

Nec Cup 2000 Will Be Toughest Yet

With a brand new format and a vastly expanded field, the 5th Edition of the NEC Cup is going to be a true test of skill and character. Stage One is a 10-round Swiss movement with 16-board matches, IMPs converted to Victory Points. Although the first round is seeded to match the foreign teams (and the defending champions) against Japanese teams, we predict that the visitors will not be the winners, or even the favorites, in all those matches. The most fiercely contested matches figure to be those between the 2000 Olympiad teams of Canada and Japan, Australia (Newman) and Japan (Hirata), Australia (Chua) and Japan (GOING), Spain and Japan (OKAY) and Chinese Taipei (Don Fun) and Japan (Olympiad Women).

The Bulletin, the Secretariat and the D-I-C

Anything amusing, challenging, or skillful will be accepted with open arms in the **Bulletin Room** (314, next to the playing area). If we're not here, please leave us a note (or something meaningful—our computers are on the far right as you enter the room). Room 314 is also **Tournament Headquarters**, a.k.a. The **Secretariat**. If you're trying to reach someone you can't see with the naked, leave a message. We will do our best to get it to its target. The **Chief Tournament Director** for the **NEC Bridge Festival**, as always, will be the urbane, unflappable, occasionally immovable, but currently beaming (lease bear with him; the guy is in love) **Richard Grenside**. Call him at your discretion.

Starting Times

Match 1: 10:00-12:20; Match 2: 12:40-15:00; Match 3 : 16:00-18:20; Match 4: 18:40-21:00

You have 140 minutes to complete 16 deals. The grace period has been included in that 2 hours and 20 minutes. In the words of the immortal Nakatani-san, "Play badly if you must, but play quickly."



Mr. Masakatsu Miwa, Assoc. Sr. VP, NEC



Mr. Kensuke Yanagiya, President of JCBL

NEC CUP 2000: CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

A 10 round Swiss, qualifying the top 8 teams to Knockout Phase; no playbacks

V.P. Scale WBF 16 board scale

Seating Rights Toss of coin start of match

KO-Phase Seating The winner of a coin toss has the choice of seating in any of the 16-board segments. The loser then chooses any of the remaining segments and the two teams alternate choices until all segments are assigned.

Team Numbers International teams + last year's winners have odd numbers; the remaining teams have even numbers.

First round draw 1 vs 2, 3 vs 4, etc., draw for teams at welcome function.

Home and visiting 1st numbered team sits N/S in open room, E/W in closed room.

Tie-Breaks At the end of the Swiss: ties will be broken by the result of the head-to-head match (if one was played) or an IMP quotient otherwise. If more than two teams are involved, Bermuda 2000 Conditions of Contest procedures will apply.

In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.

Systems No HUM methods will be permitted in this event.
In the Swiss, no Brown Sticker methods will be permitted.
In the KO Phase, Brown Sticker methods will be permitted only if filed before the start of the Swiss. Written defenses to such methods may be used at the table.

Length of Matches 2 hours and 20 minutes will be allotted for each 16 boards. Overtime and slow play penalties as per Bermuda 2000 Conditions of Contest.

Appeals The WBF Code of Practice will be in effect. An appeal filing fee of \$50.00 (US) or Y5500 will be forfeited if considered without merit.

Match Scoring Pick-up slips are to be completed and all match results are to be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections will be in accordance with Bermuda 2000 Conditions of Contest.

KO Draw The team finishing 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 5th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 5th-8th group. And so on.

In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches, with the provision that if two teams from the same NCBO reach the semi-finals, those two teams must meet.

Roster of the 5th NEC Cup

| No. | Team | Members | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | Name | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | CANADA Litvack | Irving Litvack | Roy Hughes | Darren Wolpert | Jurek Czyzowics | David Turner | |
| 2 | JAPAN Queens & Knights | Takashi Sumita | Akira Morozumi | Yasuo Fukutsuka | Koji Yamada | Yuko Yamada | |
| 3 | CHINA Women | Gu Ling | Zhang Yalan | Sun Ming | Wang Hongli | Wang Wenfei | Zhang Yu |
| 4 | JAPAN DREAM | Chieko Ichikawa | Kuniko Saito | Youko Saito | Zhang Shudi | Youko Nenohi | Kumiko Matsuo |
| 5 | IRELAND | Hugh McGann | Tom Hanlon | Pat Walsh | Adam Mesbur | | |
| 6 | JAPAN Merry Queens | Teruko Nishimura | Junko Nishimura | Toyoko Nakakawaji | Toshiko Hiramori | | |
| 7 | Defending Champs | Masayuki Ino | Tadashi Teramoto | Chen Dawei | Tadashi Imakura | Hiroshi Hisatomi | Takahiko Hirata |
| 8 | JAPAN Youth | Yuichi Masamura | Hideyuki Sango | Hideaki Yoshimi | Yuji Tashiro | Fumito Mizuno | Atsuyo Miyake |
| 9 | AUSTRALIA Chua | Simon Hinge | Cathy Chua | Paul Marston | Malcolm Mayer | | |
| 10 | JAPAN GOING | Rober Geller | Hiroya Abe | Seiya Shimizu | Setsuko Ogihara | Hidenori Narita | |
| 11 | CHINESE TAIPEI-San Hai | Liu Fong Ming | Tsao Wei Wei | Chuang Chi Rong | Cheng Te Chern | Cheng Te Tung | Chen Hung Yu |
| 12 | JAPAN Gotanda Bridge Forum | Haruko Sugawara | Kazuko Sakamoto | Natsuhiko Nagumo | Hiroko Kawakatsu | Masaru Chiba | |
| 13 | SPAIN | Jose I. Torres | Antonio Frances | Juan C. Ventin | Luis Lantaron | | |
| 14 | JAPAN OKAY | Yuko Yamada | Akihiko Yamada | Kyoko Ohno | Katsumi Takahashi | Masaru Yoshida | |
| 15 | INDONESIA Pattimura | Hasyim Arif | Mukhibban D Bakti | Dadan Waradia | Henry SW Tumiwa | Julius A. George | Leslie Gontha |
| 16 | JAPAN Yokohama Six Senses | Osami Kimura | Atsushi Kimura | Kinzaburo Nishino | Kiyoko Fushida | Setsuko Kimura | Nobuko Tanai |
| 17 | CHINESE TAIPEI-Don Fun | Hu Hsi Chen | Tsao Yen Yen | Yen Den Min | Lee Jong Fu | Hsiao Tzu Liang | Chiu Wei Chun |
| 18 | JAPAN Olympiad Women | Kyoko Shimamura | Shoko Fukuda | Hiroko Ota | Nobuko Setoguchi | Ayako Amano | Miho Sekizawa |
| 19 | CANADA Olympiad | Robert Lebi | Nader Hanna | John Carruthers | George Mittelman | Eric Kokish | |
| 20 | JAPAN Olympiad Open | Yasuhiro Shimizu | Kenji Miyakuni | Shunsuke Morimura | Yoshiyuki Nakamura | Ryoga Tanaka | Kazuo Furuta |
| 21 | USA | Mark Itabashi | Garey Hayden | Gene Freed | Jim Robison | | |
| 22 | JAPAN Pensée | Kotomi Asakoshi | Michiko Shida | Minako Hiratsuka | Naomi Terauchi | Sachiko Nakatani | Aiko Banno |
| 23 | POLAND | Krszytof Lasocki | Piotr Gawrys | Erwin Otvosi | Marek Borewicz | | |
| 24 | JAPAN DARUMA | Natsuko Nishida | Qian Beili | Midori Sakamoto | Etsuko Hasegawa | Sakiko Naito | Setsuko Moriyama |
| 25 | GREAT BRITAIN | Paul Hackett | Jason Hackett | Justin Hackett | John Armstrong | Brigitte Mavromichalis | |
| 26 | JAPAN Hanagumi | Yayoi Sakamoto | Kyoko Toyofuku | Kimi Makita | Keiko Matsuzaki | Etsuko Naito | Yukiko Umezu |
| 27 | INDONESIA | Santje Panelewen | Deny Sacul | Henky Lasut | Eddy Manoppo | Franky Karwur | Robert Tobing |
| 28 | JAPAN Esperanza | Haruko Koshi | Mizuko Tan | Hiroko Janssen | Mieko Nakanishi | Hiroko Sekiyama | Yoko Osako |
| 29 | AUSTRALIA Newman | Peter Newman | Seamus Browne | Khokan Bagchi | Ishmael Del'Monte | | |
| 30 | JAPAN HIRATA | Makoto Hirata | Nobuyuki Hayashi | Yasushi Kobayashi | Hideki Takano | | |

Today's Round-1 Match-ups: 1 vs 2; 3 vs 4; 5 vs 6; 7 vs 8; 9 vs 10; 11 vs 12; 13 vs 14; 15 vs 16; 17 vs 18; 19 vs 20; 21 vs 22; 23 vs 24; 25 vs 26; 27 vs 28; 29 vs 30

Bermuda 2000: Part I

The 2000 Orbis World Bridge Championships, held this past January at the Southampton Princess Hotel in Bermuda, were an unqualified organizational success. In this and subsequent issues we plan to bring you some of the most interesting deals from those events (the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup, the World Transnational Open Teams Championship and the Senior Teams demonstration).

In their opening-round match of the Bermuda Bowl with USA 1, Chip Martel of USA 2 found a way to take 10 tricks in a heart game with the help of a wrinkle.

a low club and ruffed another diamond. He then ran trumps to reach the following position:

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|--|
| Bd: 6 | ♠ A65 | | |
| Dlr: East | ♥ 8652 | | |
| Vul: E/W | ♦ KQ3 | | |
| | ♣ A85 | | |
| ♠ Q3 | | ♠ 109874 | |
| ♥ KJ10943 | | ♥ AQ | |
| ♦ 4 | | ♦ AJ865 | |
| ♣ KJ109 | | ♣ 2 | |
| | ♠ KJ2 | | |
| | ♥ 7 | | |
| | ♦ 10972 | | |
| | ♣ Q7643 | | |

| | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|--|
| | ♠ A65 | | |
| | ♥ 8 | | |
| | ♦ --- | | |
| | ♣ 5 | | |
| ♠ Q3 | | ♠ 1098 | |
| ♥ J | | ♥ --- | |
| ♦ --- | | ♦ J8 | |
| ♣ K10 | | ♣ --- | |
| | ♠ KJ2 | | |
| | ♥ --- | | |
| | ♦ --- | | |
| | ♣ Q7 | | |

At one table:

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-----------|--------|----------|
| Soloway | Rosenberg | Hamman | Zia |
| | | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

Rosenberg led the ♦K. Soloway won dummy's ace, then played a club to his king and Rosenberg's ace. Rosenberg got out with a trump and Soloway overtook dummy's queen to play the ♣J, running it to Zia's queen. With two spade tricks still to lose Soloway finished down one. At the other table:

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------------------|------------|---------|----------|
| Martel | Meckstroth | Stansby | Rodwell |
| | | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3♥(1) | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |
| (1) Natural and invitational | | | |

Meckstroth also led the ♦K to dummy's ace but at trick two Martel led a club to the jack and ace. Meckstroth got out with a trump and Martel won in dummy, ruffed a diamond, ruffed

On the play of the last heart, South was winkled. Forced to keep his club guard he had to pitch a spade. But no matter which spade he let go, it would result in ten tricks for Martel who planned to exit with a spade (the queen is best, in case South started with ♠Jxx and North with ♠AKx). In the actual hand if South discarded the ♠2 he could win dummy's ten with the jack but would have to play the ♠K to keep Martel from taking another club finesse for the contract. North would then have to overtake with the ace to avoid the club endplay, but then North would have to give West the free club finesse or put him in dummy where the spades were good. If South discarded a spade honor, Martel would be able to build a spade trick on power, with the club finesse a constant threat. Plus 620 was good for 12 IMPs to USA 2.



"Next, I'll shuffle these cards and..."

In the opening-round match of the Venice Cup, European champions Great Britain met China, the runners-up in the last Venice Cup. Again Board 6 was at issue. At one table the auction was:

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Wang | Smith | Sun | Davies |
| | | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

Nicola Smith led the ♦K to dummy's ace. Wang led a club to the jack and ace and Smith switched to a trump. Declarer won in dummy, ruffed a diamond, then ruffed a club. After ruffing another diamond back to hand, she drew the remaining trumps and cashed the ♣K. There were two spades and a club to lose now for -100. At the other table:

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Dhondy | Zhang | McGowan | Gu |
| | | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

Liz McGowan preferred to feign a third heart rather than rebid her poor spade suit. The play followed the same lines as in the other room except that Dhondy did not cash the ♣K after drawing trumps. She came down to ♣K10 and ♠Q3 while South, like Rodwell before her, had been squeezed out of a spade. Actually, she bared her ♠K to keep three clubs but it didn't matter. When Dhondy exited with a spade South was forced to win and lead a club into the tenace (had she kept two spades the club lead would merely have been delayed by one trick). That was +620 and 12 IMPs to the Brits.

The second VuGraph match of the opening day featured the Bermuda Bowl match between Sweden and China. Here is Board 10.

(See diagram, top of next column)

In the Open Room:

| | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Fredin | Ju | Lindkvist | Fu |
| | | 1♣ | Pass |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Bd: 10 | ♠ AJ1075 |
| Dir: East | ♥ Q82 |
| Vul: Both | ♦ --- |
| | ♣ Q10752 |
| ♠ Q642 | ♠ K3 |
| ♥ 96 | ♥ AKJ3 |
| ♦ KQJ65 | ♦ 32 |
| ♣ 93 | ♣ AK864 |
| | ♠ 98 |
| | ♥ 10754 |
| | ♦ A109874 |
| | ♣ J |

After the strong club and value-showing response North introduced his spade suit, but did not stop E/W from getting to 3NT. North led the ♠10 and declarer rose with the king and played a diamond. South went up with the ace to play a second spade, hoping that North started with a six-card suit, but now declarer had an easy route to nine tricks.

It looks as if ducking the ♦A will make declarer's task more difficult, but there are still several ways to make the contract. Declarer can take the heart finesse, then play a spade cutting communications between the defenders, after which he cannot be prevented from scoring nine tricks, most likely one spade, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

The double dummy program "Deep Finesse" confirmed that the contract cannot be beaten, but that doesn't mean that declarer can't go down! For example, in the match between the leaders in the Venice Cup, Denmark, and India, Charlotte Koch-Palmund and Bettina Kalkerup found a way to exploit a slight mistake by declarer. The opening lead was the ♠10, which held. North played a second spade to dummy's king and declarer played a diamond to the queen. Next came a club to the king and a second diamond. Charlotte rose with the ace and exited with a heart, nine, queen, king. The Daily News said that we all know to be careful about Greeks bearing gifts, but clearly we must now add the dangerous Danes to this list. Declarer, who failed to see the danger, cashed her second top club on which South made a second and more spectacular gift to her opponent by discarding

a heart! Now she could no longer be endplayed, and North took the setting tricks.

Back to the Closed Room of the Sweden-China match. The auction to 3NT was shorter:

| | | | |
|------|-----------|------|---------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Yang | Andersson | Cao | Gulberg |
| | | 1♣ | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Dble | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

The play to the first few tricks was the same as in the Open Room, and when South again rose with the ♦A declarer was a heavy favorite. South played the ♠8 and when that held the trick he played another diamond. Declarer won, cashed a second diamond, then took the heart finesse. He was clearly annoyed that he had not cashed his third diamond winner and failed to see that he had a winning line by cashing his top hearts followed by the ♣A and a low club, which would have forced North to lead into the club tenace. 12 IMPs to Sweden.

Put yourself in many-time World Champion Paul Soloway's seat (South) on this deal from USA 1's fourth-round match with Argentina. The contract is 3NT.

| | |
|----------|---------|
| You/Paul | Dummy |
| ♠ AJ95 | ♠ K108 |
| ♥ A9 | ♥ QJ6 |
| ♦ K765 | ♦ A10 |
| ♣ J97 | ♣ KQ643 |

The opening lead is a small heart. You play low and RHO's ten forces your ace. You play a club to the king and ace and the heart return is ducked to dummy's jack. LHO pitches a low diamond when you play a club to your jack, and he pitches another diamond when you lead another club to dummy's queen. How would you continue?

You could try to guess the ♠Q, but if you're wrong and hearts are five-three (as appears to be the case) the defense will be able to cash three hearts to defeat you. But if you cash the two top diamonds and then exit with the ♥Q, West will be able to cash his heart winners but will then have to resolve the spade guess for you. That is what Paul Soloway did, only to find

that the hearts were actually six-two and that West could cash one more than he was supposed to. This was the full deal:

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| | ♠ K108 | |
| | ♥ QJ6 | |
| | ♦ A10 | |
| | ♣ KQ643 | |
| ♠ Q6 | | ♠ 7432 |
| ♥ K87432 | | ♥ 105 |
| ♦ 9842 | | ♦ QJ3 |
| ♣ 2 | | ♣ A1085 |
| | ♠ AJ95 | |
| | ♥ A9 | |
| | ♦ K765 | |
| | ♣ J97 | |

Almost everyone else who declared 3NT made it. If West wins the second heart and clears the suit, it is safe for declarer to finesse the spade through West to establish his ninth trick. Who was that West masked man who ducked to give Soloway a losing option? It was Argentina's Carlos Lucena.

(Continues tomorrow)



"I want to thank all of you for coming to this, my first annual testimonial..."

Good luck to everyone!