

# NATIONAL HEROES BRING GLORY TO JAPAN JAPAN OVER GREAT BRITAIN NEC CUP FINAL

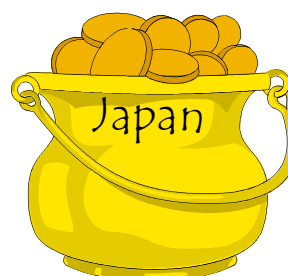
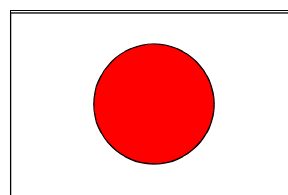
GREAT BRITAIN and JAPAN –PABF OPEN faced off in yesterday's 64-board final of the NEC Cup. In a match which was close all the way, JAPAN too the lead in the second quarter and held on to win at the wire. Congratulations to both teams for their outstanding play throughout the event. The box scores appear below, and a complete, blow-by-blow account of the match can be found beginning on page 9.

## NEC Cup Final

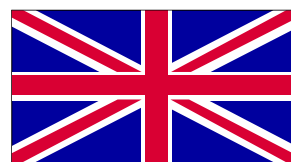
TEAM	c/o	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	Total
GREAT BRITAIN		40	31	24	20	115
JAPAN – PABF OPEN	1	40	37	21	26	125



First-place JAPAN: Miyakuni, Imakura, Teramoto, Ino, Chen and their ever upright npc, Hirata-san



Second place GB: Paul, Justin, Mavromichalis, Jason and Armstrong



## NEC CUP SEMIFINALS: JAPAN vs USA

As you will remember from yesterday's episode, our heroes (JAPAN and USA) were engaged in quite a dogfight. At the half, the score stood ominously at JAPAN 75, USA 58.2.

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

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: 33	North		
Dir: North	♠ Q86		
Vul: None	♥ J86		
	♦ AJ982		
	♣ 103		
West		East	
♠ KJ9		♠ A10432	
♥ A94		♥ 7	
♦ 10		♦ Q765	
♣ AKQ542		♣ 987	
	South		
	♠ 75		
	♥ KQ10532		
	♦ K43		
	♣ J6		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Imakura	Colker	Miyakuni
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	2♥	2♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Capp	Ino	Lipscomb
	Pass	Pass	2♥
Dble	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

6♣ is an excellent slam, needing only to locate the ♠Q. 6♠ is less good but still playable. In the Open Room Kokish sniffed at slam but in the end settled for 5♠ when he found he was off an ace and the ♠Q. This was a good decision since he had the inference from Colker's failure to open a weak two-bid earlier that he was virtually certain not to have a six-card suit for his later 2♠. The defense led the ♥K and when Colker located the ♠Q at trick 2, USA was plus 480. In the Closed Room the ♦A was led followed by the ♦J. Unluckily this saved Chen a spade guess. He ruffed, played ♥A and ruffed a heart, ruffed out the ♦K, and ruffed his last heart. Now he simply drew trumps and claimed. Plus 920

Bd: 38	North		
Dir: East	♠ AK94		
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ102		
	♦ 1085		
	♣ J7		
West		East	
♠ QJ72		♠ 103	
♥ K86		♥ 73	
♦ 4		♦ QJ9763	
♣ 98643		♣ AQ5	
	South		
	♠ 865		
	♥ Q954		
	♦ AK2		
	♣ K102		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kokish	Imakura	Colker	Miyakuni
		2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Capp	Ino	Lipscomb
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

was 10 more imps to JAPAN, leading 85-58.

Board 34 was a game push and on Boards 35 and 36 JAPAN picked up 1 and 3 imps, respectively, on partscore/overtrick differences. The next board was a slam push and JAPAN was leading, 89-58 when this swing board came along.

4♥ may not be the best contract, but it does have the advantage that it can be made on either of two lines: playing East for the ♣AQ or for honor-doubleton of spades (by leading low from dummy when first

attacking the suit). In the Open Room Colker's weak 2♦ opening seems to have impeded Imakura-Miyakuni's hand evaluation. Imakura's diamond holding was unappealing and Miyakuni appeared to have too much wastage; plus 170. In the Closed Room Ino passed in first seat and gave Cappelletti-Lipscomb a free run, and they bounced right into game. The ♦Q lead was won with the ace and the ♥9 held at trick 2. The remaining trumps were drawn and Cappelletti played ace and a spade to Ino's ten. When Ino tried ♣A and a second club Cappelletti found the duck to bring home his game. Plus 420 was 6imps to USA, trailing 89-64.

Two more game pushes followed and then THE big hand of the set was placed on the tray. Buckle up tour seatbelts, kids, this one is going to be a rocky trip.

Bd: 41	North		
Dlr: 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
Kokish	Imakura	Colker	Miyakuni
	2♦*	Dble*	2NT*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♠
5♠	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	6♠
Pass*	Pass	Dble	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Capp	Ino	Lipscomb
	2♠	Pass	4♣*
Dble	4♦	Pass	4♠
5♥	Pass	6♥	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♥!	Dble
Pass	Pass	7NT	Dble
All Pass			

In the Open Room, Imakura's 2♦ was of the multi variety and Colker's double showed either 13-15 balanced or 19+. Miyakuni's 2NT was an inquiry and Kokish, with the most dramatic hand at the table, could do nothing but pass in his methods. Imakura's 3♥ showed a weak two-bid in spades with minimum values and Miyakuni promptly bid the game. Little did he know what awaited him. Suddenly the sleeping editor awoke and entered the auction with a vengeance. 5♠ was a big two-suiter, but who knew it consumed his entire hand? Colker preferred diamonds to clubs and so bid the chunky four-bagger to let Kokish know who had the goods. When "Rip Van" converted to 6♥ it was clear that his two suits did not include the red pointed kind. It may be possible in some alternate universe for East to bid the grand in such an auction, but this was not it; Colker passed. But Kenji heard the trumpets and rose to the occasion with 6♠. Kokish's pass was of the forcing variety, but again Colker had no clue of the extent to which Kokish meant it. Double ended the auction and Kenji could actually have gotten out for minus 100 when the opening lead was a heart and Colker lazily continued the suit. But to those pure in heart all good things eventually come as Kenji played on trumps before trying for club pitches on his diamonds. (See the strength of Colker's 6♦ bid.) Now Colker also awoke, won his ♠A and cashed the ♣K; down two, plus 300 to USA.

The auction in the Closed Room actually came from that alternate universe mentioned above.

Cappelletti's weak 2♠ was one of the few normal-looking bids in the auction, which is one of the last things we ever thought we'd say about Mikey's bidding. 4♣ was RKCB and 4♦ after the double showed one keycard. Lipscomb decided to try to end the auction with 4♠, but Chen-Ino bid merrily on to 6♥. Just as had happened in the Open Room, Shannon took the 6♠ save and Chen made a forcing pass. But Ino, who had much in reserve for his actions up to this point in the auction, shrugged his shoulders and found the magic 7♥ bid. Take that, USA! When Lipscomb contributed a double, Ino was certain that a club void was lurking about and decided that 7NT must be a far safer contract. After all, shouldn't Chen have first-round diamond control for his forcing pass of 6♠? In point of fact he did, but unfortunately for JAPAN not at notrump. Some people we've spoken claim that Lipscomb's double of 7NT can still be heard echoing in the fourth-

floor halls of the Pacifico. 2000 points later, USA had 20 imps in the bank; trailing now only 89-84.

On the next two boards JAPAN picked up 3 random imps and the USA 1, so going into the next to last deal of the set JAPAN's lead was back up to 7 imps, at 92-85. Then came another heart-wrenching deal for team USA.

Bd: 47	North		
Dir: 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
Kokish	Imakura	Colker	Miyakuni
			3♣
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Capp	Ino	Lipscomb
			3♣
Dble	Pass	4♣	Dble
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

In the Open Room Kokish's 3♦ overcall would not have been some peoples' choice, but on this deal it hit partner in the perfect spot. Colker's 3♠ bid was forcing and Kokish's 4♥ did nothing to brighten Colker's world. Still, Kokish had gone past the safety of 4♦, so he had to have good values or a fit for spades. Still, with clubs uncontrolled what could he do? Would 4NT be taken as forward-going but lacking a club control? Perhaps in a well-practiced partnership, or had there been some discussion of such issues in their history, but this was largely uncharted waters for them. What if Kokish took it as RKCB for spades (or hearts, or diamonds)? In the final analysis, Colker settled for a "safe" 5♦ and the auction came to a screeching end. When dummy came down Colker could see that Kokish was not a happy camper; nor was plus 420 a happy result. In the Closed Room Chen chose to

Bd: 48	North		
Dir: 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
Kokish	Imakura	Colker	Miyakuni
1♦	1NT	2♠	4♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Capp	Ino	Lipscomb
1♦	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

double with the West hand; a call that might not have been the choice of many players. We can only infer that Ino's 4♣ bid followed by 4♠ indicated a hand too good to just jump to game. When Chen bid and rebid his diamonds rather than showing his heart suit, Ino probably placed him with a strong one-suiter. Thus, 6♦ was probably a safer action than it would have been in the Open Room. Plus 920 added 11 much-needed imps to JAPAN's total, and took a good bit of the wind out of USA's sails; JAPAN 103, USA 85.

The last board of the set, and not one to write home to the folks about – for either team. Both North/South pairs overbid to the terrible 4♥ game and went down two tricks when the spade king turned up offside, which was more than likely on the auctions. No swing, but a good chance for a pickup lost by both sides. The third quarter ended, JAPAN 103, USA 85.

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

Bd: 49	North		
Dlr: 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
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
	1NT*	Dble	2♦*
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Capp	Miyakuni	Lipscomb
	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both East/West pairs ended up in games, which were no bargain had the right suit been led against either one (clubs against 4♥; diamonds against 3NT). In the Open Room Chen's 2♦ bid showed the pointed suits. He led a diamond against 4♥, Ino winning and shifting to a trump. Simpson won, led the ♠9 to the king and ace, won the heart return, drew the last trump, and exited with a diamond to Chen's king. When Chen shifted to a club Simpson rose with the ace, played a spade to the jack, cashed the ♦Q and his last two trumps, and then played a spade to dummy's...eight; making four, plus 420. In the Closed Room Miyakuni, not to be outdone by Simpson, reached 3NT from the East side. When Lipscomb started her own spades in preference to her partner's diamonds, Kenji was playing for overtricks. He won the ♠9, cashed the ♥K, and knocked out Cappelletti's ♠A. Cappelletti shifted to a diamond and when Lipscomb won the king she shifted to clubs. Mike inserted the ten when Kenji played low from dummy and now cam under pressure when Kenji ran his major suit winners. In

the two-card end position he couldn't keep both the ♦A and the guarded ♣K. Plus 460 was another imp for JAPAN, leading 104-85.

In the Open Room Simpson led a club against Ino's 4♥. Ino won in hand and played a heart to the jack and queen. Itabashi returned a second club and Ino won in hand to lead a second trump. Simpson won perforce and shifted to a diamond, Ino won dummy's ace, drew the last trump, and claimed ten tricks; plus 620. In the Closed Room Imakura led the ♦5 against Lipscomb's 4♥. When Miyakuni played low, she won the ♦8, ruffed a diamond in dummy, and led a heart to the ♥10 and queen. Imakura exited with the ♦Q to Lipscomb's ace and she then led another heart to Miyakuni's ace. Kenji cashed the ♠A and led the ♦J and Imakura was able to score his ♥8 for the setting trick. Down one, minus 100, and 12 imps to JAPAN, 116-85.

Bd: 50	North		
Dlr: 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
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Capp	Miyakuni	Lipscomb
		1♦	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Bd: 51	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AJ9865		
Vul: E/W	♥ K94		
	♦ 6		
	♣ 986		
West			East
♠ 7			♠ Q1043
♥ 10863			♥ Q7
♦ K5			♦ AJ9432
♣ AKQJ107			♣ 5
	South		
	♠ K2		
	♥ AJ52		
	♦ Q1087		
	♣ 432		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
Dble	2♠	3♦	1NT*
4♣	All Pass		Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Capp	Miyakuni	Lipscomb
1♣	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

In the Open Room Ino led the ♦6 against Itabashi's 4♣ contract, nine, ten, king. He drew trumps and eventually lost five tricks to go two down, minus 200. In the Closed Room Cappelletti tried 3♠ over 1♣ when we might have contented ourselves with a simple overcall. When the defense slipped a trick Mike got out for down one; minus 100. 7imps to JAPAN, now leading 123-85.

Bd: 52	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AQ10982		
Vul: Both	♥ J108432		
	♦ A		
	♣ —		
West			East
♠ K7654			♠ —
♥ A			♥ 976
♦ 1052			♦ KQ9873
♣ A532			♣ J1098
	South		
	♠ J3		
	♥ KQ5		
	♦ J64		
	♣ KQ764		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
1♠	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Capp	Miyakuni	Lipscomb
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	2♥	All Pass	

In the Open Room Ino settled for his second-best suit when his first choice was opened on his right. Chen went straight to game and Simpson led the ♣J. Ino ruffed out the ace and played a heart to the king and ace. Itabashi shifted to a diamond and Ino won, drew trumps ending in dummy, and eventually conceded a spade for eleven tricks; plus 650. In the Closed Room Cappelletti refused to enter the auction right away and when he finally did bid his hearts Lipscomb was content to buy the hand so low. The same eleven tricks were made but without the game bonus that was only plus 200; 10 more imps to JAPAN, 133-85. Things were getting serious.

In the Closed Room Cappelletti refused to enter the auction right away and when he finally did bid his hearts Lipscomb was content to buy the hand so low. The same eleven tricks were made but without the game bonus that was only plus 200; 10 more imps to JAPAN, 133-85. Things were getting serious.

On the following board both sides failed by one trick in a spade contract: Ino-Chen at the two-level and Cappelletti-Lipscomb in game. We'd show you the deal but we're holding out for big bucks from both sides to keep this one out of our yellow rag.



"They can't catch us now."



"Are you *really* Bruce Lee?"

Bd: 54	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 1075		
Vul: E/W	♥ 10854		
	♦ 86		
	♣ 9432		
West			East
♠ —			♠ AQ632
♥ AQ762			♥ KJ
♦ KQJ742			♦ 5
♣ AK			♣ QJ875
	South		
	♠ KJ984		
	♥ 93		
	♦ A1093		
	♣ 106		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Capp	Miyakuni	Lipscomb
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The auction in the Open Room is not exactly our style. East would do better to rebid his spades gently over 2♦ and settle for 3NT on the next round. Itabashi must have thought Simpson's 3♣ rebid promised something extra beyond five-five, but 6NT was still an aggressive action given the obvious misfit and blockage in clubs. After all, he might never see declarer's hand except through the open screen. The double sounded the alarm, but already it was too late. With diamonds double stopped and the entry situation rather jumbled, Simpson did well to scramble eleven tricks for minus 200. The same eleven tricks were scored in the Closed Room and another 13 imps went to JAPAN's side of the ledger; JAPAN 146, USA 85.

The American engine had stalled, and the imps just kept leaking away into JAPAN's coffers. On the next board, with both vulnerable, Simpson picked up:

♠ K532 ♥ 74 ♦ Q7 ♣ Q10543

Itabashi opened 1♦ in second seat and Ino bid 2♦ (majors). Simpson passed, Chen bid 2♠, Itabashi

Bd: 58	North		
Dlr: East	♠ Q764		
Vul: Both	♥ AKJ76		
	♦ 9		
	♣ K84		
West			East
♠ 1093			♠ K52
♥ Q93			♥ 1084
♦ 1076			♦ AKQ432
♣ AJ65			♣ Q
	South		
	♠ AJ8		
	♥ 52		
	♦ J85		
	♣ 109732		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
		1♦	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Capp	Miyakuni	Lipscomb
		1♦	Pass
1NT	Dble	2♦	3♣
All Pass			

bid 3♣ and Ino bid 3♥. What would you do with Gene's hand? 3♠ is a possibility, as is 5♣. Gene chose the latter and caught Mark with a bit of a lark:

♠ 6 ♥ KJ10 ♦ AK64 ♣ K9876

5♣ went down 200 (thank goodness they didn't double). At the other table Cappelletti-Lipscomb played in 3♠ making; lose 2. JAPAN 148, USA 85.

The USA picked up it's only imp in the first thirteen boards of the set when they scored an unmatched second overtrick in 3NT on Board 56. JAPAN 148, USA 86.

The next partscore deal was a push and then came Board 58. In Both rooms the first five bids were the same. In the Open Room Itabashi failed to heed the early warning signs (Simpson's run from 1NT doubled; North 's 2♥ bid) and balanced with 3♦. Mercifully Ino-Chen failed to find a double and when Simpson misguessed the ♠A in the play the Americans ended

up minus 300. In the Closed Room cooler heads prevailed and Cappelletti-Lipscomb were permitted to play 3♣ which made on the nose for plus 110; 5 more imps to JAPAN, now 153-86.

Two more push boards followed and then JAPAN picked up 2 more imps on overtricks. The score stood at 155-86.

Bd: 62	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 982		
Vul: None	♥ Q7		
	♦ AQ74		
	♣ A854		
West		East	
♠ 106543		♠ AQ	
♥ 5		♥ AJ642	
♦ 1086532		♦ KJ9	
♣ 2		♣ 1073	
	South		
	♠ KJ7		
	♥ K10983		
	♦ —		
	♣ KQJ96		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
		1NT	2♣*
2♥*	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♣	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Capp	Miyakuni	Lipscomb
		1♥	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Chen's 2♣ bid in the Open Room showed clubs and a higher suit (DONT). Itabashi's 2♥ showed spades and Ino competed with 3♣. Chen showed his second suit and Ino bid game in clubs. The opening lead was the ♦6 and Chen won dummy's ace, pitching a spade. When he tried a low heart Simpson rose with the ace and gave Itabashi a ruff. The defense quickly cashed their ♠A for down one; plus 50 for USA. In the Closed Room Cappelletti found a balancing 1NT bid over Miyakuni's 1♥. Lipscomb wasted no time bidding game in notrump and Kenji led a low heart: as good as anything. The ♥Q won and a heart was returned. Kenji rose with the ace to shift to a club. The defense eventually scored their ♠A but plus 430 was 10 imps to USA.

With the score at 155-96, only two more deals remained. Time was about out for USA.

Bd: 63	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q763		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q96		
	♦ —		
	♣ AJ9863		
West		East	
♠ A2		♠ J9	
♥ K832		♥ J105	
♦ Q9862		♦ AKJ754	
♣ 75		♣ Q10	
	South		
	♠ K10854		
	♥ A74		
	♦ 103		
	♣ K42		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Ino	Simpson	Chen
			All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Capp	Miyakuni	Lipscomb
			1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

A slight difference in Mr. Chen's and Ms. Lipscomb's evaluation of the South hand led to another small swing for JAPAN – which might have been a rather large one for USA. The auction was short and sweet in the Open Room and the play even shorter. In the Closed Room Shannon showed a bad hand with her jump to 4♠ over her partner's forcing raise. Imakura led a low diamond and Shannon ruffed and led a low spade, nine, king, ace. Imakura switched to a low heart and Shannon tried dummy's nine, jack, ace. She then led a low spade to dummy's seven, losing to the jack, and back came the ♦K, ruffed. A club to the king and a club to the jack seemed in keeping with the rest of the US team's day. Down one, minus 100; 3 imps to JAPAN, 158-96.

USA picked up 6 imps on the final deal of the match when they made partscores at both tables. The final imp totals: JAPAN 158, USA 102, were ultimately quite indicative of the relative qualities of the two teams' play. Congratulations JAPAN.



# THE 1999 NEC CUP FINAL: GREAT BRITAIN vs JAPAN

JAPAN (Hisatomi-Teramoto, Ino-Chen, Miyakuni-Imakura) started with a 1-imp carryover lead from the teams' head-on round robin match. GREAT BRITAIN (Paul "Papa Bear" Hackett, Jason and Justin Hackett (les enfants terribles), John Armstrong, Brigitte Mavromichalis) had a relatively easy time against CHINA, and JAPAN had broken open a tight mitch with a big fourth set to win, going away. With both teams playing in good form and in good fortune, everyone was expecting a good match.

## First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 1093		
Vul: None	♥ A974		
	♦ AK95		
	♣ AQ		
West		East	
♠ AQ85		♠ K74	
♥ 103		♥ KQ86	
♦ Q1076		♦ J8	
♣ J96		♣ 8543	
	South		
	♠ J62		
	♥ J52		
	♦ 432		
	♣ K1072		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
	1♦	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
	1NT	All Pass	

Masayuki Ino led the ♥K against Justin's 1♦, which enabled Justin to make a sixth trick (he might have done so anyway); down 50. Papa led the ♣3 against Tadashi Imakura's 1NT. The ace won and a low diamond ran to the seven. A second club went to the queen and Imakura cashed ace-king of diamonds, then played the ♠10. Papa won the king and exited with a spade, Armstrong taking his spade and diamond winners before exiting with the ♥10. Imakura ducked to the queen and had to make a second heart; down 50. No swing.

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: East	♠ A10765		
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ43		
	♦ —		
	♣ AQJ10		
West		East	
♠ K942		♠ QJ	
♥ Q76		♥ K1095	
♦ 94		♦ AQ763	
♣ 7643		♣ K2	
	South		
	♠ 83		
	♥ 82		
	♦ KJ10852		
	♣ 985		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Dble	1NT*	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	Dble
All Pass			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
		1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass

If the East hand falls into your notrump range, it's a good way to describe an awkward hand. At least as good as opening in your shorter suit, as Paul did. He had a good hand by his standards but the spade honors were dubious on the auction. He settled for a self-raise to 3♥, jhoping that Armstrong would have the decency to produce a fourth trump opposite a frequent four-card major opening. Nah. Imakura suspected that 3♥ was going down but a double would have been for takeout. Paul escaped undoubled, down three; minus 150.

That was an ugly little result for the Brits, but salvation was coming from the Open Room, where Ino could not open 1NT (8-11 HCP in this position). The warning signs were prominently displayed when Jason's 2♣

came around to him, but with a high card maximum for his 1NT rebid, Ino decided to protect with 2♦. This was ill-judged and he paid for it when Jason's fortunes took a dramatic turn for the better. Spade to the ace, ace-queen of clubs. Ino took five tricks; down 500. 8 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 8-1.

Then, before everyone had a chance to fasten his seat belt, came the deal of the week...

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KJ7542		
Vul: E/W	♥ 95		
	♦ Q874		
	♣ 4		
West			East
♠ A96			♠ Q83
♥ J1084			♥ AQ732
♦ 5			♦ AKJ6
♣ AKQ109			♣ 6
	South		
	♠ 10		
	♥ K6		
	♦ 10932		
	♣ J87532		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
			3♣
Pass	3NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♣	Dble	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
			Pass
1♣	2♠	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Imagine how Ino must have felt at various points in the auction. I find it a lot easier to understand Jason's sound 3♣ than Justin's cavalier 3NT, but I'm a stranger to this style. Who knows? Maybe 3NT is the twins' version of playing down the middle. Jason made the ♥K and two trump tricks for seven light; minus 1700. Occupational hazard. "Hmm. Wonder if dad will make 6♥ and save us," thought the two-headed monster.

Right. Miyakuni led his spade against 6♥. Paul called for the ♠A, led a trump to the ace, and started clubs. Imakura's ruff was a disappointment, but there was nothing for it but to overruff. Now in the wrong hand to take the diamond finesse, Paul turned to Plan C: ♦A, ♦K (spade), diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, reducing Miyakuni to clubs and the ♥K, and finally ... a trump. Poor Kenji won the

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q10		
Vul: Both	♥ J32		
	♦ 652		
	♣ KQ875		
West			East
♠ K983			♠ AJ7
♥ A10765			♥ —
♦ AJ3			♦ KQ10874
♣ A			♣ J932
	South		
	♠ 6542		
	♥ KQ984		
	♦ 9		
	♣ 1064		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
			Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦	
5♦	All Pass		

king and had to lead a club into dummy's stranded tenace. Away went Paul's spades for one of the more spectacular 1430s you'll ever see. "That's why we let him be our dad," revealed the twins at a post-session interview. Oh, yes. 7 imps to JAPAN, tying the match at 8.

Paul's jump to 3♦ showed a near-opening bid with a good suit. Perhaps it was unfortunate for Armstrong that Paul was maximum and had both club length and excellent controls, but his jump to 5♦ kept his side out of slam. Indeed, seven is not hopeless. Paul and Ino took all the tricks on a club lead, getting three club ruffs in dummy; plus 640 and plus 1390. 13 imps to JAPAN, 21-8.

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ K876		
Vul: E/W	♥ 8		
	♦ J106		
	♣ K10964		
West			East
♠ A105			♠ QJ2
♥ A7543			♥ KQ1092
♦ 74			♦ Q5
♣ AQJ			♣ 873
	South		
	♠ 943		
	♥ J6		
	♦ AK9832		
	♣ 52		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
		Pass	3♦
Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
		Pass	3♦
Dble	5♦	Dble	All Pass

Compare this South hand with the South hand on Board 3. Same vulnerability. Both were opened at the three-level by Jason. Colker-san tells me that this is good bridge. Mix it up. Keep them under pressure. There's two of them and only one more of us to be concerned with. Yawn. I've always preferred to keep my preempts disgustingly weak at favorable, progressively better as the vulnerability gets worse, keeping partner in the picture. Am I a dinosaur?

If you're going to get to 5♦, you'd much prefer to do it in the fashion of Miyakuni-Imakura. If pass were forcing, you'd prefer to pass with the East hand since 5♥ or 6♥ might be easy, but West would reopen with a double in that scenario, and you'd pass. Paul and Armstrong accomplished the same result with a value-showing double and disinterested pass, the two small diamonds making the decision more attractive. In the other room, Justin's pass allowed his opponents to find their fit and level, so he had much less to gain and a lot to lose by saving on the rebound, especially opposite a Jason three-bid.

There are various ways that 6♦ doubled might be beaten two tricks, but both Wests led a sensible, if ineffective, trump. East played the queen so there was a natural entry (or two) to dummy in trumps. Declarer led a club up. Chen won, cashed the major suit aces (♠Q under the ♠A from Ino), and continued spades. Jason won the king, ruffed out the clubs, and returned to the ♦10 to discard his major-suit losers on the good clubs. Armstrong played the queen on the first club. Miyakuni won and played a second club. Armstrong defended in the same manner as Chen, and declarer again took ten tricks. No swing at minus 100.

Good save? Not a disaster, but 4♥ would have gone one down.

We have seen that the twins' overcalls are very sound, so Jason was reluctant to jump to 4♠ and concede a penalty when his opponents might not have a game their way. They sold out to 4♥ and Justin led two rounds of spades. Had Ino relied on the trump finesse, and led a diamond from hand, he would have made 4♥, but instead, he played for one diamond loser with a chance to drop the ♥Q. He played ♥AS, heart to the king, diamond to the eight and ten. Justin switched to

Bd: 7	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AJ1087		
Vul: Both	♥ 85		
	♦ KJ10		
	♣ Q84		
West			East
♠ Q			♠ 94
♥ AJ96			♥ K732
♦ AQ985			♦ 743
♣ K106			♣ A752
	South		
	♠ K6532		
	♥ Q104		
	♦ 62		
	♣ J93		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
		Dble*	Pass
1♦	1♠		3♠
4♥	All Pass		
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
		Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	3♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

the ♣Q, but Ino won the king and led a diamond to the queen and king. His worst fears were realized when the ♥Q turned up onside. Down one, minus 100.

The four-card 1♥ opening located the fit immediately and Paul's jump raise tempted to Miyakuni to preempt to the limit. There are two ways to go two down (play West for the ♦Q or the ♣10) but Imakura led a diamond to the king, and later played Armstrong for the ace-king of clubs rather than honor-ten. Three down; minus 800. 14 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 22-21.

Had Ino made 4♥ and Imakura saved a trick, it would have been 3 imps to JAPAN. It's easy to see that there's a fine line between good judgment and bad.

Bd: 8	North		
Dir: West	♠ KQ10753		
Vul: None	♥ 42		
	♦ 6		
	♣ Q1086		
West		East	
♠ 9864		♠ 2	
♥ QJ106		♥ 9873	
♦ K10		♦ AJ852	
♣ KJ2		♣ A97	
	South		
	♠ AJ		
	♥ AK5		
	♦ Q9743		
	♣ 543		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
1NT*	2♠	Dbl*	2NT*
Pass	3♠	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
1♥	2♠	4♥	Dble
All Pass			

With the cards as they are, it's difficult to force declarer in a spade contract, and two club leads from dummy bring in the clubs. Plus 170 for Justin. Ino's mini-notrump made it a bit risky to find hearts at a meaningful level, Chen's negative double notwithstanding, but Armstrong's 1♥ located the fit immediately and got his side to a game that might have made on a better lie. Miyakuni doubled and Imakura led his singleton diamond. Miyakuni won the first trump and gave his partner a diamond ruff, but his diamond plays were four-seven and Imakura felt that these cards did not deny holding the ♣J. He returned a club after getting his ruff, and the nine won.

Bd: 9	North		
Dir: North	♠ AQ32		
Vul: E/W	♥ 87		
	♦ A65		
	♣ 9652		
West		East	
♠ 74		♠ 10986	
♥ A1032		♥ KQJ94	
♦ K973		♦ 1084	
♣ A74		♣ 10	
	South		
	♠ KJ5		
	♥ 65		
	♦ QJ2		
	♣ KQJ83		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Miyakuni won the second trump but did not play a third, so Armstrong could cash his clubs and the ♦A and crossruff for one down; minus 100. 2 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 24-21.

This was an unlucky deal for GREAT BRITAIN because the twins reached the only game that stood a chance (2♣ was either natural or an invitational three-card spade raise with an undisclosed five-card side suit; 2♦ asked). Two rounds of hearts, club to the ace, club ruff, ended their hopes, however. Down one; minus 50.

Miyakuni's shaded strong notrump created a quantitative auction and spades were never a factor.

Armstrong led a heart and the defenders took five hearts and the ♣A for two down; minus 100. 2 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 26-21.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ Q9		
Vul: Both	♥ KJ10654		
	♦ K6		
	♣ J53		
West			East
♠ K			♠ 108762
♥ Q872			♥ A
♦ Q9852			♦ AJ3
♣ 642			♣ A987
	South		
	♠ AJ543		
	♥ 93		
	♦ 1074		
	♣ KQ10		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
		1♠	Pass
1NT*	2♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
		1♠	Pass
1NT	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Add a grain or two of salt to my reference to the soundness of the twins' overcalls, will you. Jason went only three light in 2NT on a diamond lead through the king, eventually losing to the ♠K; minus 300. Imakura-Miyakuni also describe their overcalls as sound, which is true except when they're not. Imakura's 2♥ got him to 3NT, which is a lot of notrump, even for sound overcallers. Better from his side. Club lead to the king, ♥9 around to the ace, switch to ♦A, curious continuation of the ♦3, low ... queen, king, ♠Q run to the king, diamond back to the jack ... various red faces. Back to clubs. Imakura had seven tricks now for a magnificent two down; minus 200. 3 imps to JAPAN, 24-26.

Almost like real bridge.

Board 11 was a flat 4♥, plus 450, North/South. Board 12 proved to be flat at East/West plus 480, but neither of those pairs cared much for their result.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J96		
Vul: N/S	♥ 953		
	♦ 107		
	♣ 109732		
West			East
♠ AK10			♠ Q4
♥ QJ2			♥ K10874
♦ 85432			♦ AJ
♣ A6			♣ KQ84
	South		
	♠ 87532		
	♥ A6		
	♦ KQ96		
	♣ J5		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	4♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Dble
2♥*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

With the perfect fit, declarer can make 6♥ on any lead. And if not 980, someone might have scooped in 760 at 2♦ redoubled. Hmm.



That's not quite what I meant when I said 'Spread 'em.'"

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K83		
Vul: Both	♥ Q10832		
	♦ 8		
	♣ 8753		
West			East
♠ A75			♠ QJ642
♥ K5			♥ A76
♦ QJ742			♦ A96
♣ A62			♣ K9
	South		
	♠ 109		
	♥ J94		
	♦ K1053		
	♣ QJ104		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠(5♠)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Ino's 3♦ presumably showed extra values, or Chen's 6♦ doesn't make any sense at all. The slam had a play (declarer needs the ♦10 doubleton in South) but not on this lie. Jason ducked the ♦Q, but Chen continued with a low trump and so held his trump losers to one. One down; minus 100. 4♠ made five; plus 650. 13 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 39-24.

Bd: 14	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 65		
Vul: None	♥ A94		
	♦ 853		
	♣ KJ654		
West			East
♠ A82			♠ K1093
♥ K87			♥ QJ102
♦ Q9			♦ K1064
♣ Q10832			♣ 9
	South		
	♠ QJ74		
	♥ 653		
	♦ AJ72		
	♣ A7		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dble	1NT	2♦*	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

The depths to which the modern player will go to enter the auction were plumbed by John Armstrong, whose takeout double of 1♥ facing a passed partner might be a popular choice on a desert island or the prison lunchroom, but hardly anywhere else where there is hope for a better life. Of course, nothing happened to him. Paul cue-bid to find the right major fit, but there was no eight-card fit. No matter. The lead of the ♦3 went to the (unfortunate) jack and queen and Armstrong went after trumps. Imakura won the second trump and switched to spades, duplicating the hatchet job performed on the ♦J. Armstrong was able to knock out the ♦A and the ♠Q and took nine tricks; plus 140. Sometimes it's an easy game.

Justin went two down in 1NT on the lead of the ♥Q; minus 100. 1 imp to GREAT BRITAIN, 40-24.



"I wonder how many cigarettes 1.3 Million Yen will buy."

Bd: 15	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 1065		
Vul: N/S	♥ —		
	♦ AQJ8743		
	♣ 653		
West			East
♠ 8			♠ KJ42
♥ A1098652			♥ QJ43
♦ K52			♦ 6
♣ KQ			♣ A1084
	South		
	♠ AQ973		
	♥ K7		
	♦ 109		
	♣ J972		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
			Pass
1♥	3♦	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
			1♠
2♥	4♠	Dble	All Pass

5♦ can be beaten on a spade lead and heart switch, or on the remarkable lead of the ♥Q (keeping declarer out of dummy for those club tricks until it is too late). Armstrong led a club, so Miyakuni threw his spade and two hearts and lost only to the trump ace; plus 420.

Chen did well to find a heart lead but chose a low one, of course. The ten won and declarer threw a spade and a heart on high clubs before leading a trump. Chen won and gave Ino a heart ruff. Plus 400. 1 imp to JAPAN.

The first set was even at the table, but JAPAN was 1 imp ahead on carryover, 41-40. "Do you give up?" asked Miyakuni to the nearest available Hackett.



"Does anyone else realize it's lunch time?"

The Brits like to have a bit more when they open, vulnerable, so Jason passed the South hand while Miyakuni opened it. The difference was rather dramatic.

Chen was left to play peacefully in 4♥, which he made easily; plus 420. I confess that Imakura's jump to 4♠ would not have occurred to me, five-card majors or not, but here it proved to be remarkably effective. Paul, torn between raising hearts and doubling for penalty, decided to try for four tricks on defense. Armstrong led the ♣K and continued with the queen, and Paul did not overtake to give him a third-round ruff. When the ♣K held, Armstrong switched not to the ♥A but to the ♠8, covered all around. Miyakuni led the ♦10 to dummy's jack, ran the ♠5, and was still in dummy to repeat the spade finesse. He drew trumps and took another diamond finesse and so took 11 tricks for a spectacular plus 880, 16imps to JAPAN, tying the match at 40.

Bd: 16	North		
Dlr: West	♠ K10863		
Vul: E/W	♥ 1092		
	♦ J		
	♣ AKQ8		
West			East
♠ J7			♠ AQ952
♥ Q7643			♥ 5
♦ A8			♦ 106
♣ J1092			♣ 76543
	South		
	♠ 4		
	♥ AKJ8		
	♦ KQ975432		
	♣ ---		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦(FG)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦(FG)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

Bd: 17	North	
Dlr: North	♠ K105	
Vul: None	♥ AK	
	♦ AQ76	
	♣ AQ92	
West		East
♠ J8764		♠ A
♥ J954		♥ Q10632
♦ K85		♦ 94
♣ 5		♣ K10876
	South	
	♠ Q932	
	♥ 87	
	♦ J1032	
	♣ J43	

Both Norths declared 3NT. Ino led a club from the East hand and Justin, the declarer, won the nine to return the suit. He had time for an overtrick and would have made five had he led a low spade from hand; plus 430.

Paul found the more challenging lead of a heart. Hiroshi Hisatomi won and was in danger of going down; the ♠K from hand would be fatal, for example. He led the ♠5 from hand, however, and now could take two spades, two hearts, four diamonds, and the ♣A for plus 400 and a 1-imp loss. The match was tied at 41.

In the playoff for third, Zhang, for CHINA, won the heart lead and tried the ♣Q from hand. East won and knocked out the high heart while he retained the

♠A. So, was declarer going down? Not at all. He crossed to the ♣J, finessed diamonds, and ran the suit. East could discard one club, but a second would have given declarer a third club trick. He had to part with a heart and now declarer could concede a spade. An unusual squeeze.

Bd: 18	North		
Dlr: East	♠ KQJ		
Vul: N/S	♥ AKQJ63		
	♦ 864		
	♣ 6		
West		East	
♠ 9642		♠ A1087	
♥ 95		♥ 72	
♦ AQ3		♦ 9	
♣ AQ98		♣ KJ10543	
	South		
	♠ 53		
	♥ 1084		
	♦ KJ10752		
	♣ 72		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	1♠	Pass
2♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	4♠	All Pass

I really like Armstrong's ugly 1♠ opening in third seat. With a minimum-range hand he can pass any response and 1♠ shuts out the one-level (Colkersan disagrees violently, but that's what makes the game interesting). In any case, 4♠ was reached at both tables, a tad high. Right?

Well, it was in the Open Room, where Jason led a heart and Justin took two of them and got two trumps later. One down; minus 50. In the Closed Room, Hisatomi thought there might be some advantage in taking out some of the enemy trumps, which are rarely plentiful. Oh no! Armstrong won the ace, finessed the ♦Q, threw a heart from dummy on the ♦A, and played a trump; plus 420. 10imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 51-41.



"I miss me mum."



Bd: 19	North		
Dir: South	♠ KQ9		
Vul: E/W	♥ 75		
	♦ KQ963		
	♣ AK5		
West		East	
♠ 83		♠ A10754	
♥ QJ1093		♥ 4	
♦ J82		♦ 74	
♣ J32		♣ Q10987	
	South		
	♠ J62		
	♥ AK862		
	♦ A105		
	♣ 64		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
			1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

6♦ is a good contract, essentially requiring trumps to come in and nothing bad to happen in the black suits. It would have made here and Hisatomi-Teramoto nearly reached it. Plus 420 for them; plus 460 for the twins. 1 imp to GREAT BRITAIN, 52-41.

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ 962		
Vul: Both	♥ K852		
	♦ K5		
	♣ A984		
West		East	
♠ AQ8		♠ 1073	
♥ A7		♥ QJ9	
♦ J1084		♦ A762	
♣ KQ76		♣ J32	
	South		
	♠ KJ54		
	♥ 10643		
	♦ Q93		
	♣ 105		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
1NT	All Pass		

East can't afford to sniff at game opposite a 14-16 HCP notrump, so it was routine for Paul-Armstrong to miss this thin game. It's hardly clear to raise a 15-17 point notrump too, but Ino did and Chen accepted.

Chen received the lead of the ♥2 and tried the queen, which held. A club went to the queen and ace, and Justin continued hearts since Jason had shown an even number of hearts at trick one. Chen won the ♥A and led the ♦J, covered by the king and ace, a second diamond went to the queen, and with hearts four-four, declarer had only to guess whether to play for three-three clubs or take the spade finesse. Chen threw a club and a spade on the hearts, going with the odds. With the ♠K right, he had nine tricks and plus 600. Armstrong received the friendly lead of the ♠9, which gave him three spade tricks, and he too made nine tricks; plus 150. 10 imps to JAPAN, 51-52.



"If it takes them much longer to finish comparing, the millenium will expire."

Bd: 21	North		
Dir: North	♠ 52		
Vul: N/S	♥ A103		
	♦ KQ1094		
	♣ A82		
West			East
♠ J9876			♠ A
♥ J976			♥ KQ2
♦ 53			♦ 876
♣ Q9			♣ KJ10763
	South		
	♠ KQ1043		
	♥ 854		
	♦ AJ2		
	♣ 54		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
	1NT	Dble*	2♥*
Pass	2♠	3♣	3♦
Pass	4♣(♦)	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
	1♦	2♣	2♥(♠)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

It is not immediately obvious why you have to bid the North/South cards to game but it was not unreasonable for Jason to upgrade his hand facing a 14-16-point notrump. One of the problems when both partners upgrade their hands is that the whole may not be as great as the sum of its parts.

5♦ went one down on a club lead; Jason had time to park one heart on a high spade. Minus 100. I think the auction ran away from Hisatomi-Teramoto, but there is no automatic reward for accuracy or penalty for overbidding. Paul decided to lead the ♥K, hoping to hit a five-card suit opposite. That might have been brilliant had one of his opponents held the ♣Q, but here a club lead would have produced an easy set. Hisatomi had to win the first heart because he couldn't stand a club switch. The defenders could get only three hearts and the ♠A now, so Hisatomi was plus 600, and JAPAN gained 12 imps, 63-52.

Bd: 23	North		
Dir: South	♠ KJ73		
Vul: Both	♥ 42		
	♦ AK107		
	♣ A106		
West			East
♠ AQ109			♠ 84
♥ A98			♥ K1073
♦ QJ			♦ 852
♣ J982			♣ KQ43
	South		
	♠ 652		
	♥ QJ65		
	♦ 9643		
	♣ 75		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
	1NT	All Pass	Pass
1♣	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
1NT	All Pass		

When both pairs on a side play in 1NT, it's not always true that they are wrong. Hisatomi led a spade against Armstrong, giving him a seventh trick immediately; plus 90. Justin's 1NT was more interesting. I don't see why it should be better to lead a moderate new suit when you have king-queen fourth in partner's suit, but a 1NT overcall tends to convince defenders that he has thousands of stoppers in opener's suit (Colker-san made the same low heart lead as Ino in the playoff for third place). The defenders started with two rounds of hearts, Ino electing to take his king to switch to a low club. Justin took the jack with the ace, made the diamond honors fall under his, and took two more diamonds, ending in dummy. He cashed the ♥J and led a spade, but Chen won the ace and played a club so the defenders took a spade, three hearts, and three clubs for one down; minus 100. No swing.

Bd: 24	North		
Dir: West	♠ K76		
Vul: None	♥ A83		
	♦ KQ8		
	♣ KJ94		
West		East	
♠ AQ432		♠ 1085	
♥ J5		♥ 106	
♦ J1096		♦ A5432	
♣ 72		♣ A85	
	South		
	♠ J9		
	♥ KQ9742		
	♦ 7		
	♣ Q1063		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
1NT*	Dble	Rdbl*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
2♣	2NT	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

It's never easy these days. Both North/South pairs had to deal with obstructive openings by West. Hisatomi-Teramoto got the job done by reaching the cold 4♥, but Chen's mini-notrump jockeyed the twins into 3NT, which was not cold. Ino led a diamond to the nine and king, and Justin played on clubs. Ino ducked once but won the second club as Chen followed upwards. Ino judged correctly to switch, but wrongly to choose hearts (unless declarer had very good spades, the ♥A would be a timely entry, but if declarer had the ♥A, a spade switch was essential). Unfortunately, with nothing else to go on, Ino surely counted on Chen's club cards to help him with his switch. Justin had ten tricks now and GREAT BRITAIN had dodged a bullet.

Bd: 25	North		
Dir: North	♠ J107642		
Vul: E/W	♥ K		
	♦ 74		
	♣ K863		
West		East	
♠ A93		♠ —	
♥ AJ93		♥ Q1087642	
♦ KJ105		♦ Q63	
♣ A9		♣ Q72	
	South		
	♠ KQ85		
	♥ 5		
	♦ A982		
	♣ J1054		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
2NT	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The twins' obstruction was more effective here, at least in terms of inconveniencing the opponents, but neither South led a club in any case. Ino dropped the ♥K and made six. Paul did not, but Hisatomi could not lead a club profitably when he won the ♥K, so Paul made five. 1 imp to JAPAN, 65-52.

Bd: 27	North		
Dir: South	♠ J10984		
Vul: None	♥ 854		
	♦ AQ6		
	♣ 62		
West		East	
♠ 62		♠ K75	
♥ AQ9		♥ 102	
♦ KJ97		♦ 105432	
♣ AK85		♣ 974	
	South		
	♠ AQ3		
	♥ KJ763		
	♦ 8		
	♣ QJ103		

At both tables, South declared 2H after 1♥-(1NT)-2♥-All Pass. Chen led ace of clubs and switched to the tempting ♦9. Jason won the ace and led a trump to the jack and queen. If the play record is correct, Chen exited with the ♥9 to the king and Jason followed immediately with the ♠Q, losing to the inside king; plus 110.

Armstrong led the ♠6, looking for a ruff and reserving the possibility of an underlead in clubs. The ♠J won and a club went to the jack and

king. Teramoto put in the  $\diamond Q$  on the switch to the  $\diamond J$ , threw the  $\spadesuit Q$  on the  $\diamond A$ , and led a club to the queen and ace. A second spade went to the ace and Teramoto ruffed a club to lead a trump. Armstrong got three trumps and Paul got the setting trick with a fourth-round over-ruff in clubs. Minus 50. 4 imps to GREAT BRITAIN; 56-65.

The best defense, on the face of it, is three rounds of clubs, threatening the fourth-round overruff, but declarer finesses the  $\diamond Q$  to discard his club WINNER, then takes two spade finesses, and plays on trumps, making his contract. In truth, the best defense is the one that works, which puts Armstrong in the running for best defender on this deal.

GREAT BRITAIN gained 2 imps for a second non-vulnerable undertrick against a normal, doomed 3NT on 28, 58-65.

Bd: 30	North		
Dlr: East	$\spadesuit J7543$		
Vul: None	$\heartsuit Q8$		
	$\diamond AJ97$		
	$\clubsuit Q2$		
West			East
$\spadesuit AK6$			$\spadesuit Q1082$
$\heartsuit AK107654$			$\heartsuit 93$
$\diamond Q8$			$\diamond K4$
$\clubsuit 5$			$\clubsuit AJ1084$
	South		
	$\spadesuit 9$		
	$\heartsuit J2$		
	$\diamond 106532$		
	$\clubsuit K9763$		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
		1NT*	Pass
2 $\diamond$ *	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$ *	Pass
3 $\heartsuit$ *	Pass	3NT	Pass
4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
		Pass	Pass
4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass		

To each his own. Chen's 3 $\heartsuit$ , after Ino's 8-11 notrump, was a slam try, Armstrong's 4 $\heartsuit$  opening was not. Slam needs two-two trumps or a winning guess with honor-third onside. Flat at plus 480.

Bd: 31	North		
Dlr: South	$\spadesuit 2$		
Vul: N/S	$\heartsuit KQ$		
	$\diamond AK9632$		
	$\clubsuit A953$		
West			East
$\spadesuit J10763$			$\spadesuit 854$
$\heartsuit AJ54$			$\heartsuit 862$
$\diamond -$			$\diamond J105$
$\clubsuit K1042$			$\clubsuit QJ86$
	South		
	$\spadesuit AKQ9$		
	$\heartsuit 10973$		
	$\diamond Q874$		
	$\clubsuit 7$		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
			Pass
Pass	1 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$
Dble	3 $\diamond$	Pass	4 $\clubsuit$ *
Dble	Rdbl*	Pass	4 $\spadesuit$
Pass	5 $\diamond$	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
			1 $\diamond$
Dble	Rdbl	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass
3 $\clubsuit$	4 $\clubsuit$	Pass	4 $\spadesuit$
Pass	5 $\clubsuit$	Pass	5 $\diamond$
Pass	6 $\diamond$	All Pass	

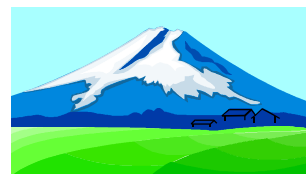
It looks as if a wheel came off in the twins' auction. Perhaps the entire axle. Plus 620. The auction came up well indeed for Hisatomi, whose opponents told him that Teramoto would be short in clubs. If 4 $\spadesuit$  denied the  $\heartsuit A$ , he wasted a round of bidding, but slam was never in doubt; plus 1390 on a club lead. 13 imps to JAPAN, 78-28.

Bd: 32	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 7		
Vul: E/W	♥ 105		
	♦ K10873		
	♣ KQ765		
West			East
♠ AKQ2			♠ 106543
♥ J32			♥ A9874
♦ AQ54			♦ J
♣ 103			♣ A9
	South		
	♠ J98		
	♥ KQ6		
	♦ 962		
	♣ J842		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Justin	Ino	Jason
1NT	Dble*	2♣*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Armst	Hisatomi	Paul	Teramoto
1NT	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Facing a 13-16 point notrump, Paul settled for game in Armstrong's longer (better) major. Hisatomi's natural club lead held 4♠ to four; plus 620. Facing a 15-17 point notrump, Ino did a lot of bidding (I believe that 3♥ was a slam try in spades, misinterpreted by Chen. But perhaps this was not so. In any case, the club lead was natural against slam too. Chen won the ace and ran the ♦J, which lost. Justin cashed his club winner but then played a third club, allowing Chen a ruff-and-discard for a heart loserr; two down; minus 200. On a heart switch, Chen would have gone three down.

13 imps right back to GREAT BRITAIN, who ended the set on a high note.

JAPAN won the segment, 37-31, and at the halfway point in the match, led by 7 imps, 78-71.



Bd: 33	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K109		
Vul: None	♥ 10876		
	♦ 94		
	♣ AJ95		
West			East
♠ J7632			♠ 4
♥ AQJ			♥ K543
♦ 2			♦ KQ1053
♣ 10876			♣ Q42
	South		
	♠ AQ85		
	♥ 92		
	♦ AJ876		
	♣ K3		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	2♦	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
	Pass	1♥	Dble
1♠	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

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

Everything seems to be an opening bid for some players. I would not have thought that the British North/South pair would play treat a double of Miyakuni's 2♦ as competitive, but they must, or Armstrong would have doubled first and asked questions later. Three down; minus 150.

The defense against Justin's four-three 2♥ was off to a good start when Teramoto led king and another club, but Hisatomi did not play a third club, switching to a trump instead. When Teramoto won his ♦A, he led a second trump, so the club ruff evaporated. Justin played a club to his queen, played ♦Q, diamond ruff, and scored a seventh trick by ruffing dummy's club. Minus 50. 3 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 74-78.

Board 34 was a flat 3NT; plus 460. Then...

Bd: 35	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J10965		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q4		
	♦ J3		
	♣ A1052		
West		East	
♠ AK4		♠ 8	
♥ 965		♥ 1072	
♦ Q10942		♦ AK75	
♣ Q4		♣ KJ963	
	South		
	♠ Q732		
	♥ AKJ83		
	♦ 86		
	♣ 87		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
Pass	1♠	1NT*	2♠
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
1♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Once again, someone opened light in each room. Armstrong's 1♥ got his side to a comfortable spade partial, but Imakura took a strong liking to his hand and got the partnership overboard. Miyakuni, considering himself forced by Imakura's 3♠ cue-bid, raised to a level at which he could be doubled with impunity. Down two on a heat lead; minus 500.

Once Teramoto passed, it would have taken an aggressive 1♠ overcall or some imperfect action over 3♦ to get his side into the bidding, not that they could make anything. 3♦ was easy and Jason made four on a spade lead; plus 130. 12 well-deserved imps to GREAT BRITAIN, who took the lead, 86-48.

Board 36 was flat, GREAT BRITAIN buying two low partials and making one of them.

Bd: 37	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AK8		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q87		
	♦ Q52		
	♣ AKJ2		
West		East	
♠ 1075		♠ Q943	
♥ K3		♥ AJ65	
♦ AK1064		♦ 3	
♣ 975		♣ Q863	
	South		
	♠ J62		
	♥ 10942		
	♦ J987		
	♣ 104		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
	2NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
	1♣	All Pass	

Okay, so it's in his 2NT range. That doesn't make 2NT a good bid. Paul went minus 200 even though he got a club lead around to his jack. The ♦Q lost to the king and a club came back and the defenders were able to build their club trick after all.

Hisatomi's 1♣ was passed out. You might argue that if East couldn't bid over 1♣, non-vulnerable, West's club length, average high-card holding, and relatively short majors suggest a discreet pass. That's a seductive argument, but you can be sure that nine players out of ten would bid 1♦ without much concern. Justin led a trump, the ten winning for a heart play. Jason rose with the king and the defense played two more hearts, then a fourth for West to ruff with the ♣9. Hisatomi over-ruffed but could take only four trumps and two spades for one down; minus 100. 3 imps to JAPAN, 81-86.

**Rollin , rollin , rollin, keep them doggies rollin**

Bd: 38	North		
Dlr: East	♠ —		
Vul: E/W	♥ KJ732		
	♦ 95		
	♣ AQ10965		
West			East
♠ AQJ52			♠ 1083
♥ 10			♥ 964
♦ AQ10743			♦ K82
♣ J			♣ 8742
	South		
	♠ K9764		
	♥ AQ85		
	♦ J6		
	♣ K3		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
		Pass	1♠
2♦	Dble*	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
		Pass	1♠
2♦	2♥	3♦	3♥
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

4♥ was cold for five; Imakura doing well to lead ace and another diamond. Plus 450. Hisatomi, who preferred to introduce his hearts rather start with an odd negative double or a bid in his longest suit, was pleased to hear a raise from Teramoto, but with two small diamonds, judged it best to double 5♦. He led a trump to the jack and queen and a second trump went to dummy's king. The ♠10 held, and the ♠8 was covered by the nine and jack. Jason couldn't quite handle the rest and had to lose a spade in the end, together with a trick in each rounded suit; down one, minus 200. 6 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 92-81.

Bd: 39	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A1098542		
Vul: Both	♥ J		
	♦ J5		
	♣ KJ8		
West			East
♠ J			♠ KQ7
♥ Q5			♥ AK1076
♦ AKQ8642			♦ 9
♣ 954			♣ AQ107
	South		
	♠ 63		
	♥ 98432		
	♦ 1073		
	♣ 632		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
			Pass
1♦	3♠	3NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
			Pass
1♦	1♠	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

6NT by East needs only three-two diamonds, and might be made even with a bad diamond break if the ♣K is right and hearts come in. Not easy to bid in the two situations that developed at the table, but if West could open with a bid that showed a long, solid suit, East might take a shot at 6♦ from the strong side.

But that's another story.

No swing at plus 690.



"And if Denver scores again, Nakitani-san wins another pool."



Bd: 40	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q52		
Vul: None	♥ AKQJ3		
	♦ K102		
	♣ 53		
West		East	
♠ KJ976		♠ 43	
♥ 6		♥ 10872	
♦ 954		♦ A8	
♣ KJ107		♣ AQ962	
	South		
	♠ A108		
	♥ 954		
	♦ QJ763		
	♣ 84		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
Pass	1NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Paul got a heart lead in 1NT (“glad, I didn’t bid them, then”) and with the ♦A doubleton and a spade switch from Miyakuni (all this staying off ace-queen-fifth is too complex for mere non-Kenji’s), made four; plus 180. Hisatomi made 3♥ on a spade lead, rising with the ace, playing trumps, then diamonds; plus 140. 1 imp to GREAT BRITAIN, 93-81.

Board 41 was a normal 4♠, down on a losing finesse. 42 was another push, but an uglier one...

Bd: 42	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J7		
Vul: Both	♥ 9543		
	♦ Q1064		
	♣ K72		
West		East	
♠ 8642		♠ K1095	
♥ KJ7		♥ Q10862	
♦ A853		♦ 2	
♣ Q10		♣ 953	
	South		
	♠ AQ3		
	♥ A		
	♦ KJ97		
	♣ AJ864		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
All Pass		2♥*	3NT
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♦
All Pass		Pass	3NT

Hearts were led at both tables, so both declarers were quickly one down after knocking out the ♦A. 5♦ (likely to fail) and 5♣ (in with a chance, as they say in England) are both much better contracts.



“Lean left, Jason, so we can see the Alerts.”

**Alert!**



Bd: 43 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 103  
 Vul: None ♥ K83  
 ♦ 984  
 ♣ AJ1064

West  
 ♠ Q8  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ AKJ1072  
 ♣ 953

East  
 ♠ AK975  
 ♥ Q1095  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ Q872

South  
 ♠ J642  
 ♥ AJ64  
 ♦ Q653  
 ♣ K

Open Room

West Imakura	North Paul	East Miyakuni	South Armstrong 1♥
2♦	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West Jason	North Hisatomi	East Justin	South Teramoto Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Just a little thing, perhaps, but credit the busy British style with nudging JAPAN's East/West pair a level higher. 3♦ went two down; minus 100 and 2♦ one down; minus 50. 2imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 95-81.

Bd: 44 North  
 Dir: West ♠ 97  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K964  
 ♦ 762  
 ♣ K1084

West  
 ♠ A864  
 ♥ Q8  
 ♦ K98  
 ♣ AQ96

East  
 ♠ QJ10  
 ♥ 107532  
 ♦ Q43  
 ♣ 53

South

♠ K532  
 ♥ AJ  
 ♦ AJ105  
 ♣ J72

Open Room

West Imakura	North Paul	East Miyakuni	South Armstrong
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West Jason	North Hisatomi	East Justin	South Teramoto
1NT	All Pass		

Jason made 1NT on a club lead and fairly gentle defense thereafter, but that wasn't good enough. Armstrong protected against 2♥, not unreasonably, and discovered that there was no eight-card fit for anyone. Down 300. 5imps to JAPAN, 86-95.



"No matter how many times you tot it up, they still have more imps than we do."

Bd: 45	North		
Dlr: North	♠ J843		
Vul: Both	♥ 3		
	♦ 76		
	♣ KQ7543		
West		East	
♠ AQ105		♠ K62	
♥ K874		♥ A5	
♦ A4		♦ QJ109852	
♣ 962		♣ 8	
	South		
	♠ 97		
	♥ QJ10962		
	♦ K3		
	♣ AJ10		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
	Pass	1♦	2♥
Dble*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
4♠	All Pass		

I believe that Imakura knew about the ♠K when he bid 7♦, but Jason most certainly did not, and his grand slam bid was a wild shot. How was he going to make it opposite ace-king-fourth of diamonds if it took a ruff to establish clubs; there would be a spade loser left in the end and good breaks would be needed to make even six. Even with all East's extras, 7♣ was in trouble with both minors lying badly. Paul led a heart, Hisatomi a spade. No one leads trumps against grand slam any more, wisely, more often than not. Both declarers were two down; minus 200.

GREAT BRITAIN won the third segment 24-21, and with sixteen deals remaining, JAPAN's lead had been reduced to 4 imps, 99-95.

5♦ was extremely comfortable and Miyakuni would have made six if he had bid it; plus 600 when he spurned the trump finesse. Jason's 4♠ needed some luck. He got a heart lead, won the king in hand, and played ace and another diamond. Teramoto gave Hisatomi a heart ruff, and two rounds of clubs forced dummy. Teramoto ruffed the diamond continuation with the nine and Jason threw his last club, and on the trump return, Jason took two rounds ending in dummy to play another diamond, discarding a heart. It looks as if Hisatomi did not ruff, but ruffed the next diamond as Jason threw his last heart. Down only 200, but 13 imps to JAPAN, ahead in the match, 99-13.

Boards 46 and 47 were played in the same contracts with the same results at both tables. Finally...

Bd: 48	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 98		
Vul: E/W	♥ J7432		
	♦ 3		
	♣ Q10987		
West		East	
♠ A5		♠ KJ106	
♥ A		♥ Q1096	
♦ QJ97		♦ AK86	
♣ AK6543		♣ 2	
	South		
	♠ Q7432		
	♥ K85		
	♦ 10542		
	♣ J		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Paul	Miyakuni	Armstrong
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Jason	Hisatomi	Justin	Teramoto
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

Bd: 49	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AJ5		
Vul: None	♥ K103		
	♦ A10765		
	♣ Q7		
West		East	
♠ 83		♠ K964	
♥ QJ972		♥ A654	
♦ K984		♦ QJ	
♣ 83		♣ KJ4	
	South		
	♠ Q1072		
	♥ 8		
	♦ 32		
	♣ A109652		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Justin	Miyakuni	Jason
	1NT	Dble*	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arms	Ino	Paul	Chen
	1♦	Dble	1♠
2♥	Dble*	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

2NT and 2♠. Just the contracts you'd expect North/South to declare. Justin got a tough start from Miyakuni in the form of ace and another heart. He won the third heart and led the ♣Q. Kenji should have followed low, but he covered and Justin ducked. The defenders took their hearts and Imakura returned a spade. Jason rose with the ace and finessed the ♣10, with a lot of undertricks staring him in the face if it lost. It didn't; plus 120. Be still, my beating heart.

Doesn't anyone bid clubs anymore? Chen ducked the lead of the ♥Q, put in the ten on the low heart continuation, and ruffed away Paul's ace. A club went to the queen and king and a third heart went to the king (diamond discard). Club to the ace, club, 8, ♠J, ♦A, diamond ruff, club, discarding when West threw a diamond. Paul ruffed in and returned the ♠K to dummy's ace, but Chen was going to take eight tricks; plus 110. No swing.

GREAT BRITAIN gained 2imps over the next three deals, all of which were low partials with little in them. The margin was just 2imps (JAPAN leading) when Board 53 came along...

Purists will tell you that justice triumphed on this deal because the twins' flawed slam was defeated while Ino-Chen's 4♠ made five, JAPAN gaining 11imps. When I saw this deal, the first thing that crossed my mind was the famous Hamman vs France deal in the 1980 Olympiad in Valkenberg where he had to guess which ace to lead against a grand slam and guessed wrong. Was Jason cue-bidding a void or a singleton? Imakura would probably have decided that Jason would not wish to do something deceptive in a situation where the honest approach might win him a vast number ofimps. But here Miyakuni was on lead with an ace of his own. Would he do the right thing, not knowing that Imakura had two other aces? Yes, he led the ♦2 and set the contract. Minus 100 for Justin. Armstrong led the ♥7 against Chen's 4♠, and Paul

Bd: 53	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 62		
Vul: N/S	♥ KJ43		
	♦ KQ65		
	♣ KQ9		
West		East	
♠ 3		♠ A8	
♥ 72		♥ Q65	
♦ A10874		♦ 932	
♣ A7652		♣ J10843	
	South		
	♠ KQJ109754		
	♥ A1098		
	♦ J		
	♣ —		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Justin	Miyakuni	Jason
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arms	Ino	Paul	Chen
	1♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

switched to a club when he won the ♠A. Now Armstrong knew that he should keep the ♦A. Making five; plus 650. 13 imps to JAPAN, 112-97.

Bd: 54	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 82		
Vul: E/W	♥ J754		
	♦ 10874		
	♣ AQJ		
West			East
♠ KJ6			♠ 1095
♥ 9632			♥ AQ108
♦ A6			♦ J
♣ K985			♣ 76432
	South		
	♠ AQ743		
	♥ K		
	♦ KQ9532		
	♣ 10		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Justin	Miyakuni	Jason
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arms	Ino	Paul	Chen
		Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

A low spade lead from East will not defeat 3NT, even if West puts in the eight; declarer knocks out the ♣A while spades are blocked. We'll never know what would have happened in this scenario because Miyakuni led the ace of clubs against Justin, ending the defense. Well, not at the table, where the play became very complex. Although Justin did not duck a diamond to be sure of five tricks, nor did he take all his club winners. He finished with nine strange tricks; plus 600.

Chen, playing from the South side, got the damaging lead of the ♠J through the king. He covered. Now Paul had only to cash the ♠Q to defeat the contract. He would have seen the eight drop and would have driven out the ♠10 while he retained the ♣A. Instead, with South's clubs concealed, he switched to a low club. Chen won and continued clubs and Paul took the ace, cashed the Q, and played a heart. Chen ducked for safety; plus 600 here too. No swing. JAPAN's lead was still 20 imps.

Both Wests led a club and declarer put up the ace. They could no longer take eleven tricks, losing a spade, a trump, and a heart. The club finesse is the right play if the ♠K is offside, but could cost the contract just as easily. Jason was minus 50, Chen plus 130. 5 imps to JAPAN, 117-97.

Bd: 55	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K5		
Vul: Both	♥ QJ73		
	♦ AKQ832		
	♣ 4		
West			East
♠ J8			♠ AQ974
♥ K1094			♥ 65
♦ J9			♦ 654
♣ 98765			♣ A32
	South		
	♠ 10632		
	♥ A82		
	♦ 107		
	♣ KQJ10		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Justin	Miyakuni	Jason
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arms	Ino	Paul	Chen
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Bd: 56	North		
Dlr: West	♠ A732		
Vul: None	♥ KQ10832		
	♦ 97		
	♣ 6		
West		East	
♠ J8		♠ Q1064	
♥ A6		♥ J75	
♦ Q10432		♦ AK6	
♣ K983		♣ J52	
	South		
	♠ K95		
	♥ 94		
	♦ J85		
	♣ AQ1074		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Justin	Miyakuni	Jason
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arms	Ino	Paul	Chen
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	2♥	3♦	All Pass

Miyakuni did not cash his diamonds and play a third against Justin's 4♥, a defense that would have beaten the contract easily on an eventual trump promotion. Instead he led a spade to the eight and ace. Justin finessed the ♣Q and lost to the king, but when Imakura continued spades (as who would not?), Justin shook a diamond on the club ace and played a third spade. He was able to ruff his fourth spade with the ♥9 but Imakura overruffed and Miyakuni got the ♥J and a diamond for one down; minus 50. Armstrong lost two clubs, a heart, and a spade in 3♦, also going down one. 3 imps to JAPAN, 120-97, halfway through the set.

GREAT BRITAIN gained an overtrick imp in a low minir partial on Board 57, 98-120. Then...

Bd: 58	North		
Dlr: East	♠ A10863		
Vul: Both	♥ J95		
	♦ J83		
	♣ 92		
West		East	
♠ J		♠ 75	
♥ K862		♥ Q10	
♦ K6542		♦ A1097	
♣ AJ4		♣ K10853	
	South		
	♠ KQ942		
	♥ A743		
	♦ Q		
	♣ Q76		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Justin	Miyakuni	Jason
		Pass	1♠
Dble	2♥*	3♣	3♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arms	Ino	Paul	Chen
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

In 3♠, Jason was able to eliminate the minors and trumps before exiting with ace and another heart. The defense could not get out of its own way and had to concede a vital ruff-and-discard; plus 140.

At the other table, Armstrong's 3♦ was extremely comfortable; he guessed neither clubs nor trumps and made three; plus 110. It looks very wrong for Ino to sell out so cheaply with a known ten-card spade fit. 7 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 105-120.



"If you have another club, I don't want to see it."

Bd: 59	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 73		
Vul: None	♥ Q103		
	♦ 10965		
	♣ J854		
West			East
♠ AKJ			♠ Q1095
♥ K2			♥ J754
♦ QJ8743			♦ A2
♣ 107			♣ A32
	South		
	♠ 8642		
	♥ A986		
	♦ K		
	♣ KQ96		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Justin	Miyakuni	Jason
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arms	Ino	Paul	Chen
			1♣
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Jason led the ♣4 against Miyakuni's 3♦. Justin won the ace and returned a trump, The queen won, removing Jason's vital trump. Miyakuni cashed two high hearts, the ♠A (thoughtful play), and led the ♥Q, throwing a club. Alas, Jason could not ruff, so Kenji lost only a club and two trumps for plus 110.

Paul got the lead of the ♥J from Chen. He should have started trumps but played three high hearts instead, throwing a club. Chen scored his singleton deuce of trumps, and the defense still had to get two tricks in each minor. Paul is debited with a second undertrick. Minus 100. 5 imps to JAPAN, 125-115 with four deals remaining.

It was still anyone's match, but GREAT BRITAIN ran out of luck. The last four deals were dull, all played in the same contract at both tables, and all yielded the same number of tricks. JAPAN won the final set, 26-20 and won the 1999 NEC CUP by 10 imps, 125-115.

It was a good match, between the two best teams in the event, on form. A great victory for the team that will represent Japan in the PABF Championships in China this spring. If they play as well as they did here, they will be strong contenders for a berth in the next Bermuda Bowl, slated for Bermuda itself in January, 2000. We wish the team nothing but success. They have earned their place in the sun (rising or otherwise).

At both tables, South led a high club against 3NT. Miyakuni ducked his ace twice, won the third round, dropped the ♦K, played four rounds of spades, then three rounds of diamonds. The defenders had a high club and the ♥A to take for one down; minus 50. Kenji would have made 3NT with the ♥A offside and clubs five-three with the length in South.

Paul took the ♣A immediately, dropped the ♦K, crossed to the ♦Q, cashed his spades, and led a heart towards the king. Chen rose with the ace, but the defenders could take only three more clubs; plus 400. 10 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 115-120. Close enough for you?

Bd: 60	North		
Dlr: West	♠ K		
Vul: N/S	♥ 109865		
	♦ A1093		
	♣ A75		
West			East
♠ A109854			♠ 6
♥ AKQ7			♥ 42
♦ 7			♦ KQJ8654
♣ 63			♣ Q109
	South		
	♠ QJ732		
	♥ J3		
	♦ 2		
	♣ KJ842		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Imakura	Justin	Miyakuni	Jason
1♠	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arms	Ino	Paul	Chen
1♠	Pass	3♦	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>

## TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S SCHEDULES

### Today's/Tomorrow's Times

10:00-13:00 FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP 1<sup>ST</sup> Qual/Final

13:00-14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00-17:00 FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP 2<sup>ND</sup> Qual/Final

### Tomorrow

18:00-21:00 Closing Ceremony – Be there, or be square

The two qualifying sessions of the Foreign Minister's Cup, as well as tomorrow's two final sessions, will be held on the Pacifico fifth floor, Rooms 501 and 502. The Closing Ceremony will be in Pacifico Rooms 301 & 302 tomorrow evening. The Secretariat is located in Room 417.

## CHINA BESTS USA IN PLAYOFF FOR THIRD

In a 32-board playoff for third place in the NEC Cup, CHINA defeated the USA team in a match which was never close or in doubt once the players took their seats. The grim final statistics, for those of you morbid enough to care to see them, were:

### NEC Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Playoff

TEAM	c/o	1 <sup>st</sup> Half	2 <sup>nd</sup> Half	Total
CHINA		87	78	165
USA	3	24	31	58

Congratulations to team CHINA!



"The thrill of victory sure beats da agony of da feet!"



"Who called for a doctor?"