			East
♠ A10976			♠ KQ3
♥ KJ4			♥ A1075
♦ AQ6			♦ J2
♣ A2			♣ K983
	South		
	♠ 54		
	♥ 92		
	♦ 10875		
	♣ QJ1054		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Hisatomi	Colker	Teramoto
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Simpson	Miyakuni	Itabashi
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Three push boards followed, then JAPAN picked up

1 imp on an overtrick in a game. Leading 61-55 JAPAN made its own resurgence on this deal.

Bd: 31	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A92		
Vul: N/S	♥ —		
	♦ KQ10432		
	♣ AQ73		
West		East	
♠ 8654		♠ J3	
♥ K64		♥ 10987	
♦ —		♦ 9875	
♣ K108542		♣ J96	
	South		
	♠ KQ107		
	♥ AQJ532		
	♦ AJ6		
	♣ —		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Hisatomi	Colker	Teramoto
			1♥
3♣	3♦	5♣	6♣
Pass	7♦	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Simpson	Miyakuni	Itabashi
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

In the Open Room the auction accelerated to a high level quickly. When Teramoto cue-bid 6♣ Hisatomi knew exactly what to do. He proceeded directly to 7♦. He did not pass go. He did not collect \$200. Instead, he gained a bushel basket ofimps for his team; plus 2140. In the Closed Room Simpson-Itabashi had a clear run to the roses, but somehow couldn't manage to find anything but a thicket of thorns. Simpson's 4♦ was RKCB for diamonds and Itabashi showed two key cards without the trump queen. 5♥ asked for specific kings, but for some reason Itabashi refused to show his ♠K. Of course if Itabashi's response to RKCB had shown one key card instead of two, Simpson's would not have known what to do next (was he off the ♦A or the unneeded ♥A?). So the auction ended in 6♦ making seven, plus 1390; 13imps for JAPAN, ahead now 74-55.

The final board of the quarter was another 1-imp gain on a game overtrick for JAPAN. The half ended with the score, JAPAN 75, USA 55 (58.2 including carryover).

Time precludes our bringing you the second half of the JAPAN vs USA match today. The conclusion will appear in tomorrow's Bulletin. Stay tuned, same bat time, same bat channel.

TEAM	c/o	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	Total
JAPAN – PABF OPEN		39	36	28	55	158
USA	3.2	27	28	27	17	102



"Doesn't anyone ever claim around here?"



"Stay focused, Tadashi-san."

# NEC CUP SEMIFINALS: GREAT BRITAIN vs CHINA

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

GREAT BRITAIN started with a 3.2 imp carryover from the round robin.

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 10975		
Vul: None	♥ —		
	♦ 986532		
	♣ QJ10		
West		East	
♠ Q6		♠ AKJ2	
♥ A105		♥ KQ98732	
♦ AK4		♦ QJ	
♣ 97653		♣ —	
	South		
	♠ 843		
	♥ J64		
	♦ 107		
	♣ AK842		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♥	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

If all of Fu-Ju's bids were natural (as they appear to be), their auction is one which I would be proud to claim as my own. A natural, game-forcing 2NT seems a more accurate description than 2♣. Armstrong surely could not have bid 2NT, either because it would have been non-forcing, or because it was conventional. One hand does not prove anything, but retaining a natural, strong 2NT is something I consider very important because it gives some integrity to your two-over-one responses and gives you a convenient way to start on some of your balanced three-card major raises. End of cheap testimonial. 11 imps to CHINA, ahead 11-3 (we won't mention the .2 imps unless it becomes relevant later).

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 7		
Vul: N/S	♥ A86		
	♦ KJ7652		
	♣ 1093		
West		East	
♠ AJ10843		♠ K9	
♥ 74		♥ KJ105	
♦ 103		♦ Q98	
♣ J74		♣ Q862	
	South		
	♠ Q652		
	♥ Q932		
	♦ A4		
	♣ AK5		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
		1♦*	Dble
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
		1♥	Dble
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Chinese contracts were playable, but neither of them made. Against 2♠, Justin led the ♣10 to the king, and Jason switched to ace and another diamond. Justin won the ♦K and underled the ♥A, Ju misguessing. The defenders got a trump trick and two of each for two down; minus 100. Against 3NT, Armstrong led his fourth-best spade rather than honor. No matter, the suit was not running in any case. Papa Bear won the king and nine, noted Armstrong's ♠3, and returned a club. With the diamonds not running, the defense had time to play another club and there was no real ressure in the endgame. Down one; minus 100. 5 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 8-11.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K1098		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ865		
	♦ K		
	♣ 764		
West		East	
♠ —		♠ A654	
♥ K1032		♥ 9	
♦ J7632		♦ AQ98	
♣ KJ98		♣ AQ105	
	South		
	♠ QJ732		
	♥ J74		
	♦ 1054		
	♣ 32		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠		3♣*
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

I am not going to repeat my spiel with reference to recognizing a vulnerable three-bid when you see one, but I'm thinking about it. Very definitely. After Justin's 3♦, all the rest of the bids are comprehensible. Jason doubled 4♠ and cashed ace-king of hearts, on which Justin followed five-seven, playing standard methods. A diamond from dummy was going on the ♥J, so Jason cashed the ♦A; the ♣K was the setting trick. Down one; minus 200.

At the other table, where Papa Bear showed four-card spade support and (I believe) a doubleton diamond in a good hand, Armstrong took a shot at game after re-transferring to spades. The defense was the same, North playing six-five of hearts. Down 100. 3 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 22-11.

Board 5 gave GREAT BRITAIN an overtrick imp in a normal 3NT, 23-11. Then...

What's the matter with you, out there? Don't you recognize a weak two-bid when you see one? The twins stole the auction at 3♠ when Fu couldn't find a sensible way to the auction. How can you blame him? And Ju, who had the right shape, couldn't bid with so little in high cards. There were no heroics in hearts by Jason, who went two down; minus 100.

Meanwhile, after a more normal early auction at the other table, Armstrong did well to overlook his spade flaw to bid 3NT, a contract in which he took nine minor suit tricks, the ♠A, and a heart on the go; plus 660. 5♦ would have made also, and even 6♦ is worth considering. 11 imps from nowhere. GREAT BRITAIN, 19-11.

Fortunately, I have had a chance to fully digest my lunch before writing this. Ah, Jason, my lad, is this what it means to be young?

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ —		
Vul: Both	♥ 8765		
	♦ QJ108763		
	♣ 64		
West		East	
♠ A6543		♠ KQ1097	
♥ Q9		♥ J43	
♦ 94		♦ K2	
♣ 9873		♣ AQJ	
	South		
	♠ J82		
	♥ AK102		
	♦ A5		
	♣ K1052		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
Pass	3♦	3♠	4♦
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 52		
Vul: E/W	♥ 10754		
	♦ KJ5		
	♣ A843		
West			East
♠ KQJ764			♠ 1098
♥ Q86			♥ K93
♦ Q83			♦ 1097642
♣ 9			♣ 6
	South		
	♠ A3		
	♥ AJ2		
	♦ A		
	♣ KQJ10752		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
		Pass	1♣
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♠
Dble	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
		Pass	1♣
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Two somewhat obscure auctions. Did Justin know what 2NT meant (minors) when he passed it? Doesn't look that way. He might have reconsidered when hearts were rebid on his left, but temptation was too great. Against 3♥ doubled, Jason led the ♠4 to the king and ace, and Justin returned his singleton club. Fu rose with the ace, went to the ♠Q, threw his club loser on the ♦A, and led a heart. He lost only three trumps and the ♠A for plus 730. Perhaps if you forget a treatment or violate an agreement, you're supposed to score badly.

As negative doubles go, Papa Bear's seven-four looks like a candidate for least likely to describe the hand held, but perhaps that was the system action (if 2♥ would not be forcing, would you bid 2♥ or double?) It appears that Armstrong was expecting some club support and a different hand when he took out to 5♣, but they were going minus everywhere and were fortunate not to be doubled; down 200. 14 imps to CHINA, 25-33. Urgent message for Mr Zhang: what on earth was that 2♦

6♣ is certainly not hopeless at single dummy, and might make at the table on a busy heart lead. The auction came up well for the twins when Justin could support clubs once Jason had not opened 1♥ (four-card majors). Would Justin have bid differently with the ♥9 instead of one of his small cards? Don't listen to him if he says yes. Plus 400 on the lead of the ♠K. Jason started hearts by leading low toward the ten.

I don't know why Zhang thought his best bid over 3♠ was 4♥ since Liu didn't promise hearts with his cue-bid, but it's a common misconception all over the word. Liu took a practical shot but bought only moderately well. He too got a spade lead, drew trumps, and eliminated diamonds and spades before playing ace and another heart. Alas, the hearts were three-three rather than four-two with the honors split. Liu's line had the advantage of avoiding having to guess which opponent had the heart length. Down one; minus 50. 10 imps more to GREAT BRITAIN, 33-11.

Bd: 7	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A92		
Vul: Both	♥ AQJ3		
	♦ Q6532		
	♣ 7		
West			East
♠ KQ5			♠ J876
♥ 6			♥ K987542
♦ A107			♦ —
♣ QJ9862			♣ A5
	South		
	♠ 1043		
	♥ 10		
	♦ KJ984		
	♣ K1043		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
			Pass
2♣	Dble	2♥	2NT*
Pass	Pass!	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
			Pass
1♣	2♦!	Dble	4♦
Pass`	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

bid supposed to be?

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ QJ653		
Vul: None	♥ 64		
	♦ J3		
	♣ AQ75		
West			East
♠ A10			♠ 742
♥ KJ9			♥ AQ8
♦ A10986			♦ 72
♣ 864			♣ KJ1092
	South		
	♠ K98		
	♥ 107532		
	♦ KQ54		
	♣ 3		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
1NT	2♦*	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT*	Dble
3♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	3NT	Dble
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
1♦	1♠	Dble*	2♦*
Pass	2♠	3♣	All Pass

Busy busy busy little twins. I would have put my money on Ju to make 3♣ doubled (it looks as if 2NT was a puppet to 3♣), but perhaps there was some doubt about what Fu might have. 3♦ Doubled was likely to fail, and 3NT? Well, Justin led a low spade so the defense was in command. Ju lost four spades and the ♣A for one down; minus 100. 2♠ showed spades and another suit and Jason was hoping for a better hand for the direct intervention over a weak notrump.

Sooner or later, I'll find out about the Hackett-Armstrong negative double style. This time, Papa Bear landed in 3♣, which he made; plus 110. 5 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 38-25.

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ J86		
Vul: E/W	♥ 6		
	♦ KJ52		
	♣ AK865		
West			East
♠ K94			♠ 2
♥ AQJ1074			♥ K9532
♦ Q74			♦ A10863
♣ Q			♣ J9
	South		
	♠ AQ10753		
	♥ 8		
	♦ 9		
	♣ 107432		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
	1♣	Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble*	2♠*	4♠
5♥	Dble	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
	1♣	Pass	1♠
2♥	Dble	4♦*	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
Dble			

I confess that I much prefer Papa Bear's 4♦ (if it was a fit-showing jump) to Fu's cue-bid, but it didn't seem to make much difference at the table. I can see no reason why the twins should have considered themselves forced on their auction, or why Justin should have doubled 5♥ in any case. That double must have been a pretty strong statement to get Jason to leave it in with his huge double fit, and somewhat remarkably, that proved to be the right thing to do. Ju played the diamonds correctly — low to the nine, queen, and king, finesse on the way back — to get out for one down; minus 200.

The bidding looks much more reasonable in the Closed Room, where Zhang did nothing to dissuade his partner from bidding what he saw in front of his nose. Reasonable or otherwise, 5♠ doubled (we must double those non-vulnerable upstarts when we are vulnerable and were expecting to have a good run at making ours, right?) seemed due to go one down without incident. However, after the lead of the ♦4 to the jack and ace, Paul decided that the lead was likely to be a singleton after Armstrong's double. Back came a diamond. Away went the heart. Making went the contract.

Plus 650 for Liu. 10 imps to CHINA, 35-38.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 963		
Vul: Both	♥ AJ85		
	♦ 5		
	♣ AK843		
West			East
♠ AQ42			♠ 8
♥ Q10			♥ 7432
♦ 963			♦ QJ874
♣ 10762			♣ QJ5
	South		
	♠ KJ1075		
	♥ K96		
	♦ AK102		
	♣ 9		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Liu-Zhang use RKCB, there's not much justification for Liu's jump to 6♠, off a key card and the trump queen. There's work to do in 5♠ too, but he would have made that. Down 100 against the 650 at the other table. 13 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 51-35.

Bd: 11	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 103		
Vul: None	♥ AQJ1083		
	♦ 854		
	♣ 82		
West			East
♠ AKJ8			♠ Q7642
♥ 92			♥ K54
♦ AJ72			♦ K10
♣ 1065			♣ K73
	South		
	♠ 95		
	♥ 76		
	♦ Q963		
	♣ AQJ94		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
			Pass
1NT	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
			Pass
1♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass

Jason led a heart to the ace and Justin returned the ♣8. Fu put up the king and went one down in a hurry. Minus 50.

Zhang found the lead of the ♣8, ducked to the jack. Liu continued with ace and another club to give Zhang a ruff. The ♥A set the contract. Down 50. No swing.



"Name, rank, serial #, that's all you'll get from me."



"Wait till he sees what I'm going to do next."



Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 10		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q86432		
	♦ AJ1064		
	♣ 3		
West			East
♠ QJ93			♠ A42
♥ 107			♥ A9
♦ 82			♦ 9753
♣ AQ654			♣ J1092
	South		
	♠ K8765		
	♥ KJ5		
	♦ KQ		
	♣ K87		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Papa Bear made 3♠ easily on the lead of the ♣8; plus 140. Justin's 1♥ got Jason off to a more effective lead. Justin took two hearts and led a third. Fu ruffed and exited with the ♦K to the ace. Jason switched to a trump, but Fu eventually led a club to the queen and king and later used the ♠Q to enter dummy to run the ♣9; plus 140. No swing.

Justin's 2♦ showed an undisclosed two-suiter (not minors) and Jason's 3♦ invited game in a major.

Zhang's 2♥ was (I believe) hearts and a minor, and 3♠ showed a maximum with diamonds. Both North/South auctions made it virtually impossible for East/West to find their save in 5♣. A push at plus 620.

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 42		
Vul: Both	♥ AKJ8		
	♦ 982		
	♣ KJ62		
West			East
♠ Q85			♠ AKJ1063
♥ 653			♥ Q2
♦ J765			♦ K
♣ Q94			♣ A1075
	South		
	♠ 97		
	♥ 10974		
	♦ AQ1043		
	♣ 83		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT*
Pass	3♥	3♣	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Rdbl	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	3♠	All Pass



"Are we having fun yet, or what!?"

Bd: 14 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 54  
 Vul: None ♥ 2  
 ♦ Q9863  
 ♣ Q10932

West East  
 ♠ 983 ♠ AKQ76  
 ♥ A9 ♥ KJ107  
 ♦ AKJ74 ♦ 2  
 ♣ A65 ♣ 874

South  
 ♠ J102  
 ♥ Q86543  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ KJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

With East/West on for 3♦ North/South were playing with the house's money in 3♥. At both tables, East led a diamond (Papa Bear the king) to West's ace for a spade switch, ducked to the king. Papa switched to king and another club for a quick down one; minus 50. Fu switched back to diamonds. Justin ruffed, played two high hearts, then a club, as he had to do to have a chance. Fu won the king and arranged his club ruff for one down; minus 50. No swing.

GREAT BRITAIN won the set 59-35 at the table, and with the carryover factored in, led by 27 imps, 62-35.

6♠ is reasonable but certainly no bargain. Fu, who was in it, got the lead of the ♣K from Justin. He won the ace, threw a club on the second diamond and led a third, discarding his last club when North followed. Jason threw his remaining club and now a club allowed him to overruff for the setting trick. Fu got out for one down by winning the trump return, extracting the remaining trumps, and playing on hearts, the ruffing finesse becoming marked; minus 50.

Hackett-Armstrong quit at game and Liu led low from his doubleton diamond. Hackett won the ace, drew trumps, and lost two tricks; plus 450. 11 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 62-35.

Board 15 was a routine 4♠, making 650 for North/South.

Bd: 16 North  
 Dir: West ♠ AQ32  
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKJ94  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ 1095

West East  
 ♠ 987 ♠ K105  
 ♥ 76 ♥ 1053  
 ♦ AQJ32 ♦ K10854  
 ♣ A73 ♣ K6

South  
 ♠ J64  
 ♥ Q82  
 ♦ 76  
 ♣ QJ842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Armst	Zhang	Paul H	Liu
1♦	1♥	2♥*	Pass
3♦	Dble	Pass	3♥

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

Bd: 17	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 63	
Vul: None	♥ KJ9	
	♦ A1054	
	♣ AK42	
West		East
♠ A82		♠ QJ9754
♥ AQ104		♥ 632
♦ Q8		♦ K97
♣ QJ65		♣ 9
	South	
	♠ K10	
	♥ 875	
	♦ J632	
	♣ 10873	

At both tables, North's 1NT opening ended the auction. Declarer was going down at least two after a spade lead through the king, but Ju discarded the ♥10 while Justin parted with a club and three diamonds. Fu switched to a heart and Justin played the jack under Ju's ace. When a heart came back he put in the nine and had five winners; down 100. Liu threw two diamonds, a club and a heart, so the defenders were able to give him a heart while building another winner for themselves. Down three; minus 150. 2imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 64-35.

Justin's 2♦ (over Ju's somewhat eccentric double) showed a club fit, and Jason judged well to bid game, placing his partner with short hearts. Ju thought Fu might have a trick for his invitational 3♥, so he doubled 5♣, but couldn't beat it; plus 750.

At the other table, where Liu's 2♦ didn't promise the earth, Zhang's double seemed to be the best he could do to get his side involved; 5♦ would have been a wild shot and he had too much to pass, non-forcing. It looks as if Liu thought the double was pure penalty, and perhaps that's how they play it. 4♥ doubled was down; minus 100, and GREAT BRITAIN gained 12imps, 76-35.

Bd: 18	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 109		
Vul: N/S	♥ —		
	♦ AK109432		
	♣ 8654		
West		East	
♠ J762		♠ KQ84	
♥ K8643		♥ QJ1092	
♦ 7		♦ Q6	
♣ KQJ		♣ 93	
	South		
	♠ A53		
	♥ A75		
	♦ J85		
	♣ A1072		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
		Pass	1♣
Dble	2♦*	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
		Pass	1♣
1♥	2♦	4♥	Dble
All Pass			



"I've always wanted to say 'win 'em all' and I think we've got the board to do it."

Bd: 19	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J8		
Vul: E/W	♥ K964		
	♦ AQ974		
	♣ 53		
West		East	
♠ K1054		♠ 3	
♥ 875		♥ AQ1032	
♦ J8		♦ K32	
♣ A1096		♣ Q742	
	South		
	♠ AQ9762		
	♥ J		
	♦ 1065		
	♣ KJ8		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
Pass	1NT*	Pass	1♠
All Pass			2♠
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
Pass	2♠*	All Pass	2♦*

Ju led the ♥5 against Jason's 2♠, ducked to the queen. Fu switched to a trump, destroying Ju's ten. Ju won the ♠K and switched back to hearts. Jason ruffed, led a diamond to the jack, queen, and deuce, cashed the ♠J, ruffed the ♥4 (the nine would have built a heart trick), and drew trumps before ducking a diamond to Fu. Back came ... the ♣Q. Nine tricks for Jason after he covered; plus 140.

Papa Bear led his singleton trump against Liu's short-sided 2♠ (the encouraging-for-hearts response to the Multi 2♦ opening), ducked to the eight. The ♠J ran to the king and Armstrong switched to the ♦8, ducked to the king. Back came the ♣2, a good play. No one leads from the queen in this position, thought Liu, who called for the king. Armstrong won the ace and returned the ♦J and Liu could not get to dummy to draw trumps. When he led a heart, Papa won the queen and gave Armstrong his diamond ruff, killing the suit in the process. Now a heart exit forced dummy, and the defenders got two clubs in the end for two

down; minus 100. Very pretty indeed. 6 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 82-35.

4♠ was the normal contract on this one, but Fu-Ju missed it and sold out to 3♣. That was a good result for them because 3♣ was a routine one down, minus 100, while the good major suit game was also one down (minus 100) when Liu never touched hearts (♣K, diamond switch to the queen, club to force dummy, draw two trumps, heart finesse, diamond back). 5 imps to CHINA, rather fortunately. Papa's 3♠ was a fair representation of his assets. GREAT BRITAIN, 82-40.



"You look like a man with the ♦J."

Bd: 20	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 64		
Vul: Both	♥ Q1093		
	♦ 65		
	♣ KQ732		
West		East	
♠ K1085		♠ AQ93	
♥ AJ5		♥ K742	
♦ 10743		♦ AJ82	
♣ 85		♣ 6	
	South		
	♠ J72		
	♥ 86		
	♦ KQ9		
	♣ AJ1094		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
Pass	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	3♣
All Pass			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Bd: 21	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 974		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q10		
	♦ 98742		
	♣ A93		
West			East
♠ K6			♠ AQ1082
♥ 9			♥ K854
♦ KQJ10			♦ 53
♣ QJ8764			♣ 105
	South		
	♠ J53		
	♥ AJ7632		
	♦ A6		
	♣ K2		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass

It's close between 3♦, pass, and 2♠ at West's second turn. Ju's 3♦ worked well, he was cold for 110 and in practice made an overtrick; plus 130.

Armstrong passed 2♥ and Zhang led a club to the king. Back came a heart. Papa put in the ten, and the queen won. A second trump knocked out the king, and the ♦K was led and ducked. Zhang withheld his ace a second time, so Liu ruffed the second diamond and exited with his last trump. With spades three-three, Papa had only one more loser; plus 110. There was a telescoped trick in there somewhere, but if the defenders don't get the trumps out, declarer can finesse spades, ruff out the suit, and make the hand in a different way. 1 imp to CHINA, 41-82.

Fu's light 1♠ got him to game when Ju created a force. Diamond to the ace, diamond to the king, club to the ten and king and a low spade back, tangling declarer's communications. Justin won the second club and switched to the ♥10. Ju put up the king but the hearts were blocked and the defenders got two of those for one down; minus 50. Note Jason's failure to overcall on a hand that would be completely normal for most pairs. It's only opening bids and weak two's and three's that are wild.

In 2♠, Papa received ace and another heart from Zhang. He ruffed in dummy to drive out the ♦A, Zhang taking the second to play a third heart. Papa ruffed with the king and threw a club on the third diamond. Zhang ruffed, gave Liu a heart ruff, then ace of clubs and a diamond promoted the ♠J. One down; minus 50. A curious push.

Bd: 22	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 1098		
Vul: E/W	♥ J987		
	♦ 5		
	♣ AKJ53		
West			East
♠ A2			♠ QJ653
♥ 532			♥ AK104
♦ QJ10972			♦ K6
♣ 92			♣ 104
	South		
	♠ K74		
	♥ Q6		
	♦ A843		
	♣ Q876		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
		1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
		1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Bd: 23	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A84		
Vul: Both	♥ KJ1085		
	♦ A5		
	♣ KJ10		
West		East	
♠ 10762		♠ KJ	
♥ AQ62		♥ 73	
♦ Q76		♦ J9432	
♣ Q6		♣ 7532	
	South		
	♠ Q953		
	♥ 94		
	♦ K108		
	♣ A984		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
			Pass
1♦*	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

After South's bidding, both Wests were going to make 5♦ by picking up the trump queen, so North/South were right to save. Jason had time to ruff out the hearts for one down, but Liu had been forced twice and decided to cross-ruff to be sure of nine tricks; down 300 for a 5-imp loss. GREAT BRITAIN, 87-41.

Ju's truly ugly Precision 1♦ opening did not inconvenience the twins, who reached game sensibly. Liu's strong notrump simplified the auction and the same contract was reached easily. In the other semifinal both Norths opened 1♥ and raised 1♠ to 2♠, ending the auction. The cards were friendly for North/South this time and both declarers took ten tricks; plus 630. Jason received the lead of the ♠7, ducked to the king, and a diamond switch, eight, queen, ace. The rest was easy. Liu got a diamond lead, put in the eight, and was also in good shape. No swing.

Bd: 24	North		
Dlr: West	♠ QJ10		
Vul: None	♥ 74		
	♦ Q106		
	♣ 109764		
West		East	
♠ 53		♠ 764	
♥ 1086		♥ AJ	
♦ A87543		♦ KJ2	
♣ K5		♣ AQJ32	
	South		
	♠ AK982		
	♥ KQ9532		
	♦ 9		
	♣ 8		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♠
2♦	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	5♥
Pass	5♠	Double	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
2♦	Pass	2NT*	3♦*
Dble	3♠	5♦	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

## 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>

Bd: 25	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 43		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q108		
	♦ 5		
	♣ AK98753		
West			East
♠ J82			♠ Q965
♥ J75			♥ K62
♦ KJ8743			♦ Q10
♣ J			♣ Q1064
	South		
	♠ AK107		
	♥ A943		
	♦ A962		
	♣ 2		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
	3♣	All Pass	

5♣ is a very good contract for North/South, but the bad trump break beats it; plus 130 for Liu. 3NT is not nearly as good as 5♣, but the quality of the contract was of little import to Jason, who got a low spade lead from Ju to the queen and ace. He ducked a club, which Fu overtook to return a spade. Jason won the king and led a heart to the eight and king. Fu switched to the ♦10 and Jason rose with the ace, went to the ♥Q (not the ten) to cash the high clubs, discarding diamonds. When he took the high hearts, Ju parted with ... the ♠J! Ten tricks for Jason; plus 430. 7 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 94-41.

Bd: 26	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J82		
Vul: Both	♥ Q863		
	♦ K943		
	♣ 76		
West			East
♠ A10976			♠ KQ3
♥ KJ4			♥ A1075
♦ AQ6			♦ J2
♣ A2			♣ K983
	South		
	♠ 54		
	♥ 92		
	♦ 10875		
	♣ QJ1054		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
		1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Nice slam, gentlemen. All you have to do is make it. Fu eventually played the hand with the heart length for the queen to score plus 1430. If I am reading the play record correctly, Armstrong made it when Liu pitched two hearts by leading low to the ace, then low to the king, apparently knowing that Zhang's last card was not a heart. No swing.

Bd: 27	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AQ107654		
Vul: None	♥ 7		
	♦ 95		
	♣ 1092		
West			East
♠ 2			♠ K98
♥ 8532			♥ AK104
♦ 1084			♦ KQJ
♣ AK543			♣ J76
	South		
	♠ J3		
	♥ QJ96		
	♦ A7632		
	♣ Q8		

At both tables, North opened 3♠ in third seat and East's 3NT ended the auction. The ♠J was overtaken with the queen and declarer ducked. Back came the ♦9.

Zhang ducked the first diamond and Papa played a club to the ace and a club to the jack and queen.

The ♠Q held the next trick, and Zhang led a second heart around to the ten, but it was not enough. The defense took a heart, a club, a diamond, and two spades for one down; minus 50.

Jason took the first diamond and switched to a low heart around to the ten. Oops. Fu cashed the ♠A and conceded a club to come to nine tricks; plus 400. 10 imps to CHINA, 51-94.

Bd: 28	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 87		
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ764		
	♦ 1075		
	♣ K107		
West		East	
♠ AJ943		♠ KQ2	
♥ K		♥ 1095	
♦ K943		♦ AJ862	
♣ 864		♣ A5	
	South		
	♠ 1065		
	♥ J832		
	♦ Q		
	♣ QJ932		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

6♦ depends only on bringing in the trumps for no loser. It's easy to see why West was unwilling to do more and East had no security at the five level. I think this one may be just too hard. Unless...

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

West's passed-hand jump shift shows spades and diamonds, at least nine cards combined. East's 2NT shows at least game interest and West's 3♥ shows shortage there. 3♠ shows three-card support and 4♠ confirms five. East uses six-ace Blackwood and West shows two with neither key queen. East knows there are at least nine

Bd: 30	North		
Dlr: East	♠ A9		
Vul: None	♥ A84		
	♦ 842		
	♣ AK984		
West		East	
♠ J10		♠ Q53	
♥ J652		♥ K1073	
♦ J109		♦ AQ63	
♣ QJ75		♣ 32	
	South		
	♠ K87642		
	♥ Q9		
	♦ K75		
	♣ 106		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
1♥		1♦	Pass
All Pass	2♣	2♥	2♠
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
3♥	3NT	1♥	1♠
		All Pass	

combined diamonds so takes a reasonable gamble. Am I dreaming?

GREAT BRITAIN won an overtrick imp on that one and also on the next deal, making it 96-51.

4♠ has a reasonable play and was duly bid and made at both tables in the other match. I've always wondered what a hand would look like for Jason's sequence (no one-level overcall but free bid at the two-level): I would guess fit and concentration rather than length, but what do I know? 2♠ made three on a diamond lead, ducked to the king; plus 140.

Zhang tried 1♠ but Liu had no sense of humor about this and drove to 3NT. Since the Brits bid and jump raised hearts, Papa led the ♦A. When Armstrong contributed the jack, Papa continued



diamonds and so did Armstrong when Liu ducked the second. In dummy with the  $\diamond K$ , Liu led the  $\clubsuit 1$ , covered. He won, played  $\spadesuit A$ , spade to the king, club finesse,  $\clubsuit A$ , club to Armstrong, who switched to a heart. Down one; minus 50. 5 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 101-51.

Bd: 31	North		
Dlr: South	$\spadesuit A92$		
Vul: N/S	$\heartsuit —$		
	$\diamond KQ10432$		
	$\clubsuit AQ73$		
West			East
$\spadesuit 8654$			$\spadesuit J3$
$\heartsuit K64$			$\heartsuit 10987$
$\diamond —$			$\diamond 9875$
$\clubsuit K108542$			$\clubsuit J96$
	South		
	$\spadesuit KQ107$		
	$\heartsuit AQJ532$		
	$\diamond AJ6$		
	$\clubsuit —$		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ju	Justin H	Fu	Jason H
			$1\heartsuit$
Pass	$2\diamond$	Pass	$2\spadesuit$
Pass	$3\clubsuit$	Pass	$3\diamond$
Pass	$5NT$	Pass	$6\clubsuit^*$
Pass	$7\diamond$	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Liu	Paul H	Zhang
			$1\heartsuit$
Pass	$2\diamond$	Pass	$2\spadesuit$
Pass	$3\clubsuit$	Pass	$3\diamond$
Pass	$4NT$	Pass	$5NT^*$
Pass	$7\diamond$	All Pass	

This one was easy to play. A push at plus 2140.

The set ran out with a flat game for East/West. GREAT BRITAIN won the second quarter 39-16 and led at the half by 50 imps, 101-51.

### Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

Not the worst slam you'll ever be in. You might make  $6\clubsuit$  without guessing the  $\spadesuit Q$  if North leads the  $\diamond A$ . Declarer ruffs his hearts and ruffs out the  $\diamond K$  en route (as you will see when you read about the other match), and even  $6\spadesuit$  requires only the spade guess. We can only assume that Papa's bidding actually described the hand he held if that Armstrong fellow is to be given the respect he's earned in the school of hard knocks. Papa won the heart lead, passed the  $\spadesuit J$ , and soon had 12 tricks; plus 480.

Bd: 33	North		
Dlr: North	$\spadesuit Q86$		
Vul: None	$\heartsuit J86$		
	$\diamond AJ982$		
	$\clubsuit 103$		
West			East
$\spadesuit KJ9$			$\spadesuit A10432$
$\heartsuit A94$			$\heartsuit 7$
$\diamond 10$			$\diamond Q765$
$\clubsuit AKQ542$			$\clubsuit 987$
	South		
	$\spadesuit 75$		
	$\heartsuit KQ10532$		
	$\diamond K43$		
	$\clubsuit J6$		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
	Pass	Pass	$1NT!$
Dble	Pass	$2\clubsuit$	Pass
$3\clubsuit$	$3\diamond$	$4\clubsuit$	Pass
$5\clubsuit$	Dble	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
	Pass	$2\spadesuit$	Pass
$2NT^*$	Pass	$3\spadesuit^*$	Pass
$4\spadesuit$	All Pass		

Perhaps  $2\spadesuit$  wasn't really a joke, but Jason's  $1NT$  can't be passed off as anything else. Justin, unwilling to be toyed with, doubled  $5\clubsuit$  because his opponents hadn't bid it as if they could make it. The good news is that he made his  $\spadesuit Q$ . The bad news was that this prevented Zhang from making an overtrick; plus 550. Just 2 imps to CHINA, but it was a start, 53-101.

**Bridge Players**  
**Do It**  
**On the Table**

Bd: 34	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 632		
Vul: N/S	♥ 10984		
	♦ Q5		
	♣ KQ108		
West			East
♠ A9			♠ KJ74
♥ J65			♥ AKQ3
♦ AJ84			♦ 109762
♣ J962			♣ —
	South		
	♠ Q1085		
	♥ 72		
	♦ K3		
	♣ A7543		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
		1♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
		1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Four-card majors don't always work well. Papa took eleven tricks on a spade lead. He won the nine, played ace and another diamond and was delighted to see a second spade come back; plus 200. A club lead would have held him to three.

Liu-Zhang conducted a straight quantitative auction for diamonds. 5♦ made six with trumps two-two; plus 420. 6 imps to CHINAS, 59-101.

Bd: 35	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A72		
Vul: E/W	♥ K832		
	♦ K8		
	♣ K872		
West			East
♠ QJ96			♠ K85
♥ AQ954			♥ J6
♦ J10			♦ 9742
♣ A10			♣ Q963
	South		
	♠ 1043		
	♥ 107		
	♦ AQ653		
	♣ J54		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Two unlovely auctions. 2♣, the textbook rebid in forcing notrump systems, might have convinced Liu to return to 2♥, but he had a poor hand and was pleased to get out as soon as possible. Down 200 on a trump lead to the jack and ace.

Armstrong wanted to bid again since Papa might have held up to 11 points for his nonforcing notrump response, and he preferred to show extra length in hearts. Fu led king another diamond, Ju winning to lead back a low diamond. Armstrong threw his club and was now able to drive out both the ♠A and the ♥K for plus 110. 7 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, somewhat randomly, 108-59.

**Bridge Isn't Life & Death —  
It's Much More Serious  
Than That!**

Bd: 36	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 1042		
Vul: Both	♥ 96		
	♦ 87632		
	♣ AJ8		
West		East	
♠ Q763		♠ AK5	
♥ 74		♥ AKQJ82	
♦ 94		♦ K105	
♣ KQ1096		♣ 3	
	South		
	♠ J98		
	♥ 1053		
	♦ AQJ		
	♣ 7542		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

This is not the sort of slam that is missed very often but Papa-Armstrong might have paid a price here for their style of light initial action and bidding majors before minors. A 1♦ opening would normally give West reason to hope for values in the suit.

Plus 980 vs plus 480. 11imps to CHINA, 70-108.

Bd: 39	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q96		
Vul: Both	♥ AK		
	♦ Q84		
	♣ 109752		
West		East	
♠ 87542		♠ KJ	
♥ 974		♥ QJ865	
♦ K1053		♦ 72	
♣ A		♣ 8643	
	South		
	♠ A103		
	♥ 1032		
	♦ AJ96		
	♣ KQJ		

Although both Souths led a club to the king and ace and a diamond came back to the king and ace, South switched to a spade to allow the overtrick. Flat at plus 650.

Bd: 37	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 8		
Vul: N/S	♥ 10762		
	♦ 54		
	♣ 975432		
West		East	
♠ AQJ107642		♠ K953	
♥ A4		♥ K93	
♦ J86		♦ AQ72	
♣ —		♣ 86	
	South		
	♠ —		
	♥ QJ85		
	♦ K1093		
	♣ AKQJ10		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♠	4♣	4♠	5♣
6♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Against the equivalent of 1NT-3NT, both Wests led a high spade. A heart lead would have beaten the contract. Both declarers made four; plus 630. No swing.

Reluctant though we may be to raise an eyebrow at our hosts' dealing program, we are making an exception with this deal....

Bd: 41 North  
 Dir: North ♠ KQJ1064  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 108  
 ♦ 75  
 ♣ 962

West East  
 ♠ — ♠ A87  
 ♥ KJ97542 ♥ AQ6  
 ♦ — ♦ 9643  
 ♣ AQ10743 ♣ KJ8

South  
 ♠ 9532  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ AKQJ1082  
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
	3♠	Pass	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♠	6♦
6♥	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	7♠
Double	Pass	7NT	Double
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
	3♠	Pass	4♦
4♥	Pass	4♠	5♠
6♣	Pass	6♥	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♥	All Pass

3♥ went one down on a spade lead but 2NT, seriously flawed, was off the first seven diamond tricks; down 200. 3 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 113-80.

What do you mean.  
 I m old fashioned?

This was a coup for Papa-Armstrong, whose uncertainty about level must have convinced Ju to try to defeat the grand slam. Couldn't do it. Plus 2210. With 7♠ doubled just three down (minus 500), the Brits were sitting on a very handsome result to bring back for the comparison.

Jason had reason to believe that Justin would lead a diamond when he doubled 7NT, but Justin thought his partner might have a trick in the opponents' suits and so tried for the big set by leading a spade to drive out the ace. Plus 2490 for Zhang, whose diamond stopper was a bit thin for the contract reached. 7 imps to CHINA, 79-108.

GREAT BRITAIN gained overtrick imps on the next two deals, a routine slam and game, and CHINA got one back on the deal after that by playing a higher-scoring strain. GREAT BRITAIN, 110-80.

Bd: 45 North  
 Dir: North ♠ AJ542  
 Vul: Both ♥ K82  
 ♦ Q10  
 ♣ AK8

West East  
 ♠ 8 ♠ KQ973  
 ♥ J9 ♥ Q753  
 ♦ AJ98743 ♦ K6  
 ♣ J63 ♣ 105

South  
 ♠ 106  
 ♥ A1064  
 ♦ 52  
 ♣ Q9742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
	1♠	Pass	1NT
3♦	Dble*	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
	1♣	1♠	Dble*
2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble*
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Bd: 47	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 108765		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ872		
	♦ 2		
	♣ 73		
West		East	
♠ —		♠ AKQJ94	
♥ A10964		♥ 5	
♦ AKQ985		♦ J1076	
♣ K5		♣ 98	
	South		
	♠ 32		
	♥ J3		
	♦ 43		
	♣ AQJ10642		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
			3♣
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
			3♣
4♣	Pass	6♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Armstrong did the right thing by showing a strong two-suiter rather than emphasizing diamonds, as Zhang did (I confess I'm with Zhang on this one). Then he did the right thing by converting 6♠ to 6NT. In 6♠, Papa would have lost a trump and the ace of clubs, but against 6NT, Fu had to find a heart lead. He led a club so Armstrong chalked up 990 and an 11-imp gain. GREAT BRITAIN, 124-80.

While it is true that those spades would usually be solid, the preempt increases the chances that it will not be, and East's diamonds provide a viable alternative trump suit. I think 6♠ is just a trifle impetuous. Similarly, Liu's 4♠ looks wrong to me, but if you don't have a forward-going 4NT available, it's certainly possible that 4♠ will work better than 5♦.

Bd: 16	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AQJ6		
Vul: E/W	♥ J10		
	♦ AJ83		
	♣ Q93		
West		East	
♠ 108		♠ K9432	
♥ AK2		♥ Q8	
♦ Q9654		♦ K72	
♣ KJ10		♣ 765	
	South		
	♠ 75		
	♥ 976543		
	♦ 10		
	♣ A842		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Justin H	Liu	Jason H
1♦	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Fu	Paul H	Ju
1♦	1NT	2♦	2♥
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

East could double 1NT, pass, raise to 2♦ or (horrors!), volunteer to 2♠ (as the ambitious Colker-san did in the other match). Papa's little raise got him to 3♦, which would have been a close thing. But Ju competed to 3♥ reasonably enough. Armstrong led the ♠10 and that defeated the contract easily enough; down 100. When Liu took no part in the proceedings at the other table, Justin declared a quiet 2H, plus 110. 4 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, who lost back a couple of imps on the set, 27-29.

With 16 deals remaining, GREAT BRITAIN led by 48 imps, 128-80.

I 'd rather be  
playing bridge bridge." "

Fourth Quarter (boards 49-64):

Bd: 49	North		
Dir: North	♠ A7		
Vul: None	♥ 102		
	♦ A10853		
	♣ K1087		
West		East	
♠ KQ82		♠ J95	
♥ 974		♥ AKQJ3	
♦ J2		♦ Q76	
♣ AQ96		♣ J2	
	South		
	♠ 10643		
	♥ 865		
	♦ K94		
	♣ 543		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Paul H	Liu	Armstrong
	1♦	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦!	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Ju	Justin	Fu
	1♦*	1♥	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Justin led a diamond against Ju's 4♥. Ju won, ruffed a diamond, lost a heart finesse, ruffed the diamond continuation, and led another trump. Justin won, perforce, and gave Jason a diamond ruff. The ♠A was the setting trick. Ouch. Minus 100.

Zhang led the ♣2 against Armstrong's 4♥. The king won and a heart to the jack lost to the queen. Zhang switched to a spade and Liu continued spades so Armstrong was in no trouble. He drove out the trump ace and made four; plus 620. 12 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 142-80.

Since Ju's 1♦ opening didn't say much about diamonds, Fu led a spade against 3NT. The defense presented Justin with a diamond trick too, and worse came to worst. Justin made five! Plus 460.

The mysteries of Liu's auction are wasted on me, but he seems to have done a number on his opponents. Natural diamonds. Better lead one. Low to the ten and queen. Spade to the king and ace. ♦A! No good. Armstrong unblocked the king, but the nine was still in the way. Nine tricks for Liu; plus 400. 2 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 130-80. Papa wanted to cater to king-queen doubleton in East but could not ignore queen-third or king third. Perhaps ace and another would have been best since Armstrong could unblock the queen if declarer put up the king on the second round.

Bd: 50	North		
Dir: East	♠ 1098		
Vul: N/S	♥ 7543		
	♦ 3		
	♣ KQJ98		
West		East	
♠ Q764		♠ AJ52	
♥ Q82		♥ A6	
♦ Q95		♦ J7642	
♣ 1032		♣ 54	
	South		
	♠ K3		
	♥ KJ109		
	♦ AK108		
	♣ A76		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zhang	Paul H	Liu	Armstrong
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Ju	Justin	Fu
		1♠	Dble
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Bd: 51 North  
 Dir: South ♠ AJ9865  
 Vul: E/W ♥ K94  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ 986

West  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ 10863  
 ♦ K5  
 ♣ AKQJ107

East  
 ♠ Q1043  
 ♥ Q7  
 ♦ AJ9432  
 ♣ 5

South  
 ♠ K2  
 ♥ AJ52  
 ♦ Q1087  
 ♣ 432

Open Room

West Zhang	North Paul H	East Liu	South Armstrong
1NT	2♠	2NT*	Pass
3♣	3♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Closed Room

West Jason	North Ju	East Justin	South Fu
1♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Ju lost the first four tricks in the minors, ruffed the second diamond, and ran the ♠J to hold his trump losers to one. Two down; minus 300. Not much of a triumph.

Everything is an opening bid at favorable vulnerability for GREAT BRITAIN. This was just another chapter in the continuing saga. The opening 1♥ bid got Papa to double 3NT and lead a heart, and since Armstrong had diamonds locked up, there were only eight winners for Zhang after Armstrong won the ♥J and switched to a club. Down one; minus 200. 11imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 153-80.

Bd: 52 North  
 Dir: West ♠ AQ10982  
 Vul: Both ♥ J108432  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ —

West  
 ♠ K7654  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ 1052  
 ♣ A532

East  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ 976  
 ♦ KQ9873  
 ♣ J1098

South  
 ♠ J3  
 ♥ KQ5  
 ♦ J64  
 ♣ KQ764

Open Room

West Zhang	North Paul H	East Liu	South Armstrong
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West Jason	North Ju	East Justin	South Fu
1♠	2♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT!	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

I really like Papa's sequence of calls on this one. He suggested a good hand with long mediocre hearts and long spades. Armstrong should have raised him. At least he should have raised if he knew what Paul had, which he apparently did not. This is not the sort of sequence you discuss every day, but it's the logical interpretation for it. Paul made four, Ju made five. 170 vs 650. 10imps back to CHINA, who needed them badly, 90-153.

**Today's Times**

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

**Tomorrow's Times**

10:00-13:00 FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP 1<sup>ST</sup>  
 13:00-14:00 LUNCH BREAK  
 14:00-17:00 FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP 2<sup>ND</sup>

**TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S SCHEDULES**

NEC Cup play will be held today on the fourth floor Pacifico, Rooms 415 (Open) and 416 (Closed). Tomorrow the first two qualifying sessions of the Foreign Minister's Cup will be held in Rooms 501 and 502. The Secretariat is located in Room 417.

Bd: 53  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ AQ864  
 ♥ K103  
 ♦ A763  
 ♣ K

West  
 ♠ KJ7  
 ♥ 954  
 ♦ KJ2  
 ♣ AJ106

East  
 ♠ 95  
 ♥ AJ86  
 ♦ 94  
 ♣ 98753

South  
 ♠ 1032  
 ♥ Q72  
 ♦ Q1085  
 ♣ Q42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Paul H	Liu	Armstrong
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jason	Ju	Justin	Fu
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Jason bid with extreme caution and finished plus 620 in 4♥. Zhang bid with extreme guile and finished minus 200 in 6♣. Heart lead to the king, diamond, ducked to the king, ♣A, ♣K, diamond ruff, draw trumps, ♠A to throw a diamond, high hearts, which had to be three-three. They weren't. 13 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 171-90.

In 2♦, Paul made three; plus 110. In 3♦, Ju made two; minus 100. 5 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 158-90.

Bd: 54  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 1075  
 ♥ 10854  
 ♦ 86  
 ♣ 9432

West  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ AQ762  
 ♦ KQJ742  
 ♣ AK

East  
 ♠ AQ632  
 ♥ KJ  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ QJ875

South  
 ♠ KJ984  
 ♥ 93  
 ♦ A1093  
 ♣ 106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Paul H	Liu	Armstrong
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣!	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jason	Ju	Justin	Fu
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The match was essentially over. CHINA outscored the Brits 9-8 over the remaining deals, but GREAT BRITAIN won the fourth quarter 51-19 and won the match 179-99.

They will meet Japan's PABF OPEN TEAM in the final, with both teams in good form.

TEAM	c/o	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	Total
GREAT BRITAIN	3.2	59	39	27	51	179
CHINA		35	16	29	19	99