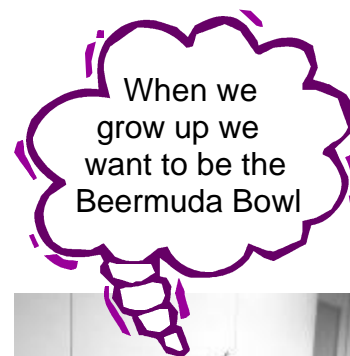


## TOP 20 QUALIFIERS FOR FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP FINAL

Average: 858

RANK	PAIR		SCORE
1	FU ZHONG	JU CHUAN CHENG	1037.50
2	ROBERT GELLER	SETUKO OGIWARA	1001.50
3	LIU CHUAN	ZHANG QIANG	997.88
4	KENJI MIYAKUNI	SAKIKO NAITO	975.50
5	MITSUE TAJIMA	TAKAHIRO KAMIYO	958.00
6	YASUHIRO SHIMIZU	MAKOTO HIRATA	946.00
7	TAKAO ONODERA	KOUICHI SUZUKI	945.36
8	KYOKO OHNO	AKIHIKO YAMADA	939.50
9	CHEN DAWEI	MASAYUKI INO	934.96
10	B.MAVROMICHALIS	PAUL HACKETT	934.50
11	JANSSEN HIROKO	MIEKO NAKANISHI	930.50
12	MITSUKO SAWADA	JO I	924.50
13	BRIAN SENIOR	KUMIKO ISHI	920.40
14	REIKO WATANABE	KATSUKO MORI	920.40
15	HIROKO KOBAYASHI	KAZUKO NAKAMURA	918.50
16	TADASHI TERAMOTO	MASARU YOSHIDA	916.24
17	HIROKO OHTA	NOBUKO SETOGUCHI	915.00
18	EMIKO TAMURA	YASUKO KOSAKA	914.16
19	TAKASHI SUMITA	TOSHIRO NOSE	908.00
20	JUSTIN HACKETT	VAUGHAN MARKS	904.28





## DOMO ARIGATO

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **NEC** for again joining with **JCBL** to sponsor a bridge event of the highest quality. All of the players have raved about the tournament. Many claim it to be the best bridge tournament they have ever attended. Kudos to the sponsors and especially the **JCBL** staff.

Yokohama the city and the Pacifico area in particular are the same wonderful places we remembered from last year. The weather has, for the most part, been pleasant and the people warm and friendly. It has been our great pleasure to be reunited with our many old friends and to share once again the happy times, fun and excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts.

The continued inclusion of significant prizes makes the NEC FESTIVAL an important event on the bridge calendar. It has grown in prestige each year we have been here and we hope it will continue to grow in stature in the years to come.

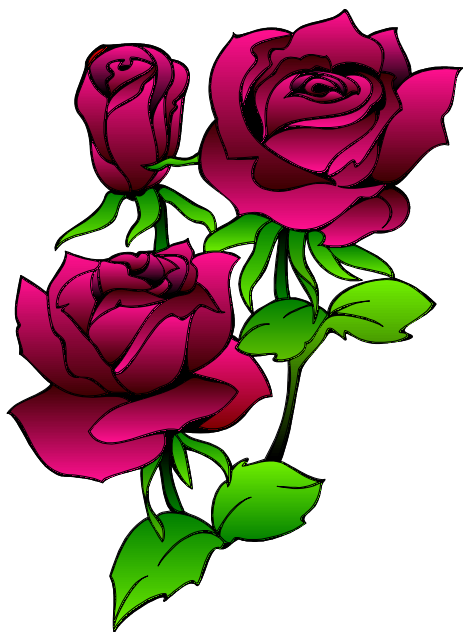
The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who helped us with deals, stories and other information to keep you informed. Many thanks to Omasa-san, who provided us the highest quality of technical and computer support, to Nakamura-san for his wonderful pictures (which were subjected to our peculiar sense of humor) and other technical assistance, to Suzuki-san and Hayashi-san for their help with many things, both technical and otherwise (including a wonderful backrub), and to Higashiguchi-san who produced the internet coverage and who suffered with our long and tiring work hours (on at least one occasion until 5:30 am). To any others whose names we may have omitted, our sincere apologies and our great thanks for your help. Our thanks also to the players, whose efforts produced a rich source of interesting and humorous stories this year.

A special thank you to those who remembered us on this holiday. We wish all of you a happy St. Valentine's Day as well. If bananas are (for at least one of us) the perfect food (they even come in their own carrying case), then chocolate is a close second. On a day when we are far from our families, your thoughtfulness has made a big difference.



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the treasured patrons of the 1999 NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL (with apologies for any spelling errors in the translation).



Bridge Studio

Franklin Avenue

Fujiya Hotel

Hilton Tokyo Bay

Ms. Toshiko Ishii

Kihachi and Es Company

Kobe Bay Sheraton Hotel & Towers

Ne Quittez Pas Restaurant

Otsuka Bridge Center

Parfum Nina Ricci Japon

Royal Park Hotel

Seijo Bridge Club

Senzoku Bridge Center

Tea Room Pastel

Yotsuya Bridge Center

Young Flower

# THE 1999 FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP: FIRST SESSION

Bd: 1	North	
Dlr: North	♠ J9542	
Vul: None	♥ J872	
	♦ 106	
	♣ A10	
West		East
♠ Q63		♠ K7
♥ K94		♥ 653
♦ QJ73		♦ K92
♣ Q98		♣ KJ432
	South	
	♠ A108	
	♥ AQ10	
	♦ A854	
	♣ 765	

**Board 1:** If North/South are left alone, they will play in 1NT or 2♠, with the latter a much better contract, likely to yield plus 140 (25 matchpoints/33 top) . 1NT is awkward to play and went down once, but even those who made two, plus 120, scored only 14 matchpoints. If East/West found a way into the auction and competed to 3♣, they were all permitted to make it for a magnificent 31 matchpoints.

**Board 2:** Just two pairs missed slam, but to get any sort of score, you had to reach 6NT (21 matchoints). 6♦, which is not as good contract, also scores worse, and was worth only 8 matchpoints. Someone went down in 6♠, but clearly didn't have to. The other pair in 6♠ made seven for only 11 matchpoints. Seven? You don't want to be there, but you'll make it if you bid it. Mmes Nakano-Sasaki bid and made 7NT for a clear top. Ito-Mrs Asaka and my favorite pair, Natsuko Nishida-Shoko Fukuda, reached 7♦ for 31.5 matchpoints. We can only hope that they knew what they were doing.

Bd: 2	North	
Dlr: East	♠ QJ7	
Vul: N/S	♥ QJ92	
	♦ AQ543	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ 9842		♠ 103
♥ 86		♥ K1074
♦ 102		♦ J76
♣ QJ954		♣ 10873
	South	
	♠ AK65	
	♥ A53	
	♦ K98	
	♣ K62	

Bd: 3	North	
Dlr: South	♠ AK92	
Vul: E/W	♥ 9	
	♦ KQ75	
	♣ K864	
West		East
♠ 65		♠ Q10843
♥ J65		♥ AK432
♦ 10943		♦ 8
♣ Q1032		♣ 97
	South	
	♠ J7	
	♥ Q1087	
	♦ AJ62	
	♣ AJ5	

**Board 3:** Mmes Ohta-Setoguchi were the only North/South pair to reach 6♦. Is that worse than reaching a grand slam on the previous deal? We think not. 6♦ needs some handling, of course. But if the ♣Q were in the East hand, there would be excellent chances for it, even with trumps four-one. We offer them our handkerchiefs in condolence for going set. Nearly everyone else played in 3NT, but one pair doubled 2♥ and beat it 200 for a very poor result. Someone went three down in 5♦, and two pairs missed game.



"What does this mean, FLIGHT CANCELED?"

Bd: 4	North	
Dir: West	♠ QJ764	
Vul: Both	♥ 742	
	♦ 1065	
	♣ 98	
West		East
♠ 852		♠ AK103
♥ J65		♥ Q108
♦ J983		♦ KQ742
♣ A106		♣ 4
	South	
	♠ 9	
	♥ AK93	
	♦ A	
	♣ KQJ7532	

**Board 4:** Umezu-Naito bid and made 4♥, which looks awesome to us (31.5) but there were two even better results: Mr/Mrs Yoshizawa made 3♣ doubled, plus 670 (32), and Kyoko Ohno-Akihiko Yamada made 4♣ doubled, plus 710 (all 33). Playing the normal partial (undoubled) in clubs was a point over average.

Bd: 5	North	
Dir: North	♠ K32	
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ10965	
	♦ 86	
	♣ 109	
West		East
♠ QJ98		♠ A6
♥ 7		♥ K832
♦ Q9732		♦ J104
♣ K52		♣ AQ86
	South	
	♠ 10754	
	♥ J4	
	♦ AK5	
	♣ J743	

**Board 5:** 2♥ was the popular contract. It was defeated only eight times, twice doubled. Minus 200 was a near-bottom; minus 100 worth 10.5. Five declarers made 2♥ doubled, plus 670 (31 matchpoints). It looks as if declarer might lose three spade tricks on his own, but when West turned up with a club honor, declarer might have placed East with the ♠A and led low from hand twice.

Alternatively, East might have led the ♠A, his partner's suit, trying for a ruff. Mmes Okubo-Goto and Mizuta-Takayama bid and made 3NT East/West (the women actually made four) for spectacular results. Can't really beat 3NT. Bidding it is the challenge. Lucky? Sure. South has two hearts and both diamond honors.

Bd: 6	North	
Dir: E	♠ Q8752	
Vul: E/W	♥ KJ964	
	♦ —	
	♣ A74	
West		East
♠ A64		♠ J93
♥ 2		♥ A85
♦ K92		♦ AQ10863
♣ J109653		♣ 8
	South	
	♠ K10	
	♥ Q1073	
	♦ J754	
	♣ KQ2	

**Board 6:** The popular spot on this one was 4♥, East/West getting a club ruff to hold it to four (16.5 for North/South). 4♥ was doubled five times, with no success; one declarer made an overtrick. Four North/South pairs missed game and one went down. East/West can do quite well in diamonds, even with the four-zero trump break, and one pair bought it in 3♦, making five. Three other East/West pairs played in diamonds and they were all doubled: Mmes Sumi-Ito in 2♦ (making three), plus 380 (31), Paul Hackett- Brigitte Mavromichalis in 3♦ (making four), plus 870 (32), and our good friend Takeshi Higashiguchi, playing with Sasaki did better still, getting doubled in four for plus 910 (33).



"You see, Teramoto-san, nobody else bid and made 7♦."

Bd: 7	North	
Dlr: South	♠ K10876	
Vul: Both	♥ J8	
	♦ A5	
	♣ KQ109	
West		East
♠ J5		♠ Q2
♥ 76532		♥ AK104
♦ Q8		♦ 76
♣ J643		♣ A8752
	South	
	♠ A943	
	♥ Q9	
	♦ KJ109432	
	♣ —	

**Board 7:** This was very flat, 4♠ making five, but Mrs Saito-Sango tried six and were unlucky enough to have East on lead; a cold bottom. Two pairs made six, although it's difficult to see why East would switch after cashing one high heart. Perhaps most incredible is that one East/West pair allowed seven with East on lead. There is no such thing as a flat board.

Bd: 8	North	
Dlr: West	♠ J9842	
Vul: None	♥ Q10964	
	♦ J72	
	♣ —	
West		East
♠ AK5		♠ 6
♥ 5		♥ AK872
♦ AK43		♦ Q1085
♣ 65432		♣ A87
	South	
	♠ Q1073	
	♥ J3	
	♦ 96	
	♣ KQJ109	

**Board 8:** 6♦ is a good contract for East/West but the foul breaks in clubs and hearts make it difficult to make. If South leads a club honor and North ruffs it to return a trump, it looks as if declarer is a trick short. If North discards, declarer scores the ♣A, and can play ace-king of hearts, heart ruff (South might ruff up with the ♦6, intending to do so again with the ♦9), ace-king of spades, spade ruff, heart ruff with the ♦A, diamond to the ten, heart ruff with the ♦K, club. If South has kept his diamonds, the nine and jack will be equals against the queen-eight. If he has ruffed up twice, declarer will be poised with a major tenace in trumps at trick twelve. More or less. Two pairs made 6♦: Geller-san and Ogiwara-san, and Mrs Miyauchi-Agata (32.5). Four pairs went down in 6♦ (.5) Someone made 5♦ doubled and someone went down in 4♥ (accident). A curious result was 4♣ doubled by West, minus 100. How do you stop in 4♣ in a way to allow South to double you and have you play there? Now, Ohta-Setoguchi were at least in a contract with a nice return if it made — 6♣ doubled. Unfortunately that required trumps to break 2.5-2.5, rounded downwards rather than upwards, and they went down 500 for an undignified zero. Everyone else played 3NT or 5♦ and made it.

Bd: 9	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 98	
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ9752	
	♦ Q2	
	♣ Q106	
West		East
♠ AJ3		♠ K10752
♥ 843		♥ J
♦ J10843		♦ A9
♣ 93		♣ AKJ52
	South	
	♠ Q64	
	♥ A106	
	♦ K765	
	♣ 874	

**Board 9:** 4♠ was the common contract, with plus 620 the norm (15.5). Those who made an overtrick (presumably North/South lost their heart trick rather than their likely trump trick) gained an additional 11 matchpoints. Three East/West pairs missed game and three sold out cheaply to the opponents in hearts, but two lucky East/West collected 800 points from their opponents' sacrifice at 5♥.



"Too much blowfish for lunch..."

Bd: 10	North	
Dlr: East	♠ A864	
Vul: Both	♥ KQJ10	
	♦ A9	
	♣ 952	
West		East
♠ J1092		♠ 53
♥ 63		♥ 72
♦ 54		♦ QJ10762
♣ AKJ43		♣ Q108
	South	
	♠ KQ7	
	♥ A9854	
	♦ K83	
	♣ 76	

**Board 11:** Five East/West pairs were plus 90 in 1NT for 30 matchpoints — no surprise since it takes a miracle to make it. Two East/West pairs were plus against 2♥ and 2♠ doubled. Everyone else was down at least 50 (20.5) and as much 150 (2). Two North/South pairs were plus 150 (31) and 180 (31), declaring.

Bd: 11	North	
Dlr: South	♠ QJ65	
Vul: None	♥ AJ96	
	♦ Q7	
	♣ A107	
West		East
♠ 2		♠ AK97
♥ Q1084		♥ K32
♦ 10985		♦ A3
♣ J532		♣ Q984
	South	
	♠ 10843	
	♥ 75	
	♦ KJ642	
	♣ K6	

Bd: 12	North	
Dlr: West	♠ A65	
Vul: N/S	♥ J10952	
	♦ 10853	
	♣ J	
West		East
♠ 10987		♠ QJ43
♥ Q87		♥ A4
♦ A97		♦ 4
♣ KQ7		♣ A108642
	South	
	♠ K2	
	♥ K63	
	♦ KQJ62	
	♣ 953	

**Board 13:** The popular contract was 1NT, East/West, making one (14) or two (27.5) but a few pairs had the misfortune to find diamonds, where they went down at the three-level (4.5). Two North/South pairs (China's peripatetic Fu/Ju and Ohno-Yamada) played two-of-a-major and made it for a joint top.



"I didn't recognize her with her clothes on."

**Board 10:** Just about completely flat at North/South plus 650. However, one pair played 3NT and made four (no club lead) for plus 630, and one pair reached 6♥, one down. Were they pushed?

**Board 12:** The defense can prevail against 4♠ if West declares by leading a heart, or if East declares by leading a club. By managing the trump entries wisely, they can get both the ♥K and the club ruff. On a club lead, North wins the first spade and switches to a heart. On a heart lead (from North), declarer has no real chance if the defense plays a club soon enough. In practice, the defense usually led diamonds and anyone who bid game made at least four. The overtrick was a huge bonus (27.5 rather than 16) and missing game was very bad indeed. Top for East/West was plus 690 for 4♠ doubled by Mmes Okubo-Goto, making five.

Bd: 13	North	
Dlr: North	♠ K974	
Vul: Both	♥ AK42	
	♦ J	
	♣ K742	
West		East
♠ AJ6		♠ 1032
♥ Q103		♥ J97
♦ 87643		♦ AK92
♣ AQ		♣ J65
	South	
	♠ Q85	
	♥ 865	
	♦ Q105	
	♣ 10983	

Bd: 14	North	
Dir: East	♠ 73	
Vul: None	♥ A10986	
	♦ AJ	
	♣ J983	
West		East
♠ Q654		♠ K9
♥ QJ7		♥ K53
♦ 743		♦ KQ1092
♣ AQ7		♣ K105
	South	
	♠ AJ1082	
	♥ 42	
	♦ 865	
	♣ 642	

**Board 14:** Two East/West pairs made nine tricks in 3NT (a spade lead from North doesn't help the defense if declarer plays the king and wins the second), but perhaps it didn't go that way. Everyone else made the normal-looking 430 (22). Nine pairs missed game.

Bd: 15	North	
Dir: South	♠ AKQ10	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q73	
	♦ 94	
	♣ Q1093	
West		East
♠ 6		♠ J754
♥ AK2		♥ 96
♦ 862		♦ QJ1075
♣ AKJ654		♣ 82
	South	
	♠ 9832	
	♥ J10854	
	♦ AK3	
	♣ 7	

**Board 15:** Plus 140, North/South, in 3♠, was the most frequent result, but one pair bid 4♠ and made it (wow!) For 32 matchpoints, and another made 3NT (31), but neither of those was good as the 800 collected against 5♣ doubled by Mmes Makita-Matsuzaki. Three North/South pairs got 300 against doubled East/West partials. Ito-Mrs Asaka made 3♣ doubled for the best East/West result (if they tell us how, we will have a story).

Bd: 16	North	
Dir: West	♠ Q87542	
Vul: E/W	♥ 93	
	♦ A107	
	♣ 76	
West		East
♠ K109		♠ A6
♥ J1082		♥ A7
♦ J632		♦ KQ84
♣ 84		♣ AK1032
	South	
	♠ J3	
	♥ KQ654	
	♦ 95	
	♣ QJ95	

**Board 16:** Plus 600 for E/w was quite common (21.5) but five pairs managed an overtrick in 3NT (30.5)/ That's all very nice, but 3NT has only eight top tricks, and it's easy to imagine the contract going down. That happened only twice (6) and one declarer went two down, another three. 4♣, 5♣, and 5♦ also bit the dust, and one ambitious pair tried 6♦ and couldn't make that. Just one down, however.

Bd: 17	North	
Dir: North	♠ AKJ6542	
Vul: None	♥ K954	
	♦ 8	
	♣ 9	
West		East
♠ —		♠ Q1083
♥ A7		♥ J1083
♦ A106543		♦ 2
♣ QJ762		♣ K1053
	South	
	♠ 97	
	♥ Q62	
	♦ KQJ97	
	♣ A84	

**Board 17:** It's a depressing deal on which no one makes a contract. Color number 17 blue. 4♠ was -50 (22.5), minus 100 (10.5), minus 150 (4), and minus 300 (2). 5♠ doubled went down 500 (0). This was not a good time for East/West to save in 5♣, for any minus their way got them only a few points.



Bd: 18	North	
Dir: East	♠ KJ84	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q64	
	♦ 75	
	♣ A652	
West		East
♠ 7		♠ Q9653
♥ KJ1085		♥ 9732
♦ 109864		♦ J3
♣ 109		♣ K4
	South	
	♠ A102	
	♥ A	
	♦ AKQ2	
	♣ QJ873	

**Board 18:** If North/South played in 3NT, they scored well whether they made four (20.5), five (24.5) or six! (28.5) and if they played in 5♣, they scored exactly average if they made six, 12 matchpoints if they made only five. Three pairs collected only 500 against 4♥ doubled for poor scores (9) but they did better than those who went down in 4♠ (3.5).

The contract of interest was the excellent 6♣ slam, which made four times (31.5) and went down three times (3.5). If East/West got into the auction, declarer would usually know who had the spade length. Even without this information, declarer might get the spades right simply because West has three more diamonds than East and with no one bidding hearts, that suit rates to be five-four. West will have no more than two spades in that scenario. The successful pairs were: Morimura-Tanaka,

Mmes Umezu-Naito, Ito-Hara, Mr/Mrs Kyoshima.

Bd: 19	North	
Dir: South	♠ 85	
Vul: E/W	♥ 964	
	♦ KQ54	
	♣ 10953	
West		East
♠ AK7		♠ 642
♥ J873		♥ KQ1052
♦ AJ10		♦ 962
♣ A82		♣ J4
	South	
	♠ QJ1093	
	♥ A	
	♦ 873	
	♣ KQ76	

**Board 19:** After West overcalls South's 1♠ with 1NT, East will choose between a hopeful pass and conversion to 2♥. Unless North gets busy and leads a diamond honor, declarer can take eight tricks in both contracts, with both 120 (29) and 110 (21.5) scoring very well. If East/West are more ambitious, they will fail, with minus 100 worth 12 matchpoints and minus 200 only 2.5. Matchpoints is a game that stresses plus scores, so staying low on marginal hands is usually a profitable philosophy.

**Board 20:** The cards don't lie well for East/ West and those pushed to 3NT went down more often than not for well- below-average scores. Three pairs made it however, for 21.5 matchpoints, and Geller-Ogiwara made ... five (32)! Where did the other matchpoint go? To the pair that got 800 from 2♥ doubled — Mmes Ichihashi/Iwahashi.

Exactly one pair (Mr/Mrs Kyoshima) played 2♣ and made it East/West and they were below average. Not lucky.

There were several East/West pairs collecting anywhere from 100 to 500 against partials in spades or hearts, and that really hurt the humble plus 90.

Bd: 20	North	
Dir: West	♠ J8652	
Vul: Both	♥ K	
	♦ Q10643	
	♣ A6	
West		East
♠ 7		♠ AQ93
♥ AQ852		♥ 10
♦ KJ7		♦ A852
♣ J732		♣ Q1085
	South	
	♠ K104	
	♥ J97643	
	♦ 9	
	♣ K94	

Bd: 21	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 87532	
Vul: N/S	♥ 7	
	♦ AK8432	
	♣ J	
West		East
♠ A6		♠ J
♥ QJ10		♥ K985432
♦ 106		♦ Q95
♣ A106542		♣ Q8
	South	
	♠ KQ1094	
	♥ A6	
	♦ J7	
	♣ K973	

**Board 21:** Although five East/West pairs stole the auction at 4♥, plus 420 (32) or minus 50 (28) and one stole it at 3♥, plus 140 (29), this was clearly a North/South spade game, due to produce 11 tricks. There were some saves at 5♥, which were very good whether they were doubled or not, and one North/South pair in 6♠ (doubled, yet) for minus 200 (3 matchpoints). The spectacular results were 4♠ doubled making six (plus 1190) by Messrs Liu-Zhang, and 4♠ doubled making five (990) by Mr/Mrs Ebisawa and Nishida-Fukuda, and 5♠ doubled (plus 850) by Justin Hackett-Vaughan Marks.

**Board 22:** This was a lively one. West is cold for 6♠ and more than half the field bid it (23.5). Those who missed slam got only 8 matchpoints, but the real losers on this deal were the two East/West pairs who reached 6♠ from the East side (Brian Senior, Editor of the prestigious British magazine, *International Popular Bridge Monthly*-Mrs Ishii, and Dr Naniwada-Mrs Nishimura) and got a heart lead (North did not double, but the lead was more or less natural). 1 matchpoint for our luckless pairs. We suspect a 1♠ opening with the East hand (British style).

Bd: 22	North	
Dlr: East	♠ K102	
Vul: E/W	♥ —	
	♦ KQ763	
	♣ J10975	
West		East
♠ AQ976		♠ J543
♥ A3		♥ KQ87
♦ 10		♦ A952
♣ AKQ64		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ J1096542	
	♦ J84	
	♣ 83	

Bd: 23	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 10754	
Vul: Both	♥ Q943	
	♦ A	
	♣ Q865	
West		East
♠ A98		♠ KQ3
♥ J8		♥ 102
♦ K98643		♦ QJ72
♣ KJ		♣ 9432
	South	
	♠ J62	
	♥ AK765	
	♦ 105	
	♣ A107	

**Board 23:** Four North/South pairs bid and made 4♥ on this one. We were about to ask where the spade losers went when the honorable Nakatani-san pointed out that it was elementary. Diamond lead, draw trumps, ♣A, low club. West wins and must shift to spades, but that could be a mistake. Yes, that must be it. Plus 620 was a joint top. Other special North/South scores were plus 800 collected by Justin and Vaughan against 5♦ doubled and three 500s against the same contract (27).

**Board 24:** Everyone's 4♠, cold for four on normal play in spades. Two declarers, looking for a windfall profit no doubt, went down...by playing ♠K, then finessing the nine. We're just guessing. It makes a good story.

Bd: 24	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 652	
Vul: None	♥ 85	
	♦ A9763	
	♣ K84	
West		East
♠ KJ43		♠ A987
♥ Q107		♥ AKJ
♦ Q105		♦ 42
♣ A107		♣ QJ93
	South	
	♠ Q10	
	♥ 96432	
	♦ KJ8	
	♣ 652	

Bd: 25	North	
Dlr: North	♠ Q953	
Vul: E/W	♥ Q76	
	♦ J65	
	♣ 842	
West		East
♠ AJ42		♠ 10
♥ 8543		♥ AK
♦ A1098		♦ KQ743
♣ J		♣ AQ763
	South	
	♠ K876	
	♥ J1092	
	♦ 2	
	♣ K1095	

**Board 25:** This is an excellent 6♦ and was worth 21.5 matchpoints to the pairs bidding and making it. Not as much to the one pair that went down (1). 6NT is much worse and the pair that bid it went two down; minus 200 for a well-deserved zero. What can we say about the pair that reached 2NT? Well, st least it was a plus score. 1 matchpoint. The eight pairs who stopped in 5♦ or (shudder) 3NT scored very badly too. 7♦ is a bit much and appears likely to fail, but the pair that bid it — our heroines Natsuko and Shoko — made it, which they must have done by ruffing the fourth round of clubs with the ♦A and passing the ten on the way back. If this is what happened, we are certain that they would have won the event today to celebrate St Valentine’s Day in proper fashion. Alas, they are not playing (they qualified ninth but have other commitments). We are having a toast (Diet Coke for Colker-san, mizu for me – in their

honor).

**Board 26:** The session ended with a partscore. 2♠ was the place to play, East/West, if they let you (28 matchpoints) but there were many North/South pairs who bought the auction at 1NT, above average for plus 90 (14), but much better for 120 (26.5), 150 (29), and 180 (30.5). Any plus score was above average. A proper matchpoint board if there was one.

Bd: 26	North	
Dlr: East	♠ 75	
Vul: Both	♥ Q95	
	♦ AQ532	
	♣ 1098	
West		East
♠ J932		♠ KQ108
♥ J4		♥ K10862
♦ K97		♦ J8
♣ K742		♣ Q6
	South	
	♠ A64	
	♥ A73	
	♦ 1064	
	♣ AJ53	



“I would play the ♦A but you see, I don’t have it any more.”



“Wake me when it’s my turn.”



“Catch me quickly – I smile only once a day”



“Free at last! No more bulletins to put on the Internet.”

# THE 1999 FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP: SECOND SESSION

Bd: 1	North	
Dir: North	♠ 6543	
Vul: None	♥ A632	
	♦ K83	
	♣ J6	
West		East
♠ KQJ87		♠ A2
♥ QJ		♥ K1095
♦ AQJ102		♦ 765
♣ 5		♣ AQ73
	South	
	♠ 109	
	♥ 874	
	♦ 94	
	♣ K109842	

**Board 1:** Most East/West pairs declared a notrump game from the East side. On a club lead East need only knock out a red-suit control to set up eleven tricks, and any North who held off when East took a diamond finesse found, when declarer suddenly switched to hearts, that minus 490 was a very lonely result. Souths who opted for a passive major-suit lead fared better if, when North got in with whichever red-suit declarer attacked, he found a club shift. This was probably easier after an original heart lead than after a spade.

Bd: 2	North	
Dir: East	♠ AKJ96	
Vul: N/S	♥ 1043	
	♦ QJ10	
	♣ 86	
West		East
♠ 10873		♠ Q52
♥ AK8		♥ J72
♦ A643		♦ 875
♣ QJ		♣ A532
	South	
	♠ 4	
	♥ Q965	
	♦ K92	
	♣ K10974	

**Board 2:** This was a very difficult hand on which to go plus as declarer. West will open in third seat and 1NT will often be the final contract for East/West. On a spade lead from North declarer has little difficulty setting up a fifth trick in that suit and a club finesse provides a sixth trick, but a seventh trick was difficult to come by. If East is declarer and South leads a club, dummy can win and play a diamond. North wins and returns a spade. If declarer rises with the queen he can lead the second diamond toward dummy's ace. This has the advantage of allowing him to keep North off lead by rising with the ace and clearing the suit if South follows low or by ducking if South plays the king. Only Chen-Zhang from CHINA achieved a result of plus 120 East/West. A very far-sighted South would unblock the diamonds at trick 2 by overtaking North's spot to shift to a spade, guaranteeing North a later diamond entry. North/South went plus at those tables where North overcalled 1♠ and was left to play there.

Bd: 3	North	
Dir: South	♠ AQ64	
Vul: E/W	♥ AK43	
	♦ 87	
	♣ K92	
West		East
♠ 5		♠ J10987
♥ Q10952		♥ 7
♦ KJ95		♦ Q43
♣ A87		♣ QJ64
	South	
	♠ K32	
	♥ J86	
	♦ A1062	
	♣ 1053	

**Board 3:** North will open a strong 1NT at those tables where his methods permit. Left in 1NT, North usually came to seven tricks and no more. But in this field most North/South pairs played in game. Teramoto-Yoshida alone made nine tricks in 3NT – doubled! Plus 550 is our idea of a universe-wide top. Most of the North/South scores were plus 90 or minus 50 or 100, with an occasional plus 120 or minus 150. Two East/Wests got into trouble balancing over 1NT and there North/South scored plus 200.



"Oh, no, we've been drafted!"

Bd: 4	North
Dir: West	♠ KQ1032
Vul: Both	♥ 10
	♦ K72
	♣ AKJ10
West	East
♠ 96	♠ A5
♥ K9654	♥ QJ873
♦ AQJ5	♦ 983
♣ 82	♣ 643
	South
	♠ J874
	♥ A2
	♦ 1064
	♣ Q975

**Board 5:** The typical auction will begin: Pass-1♥-1♠-Dble\*. North usually raised to 2♠, but where East/West competed, 3♠ was not unusual. Many East/West wimps sold out to 2♠, making 110 a common North/South result. A few East/Wests declared minor-suit partscores, ending up with plus 110 or 130. But with guesses in several suits the scores were all over the map: 140's, 130's, 110's, 50's and 100's were all common.

Bd: 6	North
Dir: East	♠ 1053
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ1075
	♦ 104
	♣ AKJ
West	East
♠ AQ98	♠ K42
♥ 843	♥ 9
♦ 5	♦ AJ98732
♣ Q8754	♣ 63
	South
	♠ J76
	♥ AJ62
	♦ KQ6
	♣ 1092



"The system improves a little each day."

**Board 4:** This one was 4♠ at every table where North or South were still drawing breath. A typical auction would be: Pass-1♠; 2♠-3♥ (short-suit game try) or 3♣ (fitting-suit game try) or 3♦ (help-suit game try). In the latter case South, holding four trumps, an ace and a queen, should make a counter-try with 3♥ and North will seize upon any excuse to bid the game. With the ♦A on side there will be only three losers. Plus 620 was a pip above average, as three North/Souths managed only plus 170.

Bd: 5	North
Dir: North	♠ A865
Vul: N/S	♥ 853
	♦ K76
	♣ J98
West	East
♠ 97	♠ 3
♥ J9	♥ AK1062
♦ A854	♦ Q1032
♣ Q6432	♣ A105
	South
	♠ KQJ1042
	♥ Q74
	♦ J9
	♣ K7

**Board 6:** The East hand looks like a 2♦ opening to me, but Kokishsan is a passer. Whichever route East takes, North/South are likely to end up in three or four hearts, the success of which will depend greatly on the defense. Only where East chooses a passive club or trump lead and later develops permanent paralysis of his spade-leading finger will North/South manage a plus score. Most East/Wests scored plus 50 or 100. A few North/Souths managed plus 400 or 420.



"Queen of the Hacketts and proud of it."

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ 86432
Vul: Both	♥ 543
	♦ —
	♣ KQ953
West	East
♠ AKQ109	♠ J75
♥ Q	♥ K9876
♦ QJ8752	♦ A1064
♣ 6	♣ 10
	South
	♠ —
	♥ AJ102
	♦ K93
	♣ AJ8742

**Board 7:** What a wild one this is! North/South can make 6♣ and one pair bid it, got doubled, and made no mistake in the play. Special congratulations to Umehara-san and Abe-san for their plus 1540. Naniwada-san and Nishimura-san did nearly as well, getting 1100 (scored as 1400) against 5♠ doubled, declarer drawing trumps and losing control when the ♦K was wrong. Three North/South pairs were plus 950 and two plus 750 (only 11 tricks) in 5♣ doubled.

If you're looking for good East/West scores, look no further than the ubiquitous Fu-Ju, who made 4♠, which they could not do legitimately. They were joined on this lofty plateau by two of my favourite Japanese ladies, Hiroko Janssen and Miyako Nakanishi. There were only two North/South scores of plus 620 (5♣ plus one) because at most tables, East/West competed to 5♦, where they were doubled. Only two North/South pairs got a spade ruff for 500. No one got both spade ruffs.

**Board 8:** With the ♥Q, ♣J, and ♠10 all worth something, the place you'd like to be with the East/West cards is 3NT. 430 was below average, 460 well above average. There were several pairs who finished in 5♦, down, for terrible scores, and one in a flawed 6♣, down. The best East/ West score was plus 1100, achieved twice on defense against 3♥ doubled by Mrs Tajima-Kamiyo and Mmes Iida-Sekiya.

Projected auction:

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The 1100s might have come when North boldly overcalled 3♥ and had his head handed to him in a basket, shogun-style.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ AQ5
Vul: None	♥ A8754
	♦ 72
	♣ 1053
West	East
♠ 1043	♠ KJ8
♥ Q	♥ KJ106
♦ Q1096543	♦ A
♣ J8	♣ AKQ74
	South
	♠ 9762
	♥ 932
	♦ KJ8
	♣ 962

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ 876
Vul: E/W	♥ Q965
	♦ QJ9
	♣ QJ10
West	East
♠ AJ9	♠ KQ542
♥ 102	♥ 843
♦ 1087543	♦ A6
♣ 82	♣ 763
	South
	♠ 103
	♥ AKJ7
	♦ K2
	♣ AK954

**Board 9:** Everyone's 4♥. Might North sneak past the ♦A and throw his remaining diamonds on dummy's clubs? Well, there were five such scores (31.5 matchpoints). Two pairs missed game. One went down in 3NT (for shame).



"Much better than we thought – cheer up!"

Bd: 10	North	
Dlr: East	♠ A84	
Vul: Both	♥ Q9532	
	♦ 9532	
	♣ K	
West		East
♠ KJ1097		♠ 52
♥ K		♥ 74
♦ K107		♦ AJ86
♣ AJ52		♣ 98763
	South	
	♠ Q63	
	♥ AJ1086	
	♦ Q4	
	♣ Q104	

**Board 10:** This deal was played in hearts at every table but two. The exceptions: 3♣ by West; plus 110 (28) and 2♠ by West, down one (21), perhaps after: Pass-Pass-1♠-Pass; 1NT-Pass-2♣-Pass; 3♣-All Pass. Best North/ South score was turned in by Mmes Nakano-Sasaki, who made 3♥ doubled with an overtrick, which was just good enough to beat the 620 recorded by Mmes Kobayashi-Nakamura. Other heart contracts produced different numbers of tricks, depending on the opening lead and declarer's proclivity to drop the ♥K.

Bd: 11	North	
Dlr: South	♠ K765	
Vul: None	♥ J9843	
	♦ 92	
	♣ 52	
West		East
♠ AQJ103		♠ 942
♥ K652		♥ Q7
♦ A7		♦ QJ64
♣ A8		♣ J1093
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ A10	
	♦ K10853	
	♣ KQ764	

**Board 11:** 4♠ was made four times (usually this will require a bit of help and perhaps a good guess or two), once doubled. 3NT was made four times, on three occasions with an overtrick. That looks pretty good, and scored accordingly. Most E/W plus scores scored very well and the nine N/S plus scores, all from sets, were very good too.

If North leads a heart and South puts in the ten, declarer will win and return a heart. If South switches to a trump, declarer can win the ace; if South plays something else, he can win and cash the ♠A, ruff a heart, pick up the ♦K, and ruff his last heart safely. If he does not have a minor suit ace left to return to hand, he will inevitably promote a second trump for North, who will refuse to over-ruff a minor suit card (unless declarer ruffs low). Along the way, West might duck a club switch, not without some risk.

Bd: 12	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 74	
Vul: N/S	♥ J72	
	♦ K10	
	♣ A109842	
West		East
♠ Q65		♠ KJ982
♥ AK84		♥ 953
♦ AQJ43		♦ 8762
♣ 5		♣ 3
	South	
	♠ A103	
	♥ Q106	
	♦ 95	
	♣ KQJ76	

**Board 12:** Mostly 4♠ for E/W (22) but there were three 5♣ saves, down 500, giving E/W 32 matchpoints. N/S will defeat 4♠ without much difficulty if South leads the ♣K and North overtakes to return a heart (it's tougher for South to do this if left on lead. Only one N/S pair beat the contract; we can dare to hope it was in this fashion. The defense has two more entries to build a heart trick and cash it.



"Yamaguchi-san may have lost a step but no one sneaks a stiff king past him."

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ 63
Vul: Both	♥ J95
	♦ KQ10832
	♣ Q4
West	East
♠ A542	♠ Q107
♥ AK102	♥ 84
♦ 7	♦ AJ95
♣ 10732	♣ AKJ9
	South
	♠ KJ98
	♥ Q763
	♦ 64
	♣ 865

**Board 13:** Apart from four 800s and two 1100s against low diamond contracts, this was pretty much everyone's 3NT. Six declarers went down, and one went three down in 4NT for awful scores. Two pairs played 6♣, which didn't quite fetch; it didn't really deserve to.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ 87543
Vul: None	♥ 103
	♦ KJ
	♣ QJ107
West	East
♠ A10	♠ —
♥ AK42	♥ QJ765
♦ 76	♦ AQ10532
♣ K8642	♣ 93
	South
	♠ KQJ962
	♥ 98
	♦ 984
	♣ A5

**Board 14:** E/W can make 6♥ because the ♦K and ♣A are both onside (it's a better contract from the West side because there's time to discard a club on the ♠A. If N/S play in spades, the defense can get two hearts, a club, two diamonds and a diamond ruff in front of North with the ♠10, and the ace of trumps — seven tricks. That makes a save at any reasonable level too expensive. Four E/W pairs bid and made 6♥. Those who missed the poor slam were below average because there were enough expensive spade sacrifices to skew the scores. A couple of N/S pairs bought the auction at 3♠ and 4♠, undoubled. Hubba hubba.

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ 65
Vul: N/S	♥ AKJ8
	♦ K1072
	♣ AJ10
West	East
♠ KJ74	♠ AQ3
♥ Q103	♥ 64
♦ 965	♦ QJ43
♣ 976	♣ Q843
	South
	♠ 10982
	♥ 9752
	♦ A8
	♣ K52

It's sometimes tough to make a living.

**Board 15:** 4♥ is quite reasonable since you will make it without finessing for the ♥Q as long as you guess clubs. If you play ace-king of hearts in the course of ruffing North's diamonds, you won't get much of a count, but if you are able to ruff spades in North and diamonds in South and the timing works out for you, West will have to overruff to prevent you from scoring two diamonds, two clubs and six trumps. If West is out of spades at this point, he'll have nothing but clubs left and will have to play the suit for you. Four N/S pairs bid 4♥ and made it for superb scores, but anyone who took ten tricks in hearts or notrump scored reasonably even if they did not reach game.



"Anyone know where I can get this thing removed from my lip?"



"Don't worry, Miho has their escape routes all covered."



Bd: 16	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q
Vul: E/W	♥ QJ763
	♦ J9642
	♣ 62
West	East
♠ A4	♠ 10653
♥ AK82	♥ 1054
♦ 107	♦ 5
♣ KQJ73	♣ A10954
	South
	♠ KJ9872
	♥ 9
	♦ AKQ83
	♣ 8

**Board 17:** Lots of possibilities here, with the most popular contracts being 3♦ and 3♣, E?W, great if they made, awful if they failed. The best E/W scores were 3♦ doubled, making three or four, plus 470 an 570, and plus 300 for beating 3♣ doubled two tricks (which looks like a trump lead and continued good defense). In practice, 3♣ made twice.

After 1♣-Pass-1♠, West will double. If East bids 1NT, West might introduce diamonds over South's 2♣, but East might prefer a 1♠ response, and now West might compete to 3♠ in front of his partner. It's a more delicate deal than it might appear to be at first glance.

Bd: 18	North
Dlr: East	♠ K82
Vul: N/S	♥ 9654
	♦ A1087
	♣ 95
West	East
♠ 964	♠ AQ53
♥ KJ82	♥ A10
♦ 63	♦ J954
♣ KQ104	♣ 763
	South
	♠ J107
	♥ Q73
	♦ KQ2
	♣ AJ82

**Board 19:** Someone bid and made 3NT with an overtrick with the N/S cards; note that with the minors as they are, this 20-point game is stone cold. How irritating for E/W.

There were three 400s for N/S but not for 3NT making; E/W played 1NT and went four down. Arrrggghh! There were a couple of 300-point sets and one delicious plus 800 against the unlikely contract of 3♥, doubled. Someone made 3♣ doubled with an overtrick for plus 570. Better to be N/S, people.

There were a handful of E/W plus scores, one of them 300 from doubling 3♦, but even plus 50 was huge.

**Board 16:** Sixteen pairs played and made a partial in spades or diamonds with the N/S cards, all of them scoring well above average. Best of all for N/S was the pair who played 3♠ doubled and made it for plus 530.

E/W, meanwhile are very close to making 5♣; only East's wretched third heart prevents them from doing this. Two pairs were permitted to play 3♣ and 4♣ for E/W tops.

At virtually all the other tables, N/S went down in 5♦, often doubled, for a poor score. Not an easy hand for N/S to gauge, since 5♣ might be easy and 5♦ has to be cheap.

Bd: 17	North
Dlr: North	♠ 92
Vul: None	♥ A10
	♦ QJ76
	♣ KQ752
West	East
♠ A643	♠ KQJ
♥ K543	♥ Q87
♦ AK953	♦ 1084
♣ —	♣ 8643
	South
	♠ 10875
	♥ J962
	♦ 2
	♣ AJ109

**Board 18:** If East passes as dealer, South is likely to declare 1NT, but if East opens, West will probably declare the same contract; it's that sort of deal. There were only four N/S plus scores on this deal, all of them small sets of E/W contracts (one of which was 3NT!). On the E/W line there were three 200s and a 300 (33 matchpoints) for setting N/S contracts, and a plethora of results of 110 or better, all scoring well. The only bad E/W plus scores were plus 90 and plus 100, and there weren't too many of those.

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ 84
Vul: E/W	♥ J542
	♦ AQJ109
	♣ Q8
West	East
♠ A9763	♠ K10
♥ 1097	♥ AK83
♦ K8	♦ 7643
♣ 753	♣ K42
	South
	♠ QJ52
	♥ Q6
	♦ 52
	♣ AJ1096

Bd: 20	North	
Dir: West	♠ A93	
Vul: Both	♥ KQ632	
	♦ 97	
	♣ 732	
West		East
♠ 42		♠ KQJ75
♥ A8		♥ 974
♦ 102		♦ J8543
♣ AJ109854		♣ —
	South	
	♠ 1086	
	♥ J105	
	♦ AKQ6	
	♣ KQ6	

**Board 20:** Twice, E/W played 5♣ doubled, down 1100. Once, E/W played 3♣ redoubled, down 1000. Other results were less dramatic. N/S can't make 4♥ (they were down seven times, once 500, doubled for a bottom). They can, however, make 3NT, and six pairs managed that for excellent results. Perhaps it proceeded: 3♣-Pass-Pass-3NT-All Pass. The only bad poles scores for N/S were 50 against 3♠ undoubled and 140 for making 3♥.

**Board 21:** One N/S pair bid and made 3NT. Bid a lot, made a lot. That's catchy. One other N/S pair tried 3NT, but they went down 300 undoubled, which is much more like reality. Bid a lot, made only a little. A trump lead won't defeat 2♣ if declarer plays diamonds at every opportunity, but the contract was beaten once, as was 3♣. Most N/S pairs made at least 1NT. Plus 90 was below average but 120 or more were excellent. Plus 110 was also well above average. Might not South open 1NT in third seat?

Bd: 21	North	
Dir: North	♠ 10762	
Vul: N/S	♥ J76	
	♦ KQ8	
	♣ K106	
West		East
♠ QJ85		♠ A943
♥ KQ84		♥ 1053
♦ 94		♦ AJ106
♣ 987		♣ 54
	South	
	♠ K	
	♥ A92	
	♦ 7532	
	♣ AQJ32	

Bd: 22	North	
Dir: East	♠ K3	
Vul: E/W	♥ J854	
	♦ 1064	
	♣ AJ82	
West		East
♠ AQ1076		♠ J98
♥ 7		♥ KQ109632
♦ AQJ2		♦ K9
♣ Q95		♣ 10
	South	
	♠ 542	
	♥ A	
	♦ 8753	
	♣ K7643	

**Board 22:** Just under half the field reached 4♥ or 4♠ East/West and made it, for about 80% of the matchpoints. Those who stopped in a major-suit partscore received 50% or less of the matchpoints depending on whether they made nine or ten tricks. Those East/Wests who failed in their contract received less than 20% of the points. In spades ten tricks is easy as declarer can ruff two clubs in dummy or lose no trump trick. 4♥ is a bit more difficult but diamond pitches are available for spade pitches if, as seems likely, a spade is not led.

**Board 23:** This was a universal 4♥ contract by North/ South. Those taking eleven tricks scored a bit below average while those taking twelve scored a near top. How does one go about taking twelve tricks? Our guess is, after a diamond lead North wins in hand and leads a low club. East rises with the ace and fails to cash the ♠A – say he plays back a neutral diamond. Declarer comes to hand with the ♥A, finesses the ♣10, crosses to dummy as he draws the last trump with the ace, cashes the ♣K pitching a spade and ruffs the fifth club good. He then uses dummy's third trump as an entry to the established club on which he pitches his last spade.

Bd: 23	North	
Dir: South	♠ J6	
Vul: Both	♥ AJ106532	
	♦ A8	
	♣ 104	
West		East
♠ 10872		♠ A543
♥ Q9		♥ 4
♦ Q10952		♦ J763
♣ 92		♣ AQ53
	South	
	♠ KQ9	
	♥ K87	
	♦ K4	
	♣ KJ876	

Bd: 24	North
Dlr: West	♠ 8
Vul: None	♥ 107
	♦ Q432
	♣ AJ7643
West	East
♠ AQ53	♠ J62
♥ AJ962	♥ 85
♦ 1065	♦ AKJ87
♣ 2	♣ KQ10
	South
	♠ K10974
	♥ KQ43
	♦ 9
	♣ 985

**Board 25:** North/South have more than half the points and a nine-card spade fit. Nevertheless, they can make nothing above the one-level. In fact, East/ West are cold for five diamonds on the lie of the cards with the help of the double club finesse. Except for the East/West pair who made 4♦ doubled, reaching 5♦ was the top spot for East/West. Collecting 150 or 300 against a spade contract also scored well for East/West.

Bd: 26	North
Dlr: East	♠ K9632
Vul: Both	♥ K3
	♦ 1083
	♣ KQJ
West	East
♠ 104	♠ AQ7
♥ 765	♥ AQJ1082
♦ K95	♦ 64
♣ A8432	♣ 105
	South
	♠ J85
	♥ 94
	♦ AQJ72
	♣ 976



"Sorry, Eric, we can no longer afford to pay by the word."

**Board 24:** Most East/West pairs played in 3NT, making anywhere from nine to eleven tricks. If West opens the bidding the auction is likely to go something like: 1♥-Pass-2♦-Pass; 2♥-Pass-2NT-Pass; 3♦-Pass-? and East will just close his eyes and bid 3NT. On a club lead from North West will have an easy time taking nine tricks via the diamond and spade finesses. A little extra work in hearts will produce a tenth trick and a possible endplay eleven. Of course, if North or South got frisky with one of those black suits a blue card would net East/West 500 or 800 for nearly all the matchpoints.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ A873
Vul: E/W	♥ KJ8
	♦ Q105
	♣ KJ7
West	East
♠ Q1054	♠ —
♥ A1042	♥ 93
♦ 86	♦ AK97432
♣ 1065	♣ AQ98
	South
	♠ KJ962
	♥ Q765
	♦ J
	♣ 432

**Board 26:** 4♥ makes East/West, but on 20 HCP it's not so easy to get there. Those that did got almost all the matchpoints. East's 1♥ opening is likely to get raised gently to two, but North/South have their own major-suit fit in the boss suit and will compete for the contract. In fact, more North/Souths played spade contracts than East/Wests played in heart contracts. Doubling North/ South in a spade partscore for 300 or 500 was worth about two-thirds of the matchpoints for East/West.



"Psst, Mr. Liu, I can get you those cigarettes at half price on the Ginza."

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Play in the FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUP final and consolation will be held today on the fifth floor of the Pacifico, Rooms 501 and 502. There will be two three-hour sessions, with a one-hour break in between. The NEC CUP FESTIVAL Closing Ceremony will be held in Pacifico, Rooms 301 and 302.

### Today's Times

10:00-13:00	1st Final
13:00-14:00	BREAK
14:00-17:00	2nd Final
18:00-21:00	Closing Ceremony

## 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>



"If I sit here very, very quietly, maybe they won't notice that I have only twelve cards."



"Is she or is she not sitting down?"



"Darn these civil service exams."



"I hate it when they take us away and engrave our plaques."