

It's the DEFENDERS versus GREAT BRITAIN in the NEC Cup Finals

In yesterday's quarter-final matches USA took the early lead over JAPAN WOMEN and increased it in the second segment to 121.5 to 53. Although WOMEN made a modest comeback (48-38) in the third and final segment, it was just too much USA as the ladies bowed out gracefully after their heroic last-minute qualification for the knockouts. The DEFENDING CHAMPIONS also took an early lead in their match against JAPAN GOING (54-26), but here the GOING got tough as they drew to within 21imps with 16 boards to play. But the third segment was a 58-8 blowout and the GOING were finally gone. AUSTRALIA NEWMAN took the early lead over INDONESIA SACUL (68-31) and increased it (albeit marginally) in each of the remaining segments. Now it's rice time for INDONESIA. GREAT BRITAIN had met INDONESIA PATTIMURA several times previously and each time the Brits won in a blowout. This time the disheartened opponents were expecting the worst, and when the match turned against them early on (88-44 after 32 boards) they decided not to delay their previously-made flight plans and bowed out of the final segment to head for the airport. We'd might have headed for Bali ourselves under similar circumstances.

In the semi-finals USA took the early—if not quite commanding—lead (14-10) over the DEFENDERS and then suffered a major breakdown, losing the second segment by a three-to-one ratio (20-60) and the third segment 23-30. The DEFENDERS got to the final the old-fashioned way—they *earned* it. AUSTRALIA broke on top of GREAT BRITAIN 49-27 and then, like the USA in the other semi, they suffered a complete collapse. The Brits stormed back with a 70-29 second segment and capped it off with a convincing 37-11 nightcap. So great was their exhilaration at once again playing in the NEC Cup final that Papa was reportedly overheard outside the playing rooms, immediately following the comparison, saying, "Did anyone pick up my convention card?" There you have it.

Reminder: Starting Times

Final & Playoff (3rd) 1: 10:00-12:20; **Final & Playoff (3rd) 2:** 12:40-15:00;
Final 3: 16:00-18:20; **Final 4:** 18:40-21:00
Ouchi Cup 2: 10:00-17:00

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

Quarter-Finals Summary

Teams	1 st Segment	2 nd Segment	3 rd Segment	Final
USA	55	66.5	38	159.5
JAPAN WOMEN	35	18	48	101
DEFENDERS	54	32	58	144
GOING	26	39	8	73
INDONESIA	31	38	20	89
AUSTRALIA	68	39	27	134
PATTIMURA	39	5	Withdrew	44
GREAT BRITAIN	42	46		88

Semi-Finals Summary

Teams	1 st Segment	2 nd Segment	3 rd Segment	Final
USA	14	20	23	57
DEFENDERS	10	60	30	100
AUSTRALIA	49	29	11	89
GREAT BRITAIN	27	70	37	134

The NEC Cup Bridge Festival Is on the Internet

We are happy to announce that our Bulletins are once again available on the Internet. Call your family and friends and tell them they can follow the adventures of the **NEC Cup 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>

Qualifiers for Today's Ouchi Cup Final

Sec.	Rank	VP	
NEC	3		Deny Sacul, Henky Lasut, Freddy Manoppo, Franky Karwur, Santje Panelewen, Robert Parasian
NEC	5		GELLER Robert, OGIHARA Setsuko, ABE Hiroya, NARITA Hidenori
NEC	8		SHIMAMURA Kyoko, FUKUDA Shoko, SETOGUCHI Nobuko, OTA Hiroko
A	1	188	Robert Lebi, Nader Hanna, John Carruthers, George Mittelman, Eric Kokish
A	2	147	ICHIHASHI Misuzu, SENGA Kazuko, FUKUDA Yoshiko, MIZUUCHI Aiko
A	3	123	KYOSHIMA Toshinobu, KYOSHIMA Noriko, ANAZAWA Keiko, TAJIRI Betty
B	1	182	Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon, Pat Walsh, Adam Mesbur
B	2	156	HIRATA Makoto, HAYASHI Nobuyuki, TAKANO Hideki, KOBAYASHI Yasushi
B	3	136	SATO Keiko, ISHIGAKI Shohei, SUGAI Toshiya, SATO Kazuo
C	1	190	Jose I. Torres, Antonio Frances, Luis Lantaron, Juan C. Ventin
C	2	140	TAN Mizuko, SEKIYAMA Hiroko, NENOHI Yoko, SAITO Toyoko
C	3	131	WAKASA Masaharu, AGATA Yoshitaka, KOMURO Yoko, KINKYO Ikuko
D	1	178	Paul Marston, Malcolm Mayer, Simon Hinge, Cathy Chua
D	2	165	MORIMURA Syunsuke, AMANO Ayako, SEKIZAWA Miho, NAKAMURA Yoshiyuki
D	3	155	TERAI Takashi, NODA Hiroyuki, KONISHI Yoshihisa, YANAGISAWA Akiko
E	1	166	Irving Litvack, Roy Hughes, Darren Wolpert, Jurek Czyzowics
E	2	165	SAKAMOTO Yayoi, TOYOFUKU Kyoko, YAMADA Yuko, ARAI Junko
E	3	140	UEKI Katsuhiko, TAKA Yugo, SHIDA Noboru, ARAKAWA Soichi
F	1	181	Gu Ling, Zhang Yalan, Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Wang Wenfei, Zhang Yu
F	2	166	HIGASHIGUCHI Takeshi, SASAKI Kazunori, IWAHASHI Michiko, INABA Toshio
F	3	162	MIYAKUNI Kenji, FURUTA Kazuo, TANAKA Ryoga, SHIMIZU Yasuhiro
G	1	158	KAWAKAMI Kuniaki, ASAOKA Kenichi, TSUJI Yoshio, IZAKI Kenichi
G	2	142	NAKATANI Takako, IEMORI Harue, TAMURA Emiko, KOSAKA Yasuko
G	3	141	K. Lasocki, P. Gawrys, E. Otvosi, M. Borewicz
H	1	154	Liu Fong Ming, Tsao Wei Wei, Chuang Chi Rong, Cheng Te Chern, Cheng Te Tung, Chen Hung Yu
H	2-3	146	Hu Hsi Chen, Tsao Yen Yen, Yen Den Min, Lee Jong Fu, Hsiao Tzu Liang, Chiu Wei Chun
H	2-3	146	SAEKI Kazuo, MORIMOTO Hiroshi, SATO Haruyoshi, KOBAYASHI Junzo
H	4	138	TAKANO Hiroko, SHIBATA Kiyomi, OKADA Yuko, SASAKI Keiko

Scenes of Enjoyment



The Quarter-finals: Second Chance

Second Segment:

Bd: 17	North
Dlr: North	♠ KJ109543
Vul: None	♥ KJ4
	♦ 7
	♣ K8
West	East
♠ 876	♠ A
♥ 9	♥ A8532
♦ KQJ1065	♦ A932
♣ AQ10	♣ J94
	South
	♠ Q2
	♥ Q1076
	♦ 84
	♣ 76532

6♦ is laydown and seven is on a finesse, which figures to lose if North opens 1♠ and win if North opens 3♠ (as did Henry Tumiwa of PATTIMURA) or 4♠. Only two pairs bid 6♦. We can't tell you how Seiya Shimizu-Hiroya Abe got there, but we do have the auction of Bagchi-Browne (see below) to bring in 11 imps for GOING and AUSTRALIA.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
	1♠	Dbl	Pass
2♠	3♠	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
	1♠	Dbl	Pass
2♠	Dbl	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
	3♠	Dbl	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
	1♠	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

The 5♦ bids chosen by Papa Hackett and Lasut and Waradia's 4♦ seem too cautious to these weary eyes. We confess also to being concerned with the current state of Peter Newman's muse; just what was that double of 2♠ supposed to accomplish? Earth to Newman: please summarize your views for class tomorrow morning, if not sooner.

Bd: 18	North
Dlr: East	♠ 75
Vul: N/S	♥ J92
	♦ 65
	♣ AK9654
West	East
♠ A1093	♠ KQJ642
♥ A84	♥ 73
♦ A974	♦ 83
♣ J7	♣ Q108
	South
	♠ 8
	♥ KQ1065
	♦ KQJ102
	♣ 32

East has a perfectly normal weak two-bid, unless he prefers to open 3♠ when he has a real weak two at favorable vulnerability. Speak to John Armstrong about that. South's action over 2♠ or 3♠ is hardly clear, however, and it's easy to sympathize with pass, an overcall in hearts, and even a takeout double (ugh). There's not much purpose in bidding diamonds first or in feigning a strong two-suiter.

In USA vs OLYMPIAD, Hayden-Itabashi sold out to 4♠ and beat it, a good result. Ota-Setoguchi took the push to 5♥ and went one down, doubled. 6 imps to USA, 61-35.

The same pair of results were achieved in DEFENDERS vs GOING, Imakura-Teramoto

going minus 200 in 5♥ doubled while Geller-Ogihara collected 50 against 4♠. GOING gained 6imps and moved to within 11imps, 43-54.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
		2♠	Dbl
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
		2♦(1)	2♥
4♠	All Pass		
(1) Multi 2♦			

Santje Panelewen's decision to remain silent over 4♠ suggests that his partnership's takeout doubles are not always as shape-suitable as yours or mine. Right he was, too. Lasut's Multi 2♦ let Del'Monte come in cheaply, but no one bit deeper over 4♠. An honorable flat board.

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
		3♠	4♦
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
		2♠	3♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Waradia's 2♠ extracted 3♥ from Jason but here it was more attractive for Justin to bid on over 4♠ because the partnership style in such positions is quite conservative. Not a lucky deal for the twins, at least in absolute terms. Minus 200 when they could have been plus 50. Relatively, however, minus 200 was wonderful for them. Noldy George's 4♦ was a hopeful attempt to combine aggression with safety but it was too deep a view. He finished in 5♦ doubled and was forced immediately. He was

lucky that Papa held three hearts so that two of those would cash, but he lost control nonetheless and was three down; minus 800. 12imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 54-40.

Bd: 19	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KQ7		
Vul: E/W	♥ K1063		
	♦ J63		
	♣ Q43		
West		East	
♠ 10854		♠ AJ632	
♥ A875		♥ Q94	
♦ K84		♦ Q107	
♣ J7		♣ 82	
	South		
	♠ 9		
	♥ J2		
	♦ A952		
	♣ AK10965		

All the Norths declared 3NT, seven of them on a spade lead to the nine, ten, and king. We can see that the defense is entitled to prevail, East keeping all his spades, West rising on the first heart play to return a spade, and the defenders efficiently unblocking the suit.

The board was canceled in USA vs OLYMPIAD when a realistic result could not be determined at one table following a revoke. The Director's ruling awarded 5.5imps to USA, who led now 66.5-35.

Abe-Shimizu for GOING got the defense right. Chen, East, was the only player in that seat to lead something other than a spade, choosing the ♦7. Bob Geller ducked (it would not have helped him to win because the defenders would then have had two hearts, two diamonds, and a spade) to the king and went two down on a spade switch. 2imps to DEFENDERS, 56-43.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			1♦(1)
Pass	1♥	1♠	3♣(2)
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Strong; (2) Longer clubs

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
			2♣(1)
Pass	2♦(2)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

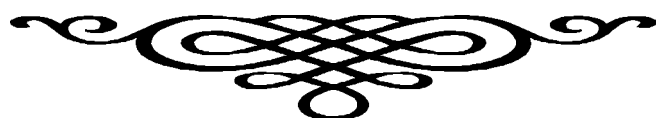
(1) Precision; (2) Relay

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In both of the other matches the contract was made at one table. Both Santje Panelewen and Peter Newman crossed to a club and called for the ♥J. Both Browne and Manoppo rose with the ♥A and returned the ♠8 to the queen and ace. Lasut-Manoppo had competed to 3♠ (curiously, Lasut was the only East to overcall in these two matches) so the spade position was clear. Lasut continued with the ♠J and ran the suit for one down. Bagchi thought that the ♠8 marked Browne with three spades and not four. He exited with a club and Santje ran for cover with nine tricks. 10 imps to INDONESIA, 41-79.

PATTIMURA's Tumiwa decided to run his clubs. The defense made no error here, Papa Hackett throwing a spade to clarify the position and Armstrong parting with two hearts and two diamonds. Justin too ran the clubs but here Waradia, East, threw three hearts and then...a spade. Plus 400 and 10 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 64-40.



Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ 95
Vul: Both	♥ 763
	♦ J9754
	♣ 876
West	East
♠ KQJ6432	♠ A10
♥ J10	♥ AQ2
♦ Q	♦ K103
♣ Q94	♣ AKJ105
	South
	♠ 87
	♥ K9854
	♦ A862
	♣ 32

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Dbl
6♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

An easy slam, reached at all eight tables. Note the evolution of Papa Hackett, who is now playing two-over-one (mostly) game-forcing.

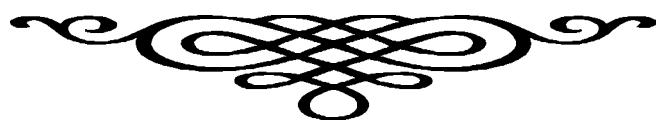
Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ J10
Vul: N/S	♥ QJ4
	♦ Q76
	♣ AKQ104
West	East
♠ A75	♠ Q982
♥ K93	♥ 8765
♦ J104	♦ 9
♣ J932	♣ 8765
	South
	♠ K643
	♥ A102
	♦ AK8532
	♣ ---

6♦ is the sort of slam you don't mind being in but don't mind missing. It may be cold or unmakeable but is more likely to depend on a guess, provided that nothing bad happens early in the play. Both N/S pairs bid it in three of the four matches. In USA vs OLYMPIAD, North declared 6♦ after a no-major response to Stayman. We are not privy to the opening lead information but we can report that Garey Hayden went two down while Nobuko Setoguchi made it. 17 imps to OLYMPIAD, back in the match at 53-66.5.

For the DEFENDERS, Ino-Imakura stopped at 5♦, plus 600. Would that be good or bad? As it happened, Geller-Ogihara (GOING) stopped at 3NT, plus 660, so the deal was not significant. 2 imps to GOING, 45-56.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠(2)
Pass	3NT(3)	Pass	5♦(4)
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			
(1) GF relay; (2) Relay; (3) 2335 shape			
(4) Slam INVIT			

Panelewen got a low spade lead through the king. He made the normal play from dummy by following low, and was later able to ruff a spade and throw two hearts and a spade on clubs, losing only one spade; plus 1370. Ishmael Del'Monte declared from the South side after a relay auction and got a neutral trump lead (essential for the defense, really) from Eddy Manoppo, who had a good picture of dummy's shape and honor location (6♣). Ish won the trump king, crossed back to the queen, threw three spades on the high clubs, and lost the heart finesse and the ♠A for one down; minus 100. 16 imps to INDONESIA, 57-79.

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Tumiwa got a spade lead, which he ducked, and came to 12 tricks in the fashion of Panelewen. Justin got the lead of the ♥8 from Waradia. In certain circles you would always play the opening leader for the king but Justin's aim was true. He played the ace, went to the ♦Q, threw two hearts and a spade on clubs, and passed the ♠J. A spade ruff in North was

his twelfth winner. No swing.

Bd: 22	North	
Dlr: East	♠ 9876	
Vul: E/W	♥ 854	
	♦ 72	
	♣ AKJ3	
West		East
♠ AJ10		♠ Q432
♥ A932		♥ KJ107
♦ A54		♦ KQ86
♣ 1095		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ K5	
	♥ Q6	
	♦ J1093	
	♣ Q8764	

Despite the magnificent club combination, 6♥ is a very poor contract, and it's not surprising that no one got past game.

Bd: 23	North	
Dlr: South	♠ AQ1065	
Vul: Both	♥ AQ108	
	♦ 983	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ 87		♠ K
♥ 97		♥ K643
♦ AKQ105		♦ J64
♣ K852		♣ QJ976
	South	
	♠ J9432	
	♥ J52	
	♦ 72	
	♣ 1043	

If you had your x-ray vision activated you would like to be in 4♠ with the N/S cards, but if you knew that declarer was going to drop the ♠K you would want to compete to 5♣ with the E/W cards. What's a player to do?

The defense against spades usually began with one or two rounds of diamonds and a heart switch. The right play in 3♠ is to win the ♥A and play the ♠A. Plus 170 for Hayden (USA). Minus 100 for Setoguchi (OLYMPIAD),

however, who lost to the ♠K and then ran into a heart ruff. 7 imps to USA, 73.5-53.

In DEFENDERS vs GOING, Abe-Shimizu bought the contract at 4♣, plus 130, and their teammates did even better, Geller-san making the 4♠ contract he happened to be in. After a club lead, he won and led a diamond to West's ten. When a heart came back, Geller rose with the ace (East had bid the suit and jump-raised West's secondary clubs), considering it likely that if West had two hearts he would not hold the doubleton king of trumps (Chen-Hirata tend to open some offshape notrumps and West seemed to hold three diamond honors and the ♣K already; the ♠K would have given him something close to a strong notrump). Having committed himself in hearts, he could not get to dummy in time to finesse spades in any case so...♠A. If you are having trouble following all of this so are we. Our anticipated headache has materialized. 13 imps to GOING, who took the lead, 58-56.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
			Pass
1♦	1♠	Dbl*	3♠
Dbl*	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			Pass
1♦(1)	1♠	Dbl*	2♠
Pass	Pass!	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
4♣	All Pass		

(1) Precision

When we saw the Closed Room auction we suspected a misprint, but with Peter Newman you never know what to expect. His pass of 2♠, however, is our candidate for the Y2K John Birch Society prize for the most pessimistic call in a major championship on this side of the International Date Line. Earth to Newman: a negative double of 1♠ does not promise king-jack-nine-seven of hearts. Lasut made his plus 130 in 4♣. Now, if only Santje could bring

home 4♠ INDONESIA would be back in business. Khokan Bagchi led a club but there was no fast entry to dummy to take the spade finesse. "Ace of spades," whispered the Great Indonesian Bridge Spirit in the Sky." Diamond, played Santje. Switch to the ♥9, ducked to the king. Now Santje had his entry to take the losing finesse in trumps, but in practice the defenders never played a second heart and he reached dummy with a third-round diamond ruff. Perhaps East's failure to continue hearts should have alerted Santje to the trump position, but it's all a mind game. Minus 100. 1 imp to INDONESIA, 58-80.

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
1♦	1♠	Dbl*	4♠
All Pass			Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
1♦	1♠	Dbl	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	Pass

Here both pairs of defenders got around to hearts and both declarers lost both the spade finesse and the heart ruff for minus 200. No swing.

Bd: 24	North
Dlr: West	♠ AQ983
Vul: None	♥ J7
	♦ 953
	♣ Q107
West	East
♠ 742	♠ KJ105
♥ Q105	♥ AK6
♦ K62	♦ AQJ
♣ J543	♣ 982
	South
	♠ 6
	♥ 98432
	♦ 10874
	♣ AK6

E/W played the hand in notrump at all eight tables but the levels and the number of tricks taken varied.

USA and OLYMPIAD played 2NT and 1NT respectively, both contracts succeeding and USA gaining 2 imps in overtricks.

In Defenders vs GOING, both declarers took nine tricks but Abe-Shimizu were in game, so GOING gained 6 imps, 64-56. How did 3NT make? Teramoto committed the cardinal sin of leading his partner's suit (spades) so declarer had time for three tricks in each suit but clubs.

Although both Norths bid spades in INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA, only Tobing led his partner's suit against a notrump partscore; Del'Monte led a heart with good effect. 2 imps to AUSTRALIA, 82-58.

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Dbl*	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Here Jason would have been forgiven for leading a fatal spade, but like Ish, he started a heart and defeated the contract. Although clubs were three-three, the defense was a tempo ahead and declarer was an entry short to take three spade tricks on his own power. Cute. 6 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 69-40.



"Let's see, I used to know what that meant."

Bd: 25	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 52		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQJ10942		
	♦ ---		
	♣ 10843		
West		East	
♠ A1043		♠ KJ98	
♥ 5		♥ 863	
♦ 1075		♦ AKQ643	
♣ AQJ75		♣ ---	
	South		
	♠ Q76		
	♥ K7		
	♦ J982		
	♣ K962		

Any expert would tell you he'd like to be in 6♦ with the E/W cards because he believes he is a favorite to the guess the ♠Q. The downside to this reasoning is that there are a few negative possibilities that change the basic percentages; one is a five-zero spade break, another a four-zero diamond break. In truth, this deal is complicated further by the presence of the four-four spade fit, which might well be the trump suit, and there is immediate pressure after two rounds of hearts.

In USA vs OLYMPIAD, Kyoko Shimamura overcalled Hayden's 4♥ with 5♦ and Shoko Fukuda raised to six. Mark Itabashi found a double and Kyoko went one down, losing a heart and a trump; minus 200. Bad luck. Robison-Freed stopped at 4♠ in the other room so USA gained 13 imps, 88.5-53.

Both E/W pairs stopped in 4♠ in DEFENDERS vs GOING.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	
	4♥	Dbl	Pass	
4♠	All Pass			
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	
	4♥	Dbl	Pass	
4♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Henry Lasut is not a pessimist by nature but his raise to 6♠ was a big bid, even for him. Newman led two rounds of hearts against Eddy Manoppo, who saw that he might make his slam against four trumps in the South hand even after being forced. Catering to this not unlikely position, he led a diamond, intending to pass the ♠9. Alas, Newman ruffed in and played another heart and Eddy finished two down; minus 200. Browne took all thirteen tricks on a club lead, so AUSTRALIA scooped up 13 imps, 95-58.

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>	
	3♥	Dbl	3NT	
4♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass	
4♠	Pass	5♠	Pass	
6♠	All Pass			

	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>	
	4♥	Dbl	Pass	
6♣	Pass	6♦	Dbl	
6♠	Dbl	All Pass		

Henry Tumiwa found the thoughtful lead of the ♥4 (why that pip?) against 6♠. Noldy George, who was more or less marked with the ♥K, won it and returned a diamond. Papa guessed spades for one down. It was more exciting at the other table, where the red doubling cards were descending in syncopated rhythm. Here it would have been silly to underlead in hearts so Justin led ace and another. Bakti proceeded to misguess trumps and a third trump deprived him of the opportunity to ruff out diamonds. Two down; minus 500. 9 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 78-40.



"So I ruffed and if spade had been seven-one I'd have made it."

Bd: 27	North
Dlr: South	♠ Q9543
Vul: None	♥ Q8
	♦ 93
	♣ 9752
West	East
♠ K1087	♠ ---
♥ 42	♥ AKJ953
♦ A5	♦ K8764
♣ KJ1064	♣ Q8
	South
	♠ AJ62
	♥ 1076
	♦ QJ102
	♣ A3

For all the E/W pairs but one this was a normal 4♥ (or 3NT for Robison-Freed). Shimamura-Fukuda stopped to double 2♠ and beat it one, turning over 8 imps to USA, who led 97.5-53.

Five of the six declarers in 4♥ had no trouble with this one but PATTIMURA's Bakti lost his way in the play, eventually losing three trump tricks on ruffs and overruffs. 10 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 88-41.

Bd: 28	North
Dlr: West	♠ 87
Vul: N/S	♥ 10763
	♦ 943
	♣ J862
West	East
♠ AK1096	♠ QJ32
♥ AQ82	♥ KJ54
♦ 5	♦ A1076
♣ KQ3	♣ 5
	South
	♠ 54
	♥ 9
	♦ KQJ82
	♣ A10974

This excellent slam was bid by six of the eight E/W pairs. Abe-Shimizu missed it and so did Bagchi-Browne. DEFENDERS reclaimed the lead against GOING, 68-65 and INDONESIA moved to within 28 imps of AUSTRALIA, 68-96.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	2♥(2)	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♠(3)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

(1) Strong; (2) Positive, 3-suited or BAL
(3) 9-11, 4441♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	2♠(2)	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♥(3)	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

(1) Precision; (2) 4441; (3) 11-13, 4441♣

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
1♠	Pass	4♣(1)	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦*	Dbl
6♠	All Pass		

(1) Splinter raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	1♠(2)	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣(3)	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥*	Passa
6♠	All Pass		

(1) Strong; (2) 3 controls; (3) Splinter raise

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q53
Vul: Both	♥ A1052
	♦ AJ7
	♣ 1098
West	East
♠ 2	♠ A10764
♥ J63	♥ 974
♦ Q1062	♦ K9
♣ 75432	♣ AQ6
	South
	♠ KJ98
	♥ KQ8
	♦ 8543
	♣ KJ

N/S can make 3NT, but first they have to find a way into the auction. In USA vs OLYMPIAD, Hayden reopened 1♠ with 1NT and reached game when Itabashi raised; plus 600. Setoguchi, in contrast, passed out 1♠, down 300. 7 imps to USA, 104.5-53.

Imakura-Teramoto reached game for DEFENDERS against GOING, but Geller-Ogihara were content with 1NT, South passing North's reopening 1NT bid. 10 imps to DEFENDERS, 78-65.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
	1♦(1)	1♠	3NT
All Pass	(1) Precision		

One way to shut the opponents out of 3NT is to bid notrump before they do. This triumphlet cost Seamus Browne a mere 400 points but when Newman opened the North hand at the other table, the much-needed plus 600 was soon forthcoming. 5 imps to AUSTRALIA, 101-68.

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl*	Pass	1NT	Dbl
2♣	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
	1♥	1♠	3NT
All Pass			

Two different routes to 3NT, with the Open Room providing some heart-stopping

excitement in the early going.

Bd: 31	North
Dlr: South	♠ QJ852
Vul: N/S	♥ 53
	♦ 105
	♣ Q753
West	East
♠ 9	♠ 7643
♥ K1064	♥ A97
♦ KJ96	♦ A74
♣ AKJ6	♣ 1094
	South
	♠ AK10
	♥ QJ82
	♦ Q832
	♣ 82

Not a very exciting hand, really, but it was "normal" for E/W to enter the auction at some point and discover that they held no eight-card fit.

Robison-Freed did well to sell out to 2♠, down 200, while Shimamura-Fukuda got all the way to 4♥, down only 50. 6 imps more to USA, 121.5-53.

Imakura was allowed to make 2♠ for DEFENDERS, but Geller-san was down 200 in 3♠ (a tad high). 7 imps to DEFENDERS, 86-65.

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Tobing</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dbl	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2NT(1)	Pass
3♣	All Pass		
(1) Pick a suit			

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			1♦(1)
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) Precision			

We much prefer the plan of Seamus Browne to that of Eddy Manoppo. Bidding twice with only four cards in the overcalled suit is very unsound. 3♣ made on a scramble of sorts, plus 110. 4♥ was minus 100. 5 imps to Australia, 106-69.

PATTIMURA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P Hackett</i>	<i>Tumiwa</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>George</i>
			1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dbl	2♠	2NT(1)	Pass
3♣	All Pass		
(1) Pick a suit			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakti</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Waradia</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dbl	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Both 3♣ contracts made for a push at plus 110.

The set ran out with a dull game.

USA won the second set 66.5-18 and led after 32 deals by 68.5 imps, 121.5-53.

After some strong early bridge in the set, GOING gave back 29 unanswered imps at the end. GOING won the set nonetheless, 39-32, and trailed by 21 imps, 65-86, with 16 boards remaining.



"Tell your fortune?"

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA was fiercely contested, with Oz gaining an imp, 39-38. With one set to play, AUSTRALIA led by 38, 107-69.

GREAT BRITAIN did very well against PATTIMURA, winning the session 46-5 to build a 44-imp lead, 88-44. There's something about those numbers, isn't there? The Indonesians (PATTIMURA) thought it unlikely they could pull out the match against a team that has always beaten them comfortably in the past. Rather than change their travel plans, they resigned.

Had they known all about "44" they might not have done so. In Lille in 1998, two British teams faced one another, one with John Armstrong, the other chock full of Hacketts. One team won the first quarter by...44 imps. The other won the second by...44 imps. Then the other won the third by...44 imps. In the fourth set the trailing team was doing splendidly and at one point the lead was up to ...44 imps. Rather than go into extra innings, the rallying team gave up a nonvulnerable game swing and so won the fourth set by only ...34 imps. True story.

The telephone country code for Great Britain is ...drum roll...44.

Would you concede the match to these guys down only 44 imps?



"A Vision of Tomorrow"

The Quarter-finals: The Last Gasp

Third Segment:

Bd: 33	North	
Dlr: North	♠ KQ	
Vul: None	♥ Q10986	
	♦ Q109	
	♣ A53	
West		East
♠ 8763		♠ 4
♥ A72		♥ K53
♦ AJ8643		♦ K72
♣ ---		♣ KQ10942
	South	
	♠ AJ10952	
	♥ J4	
	♦ 5	
	♣ J876	

Declarer (West) can get away with three losers in a diamond partscore by executing a loser-on-loser play in clubs to pitch the losing heart and later a losing spade, ruffing the other two spades in dummy. USA's Robison-Freed employed this strategy to great effect against OLYMPIAD WOMEN, who reached 5♦ and employed the same strategy to lesser effect, going down one; 5 imps to USA, leading 127-53.

INDONESIA's Panelewen-Parasian employed this strategy to even less effect as they were doubled in 5♦ by AUSTRALIA's Newman-Del'Monte. At the other table Bagchi-Browne allowed Lasut-Manoppo to buy the hand in 3♠, a contract which has surprisingly good play with clubs six-zero and the red-suit honors placed as they are. Unless West underleads his ♦A on the opening lead South can draw trumps and set up hearts for club pitches. In practice Browne led the ♦A and switched to a spade. Manoppo won in dummy, passed the ♥8 to Brown's ace, and on the spade return overtook dummy's king to finish trumps, then drove out the ♥K for an overtrick. Plus 170 and 2 imps to INDONESIA, trailing 71-107.

The DEFENDERS' Teramoto-Imakura were also doubled in 5♦ (by GOING's Geller-Ogihara) for the same down one, but won 1

imp when their teammates, Ino-Chen, played in 2NT on the N/S cards and took eight tricks. DEFENDERS leading, 87-65.

Bd: 34	North	
Dlr: East	♠ AKQ97	
Vul: N/S	♥ J54	
	♦ A2	
	♣ J84	
West		East
♠ 65		♠ J8
♥ 8		♥ A96
♦ Q10986		♦ KJ754
♣ KQ963		♣ A102
	South	
	♠ 10432	
	♥ KQ10732	
	♦ 3	
	♣ 75	

With only three losers N/S can make 4♥ but are in danger in 4♠ due to the heart ruffs available to the defense. But E/W have a counter to 4♥ as 5♦ has only three losers (5♣ suffers from a similar defect to the one in 4♠—a diamond ruff is available to the defense). In USA-OLYMPIAD WOMEN, Hayden-Itabashi took their plus 100 against 5♦ doubled while Setogushi-Ota pressed on to 5♠ at the other table. Robison-Freed doubled but managed to find only one of their heart ruffs for plus 300. 7 imps to USA, 134-53.

DEFENDING CHAMPS and GOING settled for even when both tables found the par spot in 5♦ doubled.

INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA also fought to a push, but not the one either of us would have predicted. Newman-Del'Monte overbid to 5♥ and failed by the obvious trick when the defense cashed their two clubs and still had to come to their ace of trumps. At the other table Lasut-Manoppo sold out to Bagchi-Browne's 3♣ on the auction: 1NT(12-14)-Pass-2NT(either minor)-Pass; 3♣. While Manoppo might have bid with 3♥, the vulnerability was not really all that conducive to it. We think Henky should have doubled 2NT with his chunky spades and

ugly strong notrump, after which Eddy would have surely bid—though whether they would then have reached game is doubtful. Ultimately, we chalk up this result to the weak notrump.

Bd: 35	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 9532	
Vul: E/W	♥ 432	
	♦ 10973	
	♣ 76	
West		East
♠ KQ10		♠ J874
♥ KQJ8		♥ 1095
♦ KQJ5		♦ 842
♣ J8		♣ 1032
	South	
	♠ A6	
	♥ A76	
	♦ A6	
	♣ AKQ954	

Looking at the South hand, with nine very likely tricks lying just beyond your nose, it seems inconceivable to us to stop short of game (3NT). Yet two of the six N/S pairs did just that. Only in INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA was this board pushed in 3NT. GOING's Geller-Ogihura stopped in 2NT, handing 6 more imps to the DEFENDERS, now leading 93-65. Likewise, Hayden-Itabashi handed 6 imps to WOMEN, but their gift only closed the score to 59-134.

Bd: 36	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 8753	
Vul: Both	♥ 9543	
	♦ J95	
	♣ A8	
West		East
♠ A10942		♠ Q
♥ AQ		♥ KJ10
♦ 83		♦ Q10764
♣ K1064		♣ J972
	South	
	♠ KJ6	
	♥ 8762	
	♦ AK2	
	♣ Q53	

With 13 points opposite 9, and no suitable fit, it hardly seems wise to contract for game. So why did USA's Robison-Freed bid all the way to 3NT? Perhaps the water so generously provided by Japan Beverage has more in it than just minerals. Down two, minus 200. Shimamura-Fukuda of WOMEN stopped a level short of game and made a trick more than their USA counterparts for plus 120, to pull the match 8 imps closer at 134-67. The other two matches conducted partscore battles, DEFENDERS emerging with a 1-imp gain over GOING to increase their lead to 94-65, while AUSTRALIA also won 1 imp to bring their lead over INDONESIA to 108-71.

Bd: 37	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 985	
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ	
	♦ 109752	
	♣ 984	
West		East
♠ A763		♠ J42
♥ J73		♥ 865
♦ J3		♦ K8
♣ AQ53		♣ KJ1076
	South	
	♠ KQ10	
	♥ A10942	
	♦ AQ64	
	♣ 2	

Bridge is an "easy" game. Take the above hand. N/S bid 4♥ and E/W get off to their best lead (a club) and continue the suit, tapping declarer. South crosses to the ♥K and plays a diamond to the queen, then crosses to the ♥K and plays a spade to the...ten! The defense can tap declarer once more but South now draws the two remaining trumps and cashes the rest of his winners for plus 650. Not in this world. None of our competitors even sniffed at game. In fact, all of the declarers in hearts (three of them) played at the one level and made an embarrassing twelve tricks when the defense failed to find their club trick; plus 230. The remaining three declarers played in diamonds for either plus 150 or 170. Only USA gained imps on the board (2) to increase their lead over WOMEN to 136-67.

Bd: 38	North	
Dlr: East	♠ 1052	
Vul: E/W	♥ J854	
	♦ KJ64	
	♣ Q10	
West		East
♠ A64		♠ KQJ98
♥ K102		♥ 963
♦ AQ5		♦ 832
♣ K962		♣ J5
	South	
	♠ 73	
	♥ AQ7	
	♦ 1097	
	♣ A8743	

Some might open the chunky five-card suit a weak two-bid but for us the vulnerability is all wrong: Make us white and you can color us aggressive, even with the sterile side-suit distribution. At least eight tricks are available in either spades or notrump. Some spade players found nine tricks (Abe-Shimizu for GOING, Teramoto-Imakura for DEFENDERS, thus pushing the board); others found only seven tricks (AUSTRALIA's Bagchi-Browne), thus losing 5 imps to INDONESIA (76-108).

Bd: 39	North	
Dlr: South	♠ K6	
Vul: Both	♥ 76	
	♦ K843	
	♣ J10976	
West		East
♠ A75		♠ 109842
♥ J1032		♥ 4
♦ J1096		♦ 2
♣ 83		♣ AKQ542
	South	
	♠ QJ3	
	♥ AKQ985	
	♦ AQ75	
	♣ ---	

N/S are cold for game in hearts, and an astute declarer might even make eleven tricks on a club lead: ruff the club, spade to the king, spade to the ace, ruff the club return, draw one round of trumps, pitch a diamond on the third

spade, then ruff a diamond in dummy as West follows helplessly to four rounds of the suit—losing only a spade and a trump. Of course a diamond lead scuttles the overtrick, threatening either a diamond ruff by East or West playing a second trump when he comes in with the ♠A. Other makeable N/S contracts are 3NT and 5♦.

USA's Hayden-Itabashi played 4♥ doubled and made ten tricks (plus 790). At the other table, Setoguchi-Ota for WOMEN took nine tricks in 3NT (plus 600); 5 more imps to USA, leading 146-67. GOING's Geller-Ogihara played 5♦ doubled for plus 750 while DEFENDERS' Ito-Chen scored an unruffled plus 620; 4 imps to GOING, down 69-94. AUSTRALIA's Newman-Del'Monte scored up nine tricks in 3NT for plus 600 while teammates Bagchi-Browne saved in 4♠ over Lasut-Manoppo's 4♥ contract. When the Aussies went for 800, that was 5 imps to INDONESIA, trailing now 81-108.

Bd: 40	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 95	
Vul: None	♥ AQ105	
	♦ J10974	
	♣ 103	
West		East
♠ KQ7		♠ 1063
♥ 763		♥ J84
♦ A83		♦ 652
♣ K765		♣ J842
	South	
	♠ AJ842	
	♥ K92	
	♦ KQ	
	♣ AQ9	

The apparent choice for N/S is between 3NT and 4♠—or so we thought. But two of the pairs found a third choice. USA picked up 1 imp on WOMEN when Hayden-Itabashi's 3NT scored one more trick (eleven) than Setoguchi-Ota's 4♠; 147-67. AUSTRALIA and DEFENDERS each picked up 7 imps against INDONESIA's Lasut-Manoppo and GOING's Geller-Ogihara, respectively, when the latter pairs played in spade partials (2♠ and 1♠, respectively). AUSTRALIA now led 115-81; DEFENDERS 101-69.

A universal heart game came next, followed by:

Bd: 42	North	
Dlr: East	♠ Q	
Vul: Both	♥ AQ42	
	♦ 10874	
	♣ A742	
West		East
♠ 8653		♠ A74
♥ 10		♥ K85
♦ KQ65		♦ A32
♣ Q653		♣ K1098
	South	
	♠ KJ1092	
	♥ J9763	
	♦ J9	
	♣ J	

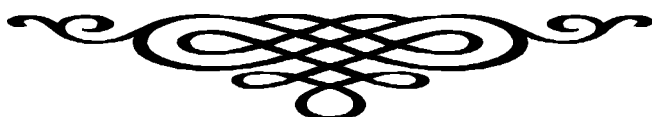
Bd: 44	North	
Dlr: West	♠ A42	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q3	
	♦ AQ75	
	♣ 9764	
West		East
♠ 876		♠ Q
♥ J96		♥ A108742
♦ 864		♦ K103
♣ QJ32		♣ AK10
	South	
	♠ KJ10953	
	♥ K5	
	♦ J92	
	♣ 85	

4♥ on the N/S cards is not the best game (needing no trump loser) but, as they say, we've all been in worse. The DEFENDERS and GOING pushed minus 100s while USA and WOMEN pushed plus 140s. So INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA would break the tie: bid game or stop short? The vote was for game, both N/S pairs bidding it. But a funny thing happened on the way to offsetting minus 100s. Against 4♥ Del'Monte got the ♣6 lead. He won dummy's ace and played the ♠Q. Santje Panelewen won the ace and three round of diamonds followed, Ishmael ruffing the third. Ish then ruffed a spade in dummy and a club in his hand, then led a heart to dummy's ace and continued with a low heart. Santje won the king and returned a third heart to dummy's queen. Now dummy had only losing minor-suit cards and declarer ended up down three; minus 300 and 5 imps to INDONESIA, trailing 86-115.

Everyone bid game (4♠ or 3NT) on Board 43 and made it, often with overtricks. INDONESIA picked up 2 overtrick imps, to bring AUSTRALIA's lead down to 17 imps at 88-115. The DEFENDERS picked up 1 overtrick imp to lead GOING 102-69. And USA-WOMEN pushed, still 147-67.

N/S are cold for 3♥, while E/W might make 4♠ if the defense fails to get the diamonds going early enough. But, as usual, the advantage goes to the side that opens the bidding, here N/S. In two of the matches (INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA; USA-WOMEN) N/S bought the contract for 3♠ and made it, pushing the board. In the third match the DEFENDERS' Ino-Chen also played in 3♠ for plus 140 while at the other table Teramoto-Imakura weren't going quietly. They bid on to 4♥ where they were doubled for their impudence by GOING's Geller-Ogihara. Unfortunately the sword cuts both ways. On the spade lead and continuation declarer has the timing to ruff, draw trumps, and pitch a diamond on the fourth club. Plus 590 was 12 imps to DEFENDERS, leading now 114-69.

Bd: 45	North	
Dlr: North	♠ KQ10	
Vul: Both	♥ 9	
	♦ KQJ54	
	♣ 10965	
West		East
♠ J8		♠ 976542
♥ A1032		♥ KJ8654
♦ 9762		♦ ---
♣ KJ2		♣ Q
	South	
	♠ A3	
	♥ Q7	
	♦ A1083	
	♣ A8743	



When a pair opens the bidding, they feel entitled to punish an opponent who they believe has bid “too much” in their (the openers’) auction. Case in point: Board 45. In all three matches E/W were doubled in some number of hearts (four or five) after N/S opened the bidding. Consider this auction:

INDONESIA vs AUSTRALIA

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
	1♦(1)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	4♦	DbI
4♥	Pass	Pass	DbI
All Pass			
(1) Precision			

South must have had more descriptive bids at his disposal other than 3NT at his first turn. A simple 2♣ comes to mind, as does an inverted 2♦. His double of 4♦ should show defense against the majors (the hand East showed with 4♦)—not diamonds—given his initial 3NT bid. But when North could not double 4♥, what made South so willing to defend? We’ll tell you what: the impudence of the side that opened the auction. Pairs who open light must adjust their thinking accordingly. Look what happened at the other table in this same match.

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Panlwn</i>	<i>Del’Monte</i>
	1♦(1)	2♦(2)	DbI
2♥	Pass	3♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) Precision-like; (2) Majors			

South’s initial double, like the double of 4♦ in the Open Room, should suggest defense against the majors—which South doesn’t have. Then N/S engaged in an ask-me-tell-you misunderstanding when South pretty clearly bid 3♠ to suggest a stopper while North took it to be asking for one—hence the 3NT bid. Not surprisingly the defense took the first six tricks; plus 200 for INDONESIA. Combined with their minus 790 in the Open Room INDONESIA yielded a tidy 11 imps to AUSTRALIA, who led now 126-88.

USA’s Hayden-Itabashi doubled WOMEN’s

Shimura-Fukuda in 4♥ and conceded minus 790 while at the other table Setoguchi-Ota doubled Robison-Freed in 5♥ and picked up another plus 200; 14 imps to WOMEN, trailing now 81-147.

GOING’s Abe-Shimizu also got overboard in 5♥ doubled while the DEFENDERS’ Teramoto-Imakura stopped in 3♥ at the other table; 9 imps to the DEFENDERS, leading 123-69.

Bd: 46	North	
Dlr: East	♠ AKQ865	
Vul: None	♥ 64	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ 763	
West		East
♠ 104		♠ J9
♥ Q1083		♥ AKJ52
♦ AK1098		♦ 65432
♣ 105		♣ 9
	South	
	♠ 732	
	♥ 97	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AKQJ842	

Another big double-fit hand. This time N/S are cold for 4♠ while E/W have a good save in five of either red suit. If East passes, South has a choice of openings. Those who play a “Gambling” 3NT style will find this hand more-or-less suitable. Others might open 1♣ (natural), 2♣ (Precision) or some other number of clubs (perverted).

In INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA both N/S pairs played 4♠. Lasut-Manoppo managed an overtrick to cut their deficit by 1 imp to 89-126.

GOING’s Abe-Shimizu allowed DEFENDERS’ Ino-Chen to play in 4♠ (plus 420). At the other table Geller-Ogihara took the push to 5♠ and suffered a one-trick set; 10 more imps to the CHAMPS, 133-69.

In USA-WOMEN Hayden-Itabashi played in 4♠ and made five, while WOMEN’s Setoguchi-Ota “Gambled” out 3NT and ended up minus 300; 13 imps to USA, leading 160-81.

Bd: 47	North	
Dlr: South	♠ Q532	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q108	
	♦ AK4	
	♣ 863	
West		East
♠ 97		♠ K6
♥ AJ73		♥ K92
♦ Q8		♦ J9732
♣ AKJ107		♣ Q92
	South	
	♠ AJ1084	
	♥ 654	
	♦ 1065	
	♣ 54	

Both E/W pairs in INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA thought the hand belonged in 3NT. Both were wrong and suffered three- and two-trick sets, respectively; 2 imps to AUSTRALIA, 128-89. Shimamura-Fukuda for WOMEN thought the E/W cards were worth 1NT. They were closer to being right than the pairs in the previous match as they scored up an overtrick. USA's Robison-Freed's result paralleled that of the Indonesians both as to level and tricks. 7 imps to WOMEN, trailing 88-160. The DEFENDERS' Teramoto-Imakura also tried 3NT, albeit by East (the others had all played from the West side). That meant down only one—certainly an improvement. GOING's Abe-Shimizu stopped wisely in 2♣ and made an overtrick; 4 imps to GOING, trailing now 73-133.

Bd: 48	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 83	
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ10862	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 9842	
West		East
♠ 109		♠ A742
♥ J74		♥ K
♦ AQ832		♦ 96
♣ 1063		♣ AKQJ75
	South	
	♠ KQJ65	
	♥ 953	
	♦ KJ1054	
	♣ ---	

The possibilities on this are endless. The top spot belongs to 3NT (E/W), which is impervious to any lead from either side. But how to get there? Our vote for the most "normal" (and therefore least likely) auction to 3NT would be: Pass-2♥-Dbl-2♠; 3♦-Pass-3♥-Pass; 3♠-Pass-3NT (with West's 3♠ simply saying "I'm not prepared to go beyond 3NT yet," thus likely suggesting a partial heart stopper). Of course N/S might easily save in 4♥, where "the play's the thing." Depending on the lead North might make eight, nine or even ten tricks.

5♣ appears to have no play, although somehow WOMEN's Shimamura-Fukuda managed to make it. When the same contract was replayed by USA's Robison-Freed, it failed by two (count 'em) tricks. That was 13 imps to WOMEN, who won the battle (final segment) 48-38 but lost the war (match) 101-160.

At one table INDONESIA beat AUSTRALIA's in 5♣ doubled one trick for plus 200 while at the other table they defended 4♥ for minus 420. That was 6 imps to the Aussies, who won the match 134-89.

In DEFENDERS-GOING the contract was 4♥ at both tables—doubled by the CHAMPS. When GOING failed by one trick (minus 100) while DEFENDERS scored up plus 420, that was 11 more imps to the CHAMPIONS to give them the victory, 144-73.

So USA would take on the DEFENDING CHAMPIONS in one semi-final and AUSTRALIA would meet GREAT BRITAIN in the other. Look for the happenings in those matches below.



"And if he psychs again I'll report him to Nakatani-san."

The Semifinals

USA vs DEFENDING CHAMPIONS
AUSTRALIA (Newman) vs GREAT BRITAIN

First Segment:

Bd: 1	North		
Dir: North	♠ AQ842		
Vul: None	♥ 3		
	♦ 1084		
	♣ J1082		
West		East	
♠ 95		♠ 106	
♥ QJ85		♥ AK1076	
♦ J9632		♦ A	
♣ Q4		♣ AK975	
	South		
	♠ KJ73		
	♥ 942		
	♦ KQ75		
	♣ 63		

It seems to us that if your partner takes the trouble to introduce his spades (not without considerable risk in USA vs DEFENDERS) you (South) owe it to him and to the partnership to get yourself to 4♠ in a hurry. You might argue that it would make no difference here but is that true? Jason Hackett knew he was facing a good two-suiter so his limited assets were golden and his action was clear cut, but it might not have been so. And his partner might have raised him to six, even here. Well-judged by the twins. Well-pushed by Seamus and Khokan. No swing in either match.

Bd: 2	North		
Dir: East	♠ AK8		
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ97		
	♦ A9		
	♣ K762		
West		East	
♠ 42		♠ 106	
♥ K532		♥ Q1064	
♦ Q85		♦ 7643	
♣ Q1094		♣ A53	
	South		
	♠ QJ9753		
	♥ 8		
	♦ KJ102		
	♣ J8		

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♣	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	All Pass

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
	2♠(1)	4♣(2)	4♠
5♥	All Pass		
(1) 6♠ or 5♠/4m; (2) ♥+♣, strong			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
	2♠	Dbl	3♠
Dbl*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
		Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	5♠	All Pass	5♣

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

Fortunately for Browne-Bagchi, 5♠ was given an easy ride on a club lead; plus 680. Hey Seamus, how many key cards do you guys need for a small slam, not to mention the trump queen as a kicker? Blackwood indeed. We'd love to tell you what everyone's rebid meant with the South hand but we can't. We don't think that anyone showed a maximum, however, not even Khokan. Two 650s and two 680s. An imp to DEFENDERS and an imp to AUSTRALIA.

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ J972
Vul: E/W	♥ 92
	♦ 763
	♣ Q873
West	East
♠ K8	♠ A64
♥ QJ	♥ AK543
♦ AK1092	♦ QJ4
♣ KJ96	♣ A2
	South
	♠ Q1053
	♥ 10876
	♦ 85
	♣ 1054

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	1NT(2)	Pass
3♣(3)	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥(3)	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT(3)	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4♦(4)	Pass	5♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

(1) Strong; (2) Positive with hearts
(3) Relay; (4) Sets ♦

The two auctions in USA vs DEFENDERS look particularly unconvincing. No harm done, however, as both pairs missed a grand slam with a trick to burn. You will have your own opinion about the merits of a strong notrump opening with that West hand. We don't think it's terrible at all, but perhaps it's unnecessary with the minors five-four rather than four-five.

In the Newman-Del'Monte relay auction, West must have known a lot, but if he couldn't get to the right contract we suspect that a wheel came off or someone got lazy. Meanwhile, the twins' natural auction worked beautifully. Jason had a tough bid over the fourth-suit 2♠ and chose to show his strong doubleton in partner's first suit rather than stall with a positional 2NT. When Justin supported diamonds, Jason checked on key cards, then the ♦Q, learning about the ♥K en route (5NT showed it). In the

end he had to choose between notrump and diamonds and catered to certain positions in which he could neutralize a bad diamond break with length on his right. We think that 7NT has more going for it, largely because 7♦ may have no play while 7NT may be laydown. Picky, picky. 12 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 12-1.

Bd: 4	North	
Dlr: West	♠ K10	
Vul: Both	♥ J2	
	♦ J432	
	♣ AKJ84	
West		East
♠ QJ532		♠ 97
♥ Q865		♥ AK93
♦ K7		♦ Q1095
♣ 102		♣ 975
	South	
	♠ A864	
	♥ 1074	
	♦ A86	
	♣ Q63	

USA vs DEFENDERS

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>	
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦	
All Pass				

	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♠	
Pass	2♣*	All Pass		

	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>	
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	
2♥(1)	All Pass			
(1) ♥+♠				

A style deal, such as it is. Not a highlight-reel board for the Robison-Freed approach. 3♦, a nasty little contract, went minus 200. We can say the same for the 3NT contract reached by Dawei Chen-Takihiko Hirata, but at least it had eight top tricks and where there's eight there's hope. Not this time, though. Down 100 on a diamond lead. 3 imps to DEFENDERS, 4-0.

The 2♣ reached by Browne-Bagchi was much better and deserved to show a profit. Plus 90. Del'Monte's 2♥ showed both majors and he bought quite well. Nonetheless, after three rounds of clubs, he could not quite get the spades going and draw trumps, so he went one down, minus 100. Had he played North for the ♦J, he would have made it. No swing. 12-1, GREAT BRITAIN.

Bd: 5	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 109	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q832	
	♦ A654	
	♣ 976	
West		East
♠ 86		♠ 32
♥ J10976		♥ A54
♦ K93		♦ 10872
♣ Q82		♣ K543
	South	
	♠ AKQJ754	
	♥ K	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ AJ10	

All we're going to tell you about this dull game contract is that Gene Freed opened the South hand in third seat with a strong 2♣, Brigitte Mavromichalis with a strong 1♣, and the other two Souths (Chen and Bagchi) with a 4♠ preempt.



"I'm the dummy. What do I know?"

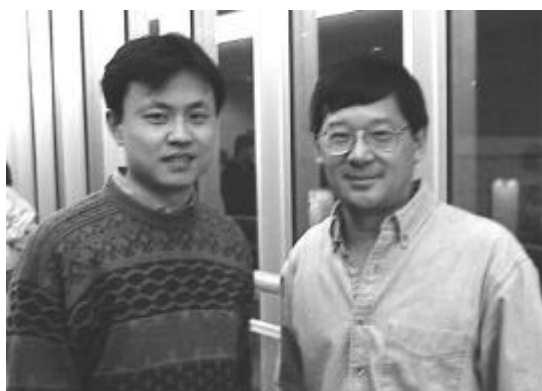
Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 632		
Vul: E/W	♥ 10742		
	♦ AKJ53		
	♣ K		
West		East	
♠ 9874		♠ KJ5	
♥ J965		♥ AK8	
♦ 2		♦ 9764	
♣ 9865		♣ Q32	
	South		
	♠ AQ10		
	♥ Q3		
	♦ Q108		
	♣ AJ1074		

Bd: 7	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 54		
Vul: Both	♥ KQ874		
	♦ 107543		
	♣ 2		
West		East	
♠ AK8		♠ QJ109	
♥ 93		♥ A2	
♦ AJ2		♦ K86	
♣ KQ843		♣ A976	
	South		
	♠ 7632		
	♥ J1065		
	♦ Q9		
	♣ J105		

All we're going to tell you about this dull game deal is that over East's 1♦ three Souths overcalled 1NT and were raised to 3NT; plus 400. The fourth South, Brigitte Mavromichalis, passed (1♦ was nebulous at her table), hardly the worst crime known to man. Here's what followed:

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
		1♦*	Pass
1♥	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

Someone had to bid notrump but perhaps it's not as easy as it seems. Papa Hackett took eleven tricks when the defenders led hearts, allowing him two heart ruffs in dummy, but nothing would have stopped him on this lie, so 5♦ would have been fine too. 6 imps to AUSTRALIA, 8-12.



Before and After

USA vs DEFENDERS

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

What can you do? It could happen to anyone, right? Yes, maybe West is too strong for a 15-17 HCP notrump, but he's not really worth a jump rebid of 2NT either, with a weak main suit and a notrump flaw. And East doesn't have enough to invite slam in notrump either. Painful but human. Weak notrumpers would start with 1♣ and East could show support relatively early; they might get to slam.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♦*	Pass
6♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
1♣(1)	1♥	1♠*	2♥
Pass*	Pass	DBL*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

(1) Strong

We love the twins' natural auction. Too strong for a 14-16 notrump, Jason started with 1♣. Over 1♠ he invented a reverse, showing his fifth club and preparing a strong move in spades. Justin set trumps, then used RKCB, found out about the ♣Q and the ♠K (5♠) and showed his ♦K as a seven-try, safe as he could count 12 tricks in notrump. With the ♦Q instead of the jack, we think that Jason would have bid seven, or at the least hedged with 6♥.

We might love the Ish-Peter auction too if we knew what it meant, but it got the job done so it must be at least likeable. 13 tricks for everyone, and 2 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 14-8.

Bd: 8	North	
Dir: West	♠ Q10764	
Vul: None	♥ 54	
	♦ AK93	
	♣ 93	
West		East
♠ AKJ		♠ 953
♥ KQJ3		♥ 10982
♦ Q1076		♦ 842
♣ J4		♣ AK6
	South	
	♠ 82	
	♥ A76	
	♦ J5	
	♣ Q108752	

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
1♦	1♠	Dbf*	2♣
3♥	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1NT	2♠(1)	All Pass	

(1) ♠ and a minor

3♥ made three; plus 140. 2♠ went two down; minus 100. 1 imp to DEFENDERS, 6-0.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
1♦	1♠	Dbf*	2♣
2♠*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
1♣(1)	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

We don't much care for Jason's game-forcing cue-bid (3♥ seems like plenty) but a Hackett 3♥ bid could be quite a bit weaker, we suppose. 4♥ was two down, minus 100, after a spade lead through West. Meanwhile, Del'Monte's 3♥ made three after the defenders took their diamond ruff, so AUSTRALIA gained 6 imps to tie the match at 14.

Bd: 9	North	
Dir: North	♠ 974	
Vul: E/W	♥ A62	
	♦ 654	
	♣ Q962	
West		East
♠ Q6		♠ A32
♥ J7		♥ Q10543
♦ AK83		♦ 92
♣ KJ543		♣ A108
	South	
	♠ KJ1085	
	♥ K98	
	♦ QJ107	
	♣ 7	

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	Dbf*	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Busy, busy. It's not unreasonable to open 1♠ with the South hand in third seat but if it's going to force you to pass 1NT, it may not be the best action. Robison lost a lot of tricks and went minus 200. No triumph.

Itabashi's 2♣ overcall gets heavy editorial support in the All-Ugly Contest but one of us (Rich) thinks it can be a big winner. Hayden must have felt a bit uncomfortable raising clubs to the four-level. Rightly so, but Itabashi brought it home on a spade lead, ducked to the king, and a diamond switch. He got rid of a heart on the ♠A and was able to crossruff and scramble for plus 130. 2 imps to DEFENDERS, 8-0.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♠(1)
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) 6♠, or 5♠/4+m			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dbf*	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

It's not pretty but we much prefer the 2♠ opening chosen by Khokan, which jostled his opponents into 3NT, the same contract reached by his teammates on power in the other room. Khokan led the ♦Q to dummy's ace and Justin led a club to his ten and a spade up.

Khokan won the ♠K and drove out the ♦K. Justin unblocked the ♠Q and crossed to the ♣A. It was too late for hearts and he went two down; minus 200.

Newman won the diamond lead and led the ♥J around to the king. Brigitte switched to the ♣7, which didn't hurt Newman's chances. He drove out the ♥A and soon had nine winners; plus 600. 13 imps to AUSTRALIA, 27-14.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AQ42		
Vul: Both	♥ AQ75		
	♦ 75		
	♣ KQ10		
West		East	
♠ 109753		♠ J86	
♥ 106		♥ 9	
♦ J10642		♦ KQ93	
♣ 7		♣ J9832	
	South		
	♠ K		
	♥ KJ8432		
	♦ A8		
	♣ A654		

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣*
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

Both Norths used an artificial forcing raise of 2NT. In the Freed-Robison auction, Freed confirmed all the key cards and trump queen when he checked on third-round club control. Very pretty.

Chen's 4♠ was RKCB and 6♣ showed the ♣K. We don't see why there might not have been a third-round club loser.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
		Pass	1♣(1)
1NT(2)	Dbl*	2♦(P/C)	2♥
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣*
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

(1) Strong; (2) ♠+♦ or ♥+♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The twin's barrage never really got off the ground, after Jason's CRASH overcall (we think that Justin should have gone at least one level higher soonest) and Browne-Bagchi bid efficiently to the easy grand. At the other table, Papa and Brigitte didn't have much machinery at their disposal and Paul took control and placed the contract, a tad short of nirvana. 13 imps more to AUSTRALIA, 40-14.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ 1072
Vul: N/S	♥ Q84
	♦ K5
	♣ AQ752
West	East
♠ 9843	♠ AJ65
♥ K75	♥ AJ102
♦ Q642	♦ AJ97
♣ 63	♣ J
	South
	♠ KQ
	♥ 963
	♦ 1083
	♣ K10984

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
Pass	1♣	Dbl	2NT(♣)
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

We confess that one of us (Eric) would not double twice with the East hand, as Ino did, but if our partner had done so, we would give him 4♣ with the West hand, then 4♠ over 4♥. Not that 4♠ is desirable. It is not. But both declarers made four when the play handled nicely for them.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♣
2♦	3♣	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Justin's double of 1NT showed a good hand with some diamonds, hence Jason's 2♦; plus 110. Newman couldn't think of a happy way into the auction at his table and so sold out to 1NT. On a spade lead declarer had six tricks but could not find a seventh; minus 100. Push.



"I once saw Julie Andrews pose this way."

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q7643		
Vul: Both	♥ AK106		
	♦ J2		
	♣ K6		
West		East	
♠ AJ82		♠ K10	
♥ 2		♥ J73	
♦ A8643		♦ K107	
♣ J103		♣ 98542	
	South		
	♠ 95		
	♥ Q9854		
	♦ Q95		
	♣ AQ7		

GREAT BRITAIN, 22-40.

In the other match, both Easts led a club against 4♥. Robison hastened to discard a diamond, then started spades. Ino won and led a diamond to the ace, Teramoto switching to his trump, six, three, four. Ino won the second spade and could not play a diamond effectively, so led a second trump. The ten won and and Robison could establish spades and reach the long card; plus 620. Hirata played ace-king of trumps before taking his diamond discard. When Hayden won the first spade he played a third trump, then cashed the ♦K when he won the second spade, and played a club. Declarer could not use the ruff-and-discard and so went one down; minus 100. 12 imps to USA, their first gain in the set. They led now, 12-8.

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
	Pass	1NT*	
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Brigitte's evaluation of the South hand was at odds with all her counterparts, but it proved correct in both theory and practice when both Newman and Justin led a diamond to hold Papa and Browne to nine tricks. 6 imps to

Bd: 14	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 5		
Vul: None	♥ 102		
	♦ AK7		
	♣ AK87653		
West		East	
♠ KJ94		♠ AQ76	
♥ J985		♥ Q64	
♦ 9853		♦ J1042	
♣ Q		♣ 102	
	South		
	♠ 10832		
	♥ AK73		
	♦ Q6		
	♣ J94		

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
		1NT*	Pass
2♣	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	3♣	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
		Pass	1♦*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	1NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Observe the state of the game. Ino's 9-12 HCP notrump and Teramoto's Stayman escape forced a decision on Robison, who chose something practical, if unsuccessful. Itabashi's third-seat 1♠ created an unclear situation for his opponents, who could not be sure who was competing and saving against whom. Perhaps 4♦ or 4♠ from Hirata would have gotten him to slam, but we doubt it.

Bagchi's feeble nebulous 1♦ and 2NT actually showed what he had—a balanced 10-11 points. Browne's 3NT looks indelicate but we doubt whether he could have *shown* spade shortage and long clubs below 3NT. Who's zooming who? (Aretha Franklin redux). And then there was Papa Hackett, left alone for once by his hairy-chested young opponents. Couldn't capitalize, though we suspect that some of the bids between 1NT and 5♣ were legal options in his system.

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ AKQ9
Vul: N/S	♥ J106
	♦ Q65
	♣ 962
West	East
♠ J	♠ 8765
♥ A74	♥ K5
♦ KJ9842	♦ A7
♣ Q84	♣ KJ753
	South
	♠ 10432
	♥ Q9832
	♦ 103
	♣ A10

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
			Pass
1♦	1♠	2♣	2♠
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Nice fit. 4♣ made five. 2NT made two. 1 imp to DEFENDERS, 9-14.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
2♦	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2NT and 3NT both yielded the obvious eight tricks on a heart lead and continuation, 5 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 27-42.

Bd: 16	North
Dlr: West	♠ AJ104
Vul: E/W	♥ 1063
	♦ K6
	♣ A1082
West	East
♠ 97	♠ 3
♥ QJ874	♥ AK52
♦ A754	♦ QJ9832
♣ Q6	♣ 75
	South
	♠ KQ8652
	♥ 9
	♦ 10
	♣ KJ943

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
Dbl*	2♠	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
Pass	1NT	2♣(1)	4♠
5♥	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		
(1) ♥ and another			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
Pass	1NT	2♦(1)	4♠
All Pass			
(1) ♦ and a major			

Freed and Brigitte misguessed the ♣Q to make only 4♠. Jason ducked the ♦A against 5♠ doubled and Bagchi guessed clubs. 1 imp to the DEFENDERS, who lost the first set, 10-14. 7 imps to AUSTRALIA, who were off to a strong start, 49-27.



Thank's, JAPAN Beverage

The mineral water we've all been treated to in the playing area is being supplied courtesy of JAPAN Beverage. Thanks to them from all of us.

The Semifinals

Segment Two:

Bd: 17	North	
Dlr: North	♠ Q	
Vul: None	♥ 64	
	♦ A93	
	♣ 9765432	
West		East
♠ 1087652		♠ A43
♥ AK832		♥ QJ5
♦ ---		♦ J642
♣ AQ		♣ K108
	South	
	♠ KJ9	
	♥ 1097	
	♦ KQ10875	
	♣ J	

A neat row of plus 450s. No slams. No saves.

Bd: 18	North	
Dlr: East	♠ J105	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q10754	
	♦ 2	
	♣ AK84	
West		East
♠ 43		♠ A97
♥ J986		♥ K
♦ Q8		♦ AKJ765
♣ 107653		♣ Q92
	South	
	♠ KQ862	
	♥ A32	
	♦ 10943	
	♣ J	

All the South players declared 4♠ after East bid diamonds twice. Against Itabashi, Chen, East, overtook his partner's ♦Q and switched to ace and another trump. Itabashi won in dummy, led a heart to the king and ace, ruffed a diamond, threw a diamond on a high club, ruffed a club, and drew the last trump. Hirata, West, was caught in a heart-club squeeze for an overtrick; plus 450.

Freed and Robison did better. Freed played

low on the ♦Q and Robison switched to a trump, low, nine, queen. Teramoto led a *low* heart to the ten and king and Freed forced dummy with a diamond without releasing the trump ace. Teramoto innocently led a second heart and Freed ruffed in, cashed the ♠A, and took two more diamonds for three down; minus 300. A four trick difference in the play at the two tables. 14 imps to USA, 28-10.

Although Jason switched to a club at trick two the play at his table was otherwise the same as at Teramoto's, Bagchi going three down; minus 300. Papa Hackett made four along the same lines as Itabashi by playing the ♥A to catch the king, but he got a club switch rather than a trump switch at trick two. He ruffed two diamonds and pitched one on a high club for plus 620. 14 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 41-49.

Bd: 19	North	
Dlr: South	♠ J63	
Vul: E/W	♥ 107	
	♦ K10942	
	♣ A82	
West		East
♠ A952		♠ K10
♥ A8		♥ K65432
♦ Q63		♦ AJ7
♣ K653		♣ J10
	South	
	♠ Q874	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ 85	
	♣ Q974	

The twins were in 4♥, E/W, and Justin got a low club lead from Bagchi, which made the winning guess the normal play. He made five when Browne underled the ♦K next. Everyone else was in 3NT, a much easier contract to make.

You must know before we leave this one that both Garey Hayden and Tadashi Imakura overcalled a natural 1♣ with 1♦. If that doesn't scare you, nothing will.

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ 9
Vul: Both	♥ A96
	♦ K864
	♣ AJ1065
West	East
♠ K84	♠ AJ1065
♥ J4	♥ 10753
♦ QJ1052	♦ A
♣ Q84	♣ K72
	South
	♠ Q732
	♥ KQ82
	♦ 973
	♣ 93

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbf*
2♠	3♣	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbf*
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dbf	All Pass

Chen went minus 200 in 3♠ on the lead of the ♣9, passed to the king; he simply ran out of steam. Teramoto's doubled 1NT contract didn't look too good either, even when the lead of the ♦Q was ducked to the blank ace. Gene Freed switched to the ♠J, which held, but Jim Robison followed with the eight, a costly play. The defenders cleared spades but Teramoto had a fourth-round stopper now. He won and built a second diamond trick, with Freed discarding a heart along the way. Now Teramoto took a spade, four heart tricks, two diamonds, and the ♣A for plus 380. 5 imps to the DEFENDERS, 15-30.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
Pass	1♦*	1♠	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	1NT
2♣*	Pass	2♠	All Pass

2♠ was much more promising, but a timely ruff-and-discard by Browne helped the defense just enough to defeat Justin while Newman was able to score enough of his trumps to get home. 5 imps to Australia, 54-43.

Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q8532
Vul: N/S	♥ 103
	♦ A652
	♣ AQ
West	East
♠ 74	♠ KJ10
♥ AKQ52	♥ 97
♦ 983	♦ K7
♣ 743	♣ J98652
	South
	♠ A96
	♥ J864
	♦ QJ104
	♣ K10

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
All Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
All Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

If you look carefully you'll see that each of the four Souths evaluated his hand differently. How quaint. Everyone in spades took eight tricks. Justin misguessed spades after ♦Q to the ace, spade switch and so went one down in 3♣.

3 imps to USA, 33-15; 2 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 45-54.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ K543
Vul: E/W	♥ 1093
	♦ 96
	♣ 8652
West	East
♠ Q986	♠ J7
♥ A74	♥ KJ862
♦ K8742	♦ J105
♣ 3	♣ Q109
	South
	♠ A102
	♥ Q5
	♦ AQ3
	♣ AKJ74

This might have been everyone's 2NT, but Bagchi upgraded his hand slightly to show 21-22 HCP and Browne gave him 3NT.

Like Papa Hackett in 2NT, Bagchi got a diamond lead. Now all he needed was the ♣Q behaving, but when she did not fall, he gave up a club trick, Jason discarding two hearts to end that threat. The defense cleared diamonds but on the last two clubs Jason parted with spades. Making three; plus 400. 2NT made two when West discarded a heart and a spade on the early clubs and East continued diamonds; plus 120. 7 imps to AUSTRALIA, 61-45.

The play at Itabashi's table was the same as it was at Paul Hackett's. Plus 120 when Chen continued diamonds. It was much more exciting at Teramoto's table, where Robison found the

lead of the ♠9 and Freed did not put up the jack. Teramoto won the ten and cleared clubs, Robison discarding seven-four of diamonds. Freed switched to the ♦J but Teramoto put on the ace, cashed clubs, and threw Robison in with the fourth spade to concede a trick to the ♦Q; plus 150. 1 imp to Defenders, 16-33.

Bd: 24	North
Dlr: West	♠ J985
Vul: None	♥ 1043
	♦ A1085
	♣ K10
West	East
♠ 63	♠ KQ
♥ AK986	♥ J752
♦ 7	♦ K93
♣ 98764	♣ AQJ2
	South
	♠ A10742
	♥ Q
	♦ QJ642
	♣ 53

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
2♥(1)	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) ♥ and a minor			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♦(1)
Pass	2♠	Dbl	All Pass
(1) ♦ and ♠			

Perhaps 4♥ should not have shut out Itabashi, but his pass is certainly above reproach in a pure sense. 4♥ made an easy five; plus 450.

Imakura's mini-notrump created an unfamiliar scenario for Robison-Freed and they misjudged the position disastrously. Robison led a trump, expecting Freed to have a penalty double. Teramoto won and returned a trump and soon had eight tricks; plus 470. 14 imps to DEFENDERS, 31-33.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦(1)
2NT(2)	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥(3)	All Pass		

(1) ♦ and a major; (2) lebensohl
(3) Invitational

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
2♥(1)	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) 5+♥/4+m			

The auctions speak for themselves. It looks as if Justin either misread his partner's intentions or discounted his ♦K and short spade honors. Everyone made five; 6imps to AUSTRALIA, 67-46.

Apparently, Itabashi was too strong for a preemptive raise because Hayden thought that denied the values for 3NT opposite 18-19. 3NT was a filthy contract after the overcall by East but it was cold after ducking one spade. We can't help but wonder whether Imakura's 3♣ showed what he held or considerably less, but Ino got it right so we ought to keep our wonderments to ourselves. 8imps to DEFENDERS, ahead 39-33.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
	1♣(1)	1♦(2)	DbI*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠(3)
Pass	3♥(4)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(1) Strong; (2) Not strong!
(3) Range probe; (4) Maximum with 4♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
	1♣	1♠	2♠(♣)
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Browne-Bagchi got the job done. Did Papa and Armstrong? Well, maybe. John got a spade lead, which he ducked, and a second spade, which he won. As might you or I he tried to discard a spade from dummy on a heart before chasing the ace of trumps, but Newman ruffed in...with the four, not the jack. John overruffed played ♦AK and led his last heart to try for an elimination if West held the singleton ace of trumps. Now Newman produced the ♣J, raising Armstrong's hopes. He overruffed, ruffed dummy's diamond, and led a club...but when Newman showed out there were two trumps to lose to Del'Monte. The endplay did work, however, for one down. It pleased John not at all to see that he could have made 5♣ by simply drawing trumps. 11imps to AUSTRALIA, ahead 78-46 and looking good.

Bd: 25	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A53		
Vul: E/W	♥ AK96		
	♦ AK		
	♣ 7652		
West		East	
♠ 94		♠ KQJ87	
♥ 108432		♥ J7	
♦ Q753		♦ 10642	
♣ A10		♣ J4	
	South		
	♠ 1062		
	♥ Q5		
	♦ J98		
	♣ KQ983		

USA vs DEFENDERS

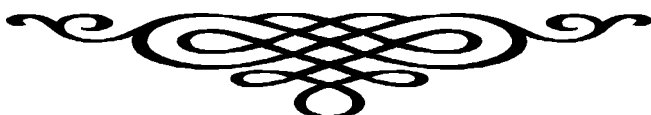
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
	1♣	1♠	3♣(1)

All Pass
(1) Preemptive

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	1♣	1♠	2♣
DbI*	Rdbl	2♦	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



Bd: 26	North
Dlr: East	♠ 1073
Vul: Both	♥ QJ4
	♦ KJ9
	♣ 10975
West	East
♠ AK84	♠ QJ952
♥ 1065	♥ 983
♦ Q2	♦ A10653
♣ 8643	♣ ---
	South
	♠ 6
	♥ AK72
	♦ 874
	♣ AKQJ2

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
		2♠(1)	Dbl
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
All Pass			
(1) 5+♠/4+m			

Papa, who won the hand in the auction, made sure of that triumph by guessing diamonds; plus 600. Justin (2♠ was a weak two) was minus 200 in 4♠ doubled. 9 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 55-78.

USA vs DEFENDERS

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
		2♠(1)	Dbl
2NT*	Pass	3♦(2)	Dbl
3♠	All Pass		
(1) 5+♠/4+m; (2) Diamonds, not maximum			

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>

		Pass	1♣
Pass	1NT	2♠	3♠
Dbl	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Teramoto guessed diamonds for plus 600. Chen had no trouble with 3♠; plus 140. We can state with confidence that Hayden owed his partner a bid after two takeout doubles, but it's easy to see why he passed. 12 imps to DEFENDERS, 51-33.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
		2♠	Dbl
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Bd: 27	North
Dlr: South	♠ 543
Vul: None	♥ 765
	♦ A3
	♣ AKQ94
West	East
♠ QJ762	♠ K1098
♥ AQ10	♥ KJ982
♦ QJ2	♦ K75
♣ J8	♣ 6
	South
	♠ A
	♥ 43
	♦ 109864
	♣ 107532

USA vs DEFENDERS

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
			Pass
1♠	2♣	4♣(SPL)	5♣
Dbl	All Pass		

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
			Pass
1♠	2♣	4♣(SPL)	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
			Pass
1♠	2♣	3♥(FIT)	5♣
5♥	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Well done all around in USA vs DEFENDERS. Minus 100. No swing.

A disaster at both tables for AUSTRALIA against GREAT BRITAIN. We have a lot of sympathy for the actions of Peter and Ish, particularly since we would bid 3♥ ourselves. With all that slow junk, we would prefer to pass 5♣ with the West hand if that were forcing, which it ought to be. 5♠ ran into a diamond ruff for two down, so perhaps it was no big deal after all, with only 100 available against 5♣ and 4♠ due to fail.

Browne's decision not to overcall would be reasonable in a pairs event because it could be the winning action. At teams, it's too swingy. The other guy will bid 2♣ and you should too, especially with a lead in the match. Justin's artificial 3NT showed a singleton and Browne duly led a trump to stop the impending ruffs. The diamond ruff was no longer possible so 4♠ made easily; plus 420. So although Seamus was right in theory (4♠ can be beaten so why save?) he was wrong where it mattered—at the table. 11 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 66-78.

Bd: 29	North	
Dlr: North	♠ AK1084	
Vul: Both	♥ A5	
	♦ A4	
	♣ KJ43	
West		East
♠ Q9		♠ J765
♥ Q9432		♥ KJ107
♦ Q3		♦ 1096
♣ Q1097		♣ 65
	South	
	♠ 32	
	♥ 86	
	♦ KJ8752	
	♣ A82	

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
	1♣(1)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥*	Dbl	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The 6♦ reached by Browne-Bagchi is not the worst contract in the world. In fact you might make it even with the cards as they are on the challenging heart lead by winning the ♥A and playing ace-king of trumps. Bagchi started spades immediately, which is a good practical line. If the suit is four-two with two on the right, the slam still has chances. No, Jason overruffed the third spade and cashed a heart; minus 100.

Everyone else was in 3NT on different auctions (Hayden's direct 3NT strikes us as the choice of a man in a hurry to catch the next Bullet Train to Kyoto).

Papa Hackett made 3NT by winning the second heart, cashing the ♠A, and playing off ♦AK. Bingo. Had the ♦Q not dropped, he would have needed all four club tricks, a rather low percentage chance, not enough extra value to give up on the diamond finesse, in our opinion.

13 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, ahead now, 79-78.

Itabashi went down in 3NT by taking the diamond finesse but Teramoto made it. He won the first heart and played the suit right back, daring his opponents to cash the suit if they could read the position. West's lead of the three made the five-four break a heavy favorite, so he figured to have all his options open later. Unfortunately, we can't confirm what happened after this, but perhaps after he threw a couple of diamonds East discarded one also, and he read the position correctly after regaining the lead. If this is what happened, Teramoto is our new hero. 12 imps to DEFENDERS, ahead now, 64-33.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: East	♠ A642
Vul: None	♥ 4
	♦ 42
	♣ KQ6432
West	East
♠ KQ98	♠ 105
♥ K10873	♥ AJ5
♦ 86	♦ KQ975
♣ 98	♣ 1075
	South
	♠ J73
	♥ Q962
	♦ AJ103
	♣ AJ

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♥	Dbl*	2♦*	Pass
2♥	3♣	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♥	Dbl*	2♦*	Pass
2♥	3♣	All Pass	

With West holding two diamonds but only two trumps, 3♣ was easy enough to make by

drawing two rounds of trumps before trying to cash the established diamond winner. Hayden managed an overtrick. 1 imp to USA, 34-64.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	2♣	Dbl*	2NT
3♥	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
			1♥
Pass	1♠	2♦	Dbl*
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Both British pairs used "support" doubles to clarify the length of their major-suit fits but the twins were not destined to buy the contract at their table. After a heart to the ace and the ♥J covered and covered again, Jason accurately exited with a diamond and Bagchi had only eight tricks for minus 50.

Armstrong's 2♠ was a tricky affair but he made it by forcing Del'Monte early and scrambling his way home. We think he might have been beaten had Newman ruffed in with the ♠10 but we're too bleary-eyed to pursue it. Plus 110. 4 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, , 83-78.

Bd: 31	North
Dlr: South	♠ Q9
Vul: N/S	♥ 86542
	♦ J53
	♣ 532
West	East
♠ AKJ5	♠ 863
♥ KJ	♥ 973
♦ A98	♦ Q42
♣ KJ64	♣ Q1097
	South
	♠ 10742
	♥ AQ10
	♦ K1076
	♣ A8

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
			1♦
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
			1♦
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
			1NT
Dbl	2♦*	Pass	2♥
Dbl	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
			1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Against Justin's 3♠ Khokan led a low trump. Justin won the ace and led a club to the queen and ace. Khokan played ♥AQ but Justin played off the king of trumps and cashed the jack before crossing to a club to ruff his remaining heart to revert to clubs. Khokan could ruff in and lead away from the ♦K or allow Justin to cash his clubs; plus 140.

Against Ish's 2NT, the defense started with the ♥4 to the queen and king. Papa won the ♣A and cashed ♥A10, Ish discarding a diamond as Armstrong followed with the ♥9. When Papa switched to spades, Del'Monte played ace and king for plus 120. 1 imp to GREAT BRITAIN, 84-78.

Robison got a diamond lead against 2NT and ducked Teramoto's ten. He won the spade switch with the ace and knocked out the ♣A, and on the spade continuation he put up the

king. He had time for a heart trick; plus 120.

Chen, in 3NT, got the lead of the ♠2 from Itabashi. He won the ace and led the ♣K, taken. Itabashi played ♥AQ, looking at the king-jack doubleton, Hayden following deuce-four. Chen played two rounds of clubs, Itabashi hastening to dispose of his offending ♥10. Now a spade to the jack and queen. Hayden played ...a heart. Chen scooped in the nine, cashed his club, and played two rounds of spades to endplay Itabashi to score the ♦Q. To which we must say, "Wow!" 6 imps to the DEFENDERS, 70-34.

Bd: 32	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q863
Vul: E/W	♥ 976
	♦ J106
	♣ 876
West	East
♠ 75	♠ AKJ10942
♥ K1032	♥ J5
♦ AK953	♦ Q72
♣ 109	♣ 4
	South
	♠ ---
	♥ AQ84
	♦ 84
	♣ AKQJ532

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Itabashi</i>
Pass	Pass	3♠	Dbl
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Robison</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Freed</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	Pass	3♠	5♣
Dbl	All Pass		

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Browne</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>
Pass	Pass	3♠	Dbl
All Pass			

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Del'M</i>	<i>Armstrg</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	4♠	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

So, Mister, you were looking for a little action?

It would be nice to state that the auctions speak for themselves, but Papa Bear's 3NT may need some different spokesmen. 5♣ doubled was universally two down; minus 300.

As for Seamus's pass of 3♠ doubled, it's the sort of action that has become all the rage. Why go for a number yourself when the bad guys are going down in 3♠. We don't have enough trumps to make anything and they may have only eight at the three level. Hey, Larry Cohen, this is okay, right? I pass. And you pass. And they pass. All right, so the number was minus 1130 (first round spade finesse, no problem in hearts, 11 tricks). Sometimes it doesn't pay to get out of bed.

Oh, yes, the imp score. 13 more to GREAT BRITAIN, who ran off the final 51 in the session to erase a deficit and move into a nice lead. The session score was 70-29, GREAT BRITAIN, and the match score stood at 97-78 with 16 deals remaining.

The DEFENDERS did pretty well down the stretch in this session too, outscoring USA 55-1 over the last 11 deals.

Tune in tomorrow or maybe later this morning (nah, too tired) for the thrilling (maybe) conclusion to the NEC CUP Semifinals.



"All right. Great Britain forever!"



"I make it no charges for me and...one, two, three..., seventy-six, seventy-seven for you."



"I think I've got Excedrin headache #6."



"All right, which of you wants to tell Suzuki-san that those little plastic keys aren't edible?"