

GREAT BRITAIN Wins Y2K NEC Cup

After having been defeated by their opponents the previous four times they played, GREAT BRITAIN (Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett, John Armstrong and Brigitte Mavromichalis) finally enjoyed the sweet taste of victory by defeating Japan's DEFENDING CHAMPIONS (Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Teramoto, Chen Dawei, Tadashi Imakura, Hiroshi Hisatomi and Takahiro Hirata) to win the 2000 NEC Cup. Britain overcame first- and second-quarter deficits with a huge 49-imp third-quarter comeback to take the lead after 48 boards. They took the fourth quarter as well, and emerged as 170-141 winners. The finals was an exciting, fiercely-fought contest witnessed by dozens in the VuGraph audience. Congratulations to both teams for a thrilling conclusion to Japan's premier event.

AUSTRALIA Defeats USA for NEC Cup 3rd Place

It's always disappointing to lose in the semi-finals and then to have to prepare yourself psychologically for a playoff for third place. That was the problem which faced the USA and AUSTRALIA teams, and AUSTRALIA clearly prepared well. After a 4-imp loss on the first deal, the Aussies peeled off three 25 straightimps. Another 5-imp pick-up for the USA was followed by 17 moreimps for the Aussies, who cruised through the remaining ten boards to lead 75-34 at the half. Most of the early boards of the second-half were flat, and the Aussies gained the first two double-digit swings before USA struck back with a 17-imp gain of their own. But that was it for the Americans. AUSTRALIA won the second half 32-22 and the playoff for third place 107-56. Congratulations to Peter Newman, Ishmael Del'Monte, Seamus Browne and Khokan Bagchi for taking the bronze, and to Mark Itabashi, Gene Freed, Garey Hayden and Jim Robison for making it to the NEC Cup semi-finals—no mean feat.

INDONESIA Wins Flight-A Ouchi Cup

Congratulations to INDONESIA (Deny Sacul, Henky Lasut, Freddy Manoppo, Franky Karwur, Santje Panelewen and Robert Tobing), NEC Cup quarter-finalists, who went on to win the Ouchi Cup with a score of 185. Second were Canadians Irving Litvack, Roy Hughes, Darren Wolpert and Jurek Czyzowics with a score of 166, while third with 162 were MIYAKUNI Kenji, FURUTA Kazuo, TANAKA Ryoga and SHIMIZU Yasuhiro. Winners of Flight B with 177 were ANDO Yukie, KAIWA Fumio, AKITA Ken-ichi and UEDA Kunio. Flight C was won by NAKANISHI Mieko, KOSHI Haruko, JANSSEN Hiroko and OSAKO Yoko with a score of 187. The complete results can be found on page 3.

Reminder: Today's Starting Times

Foreign Minister Cup Final: 10:00-17:00
Closing Ceremony: 18:00-21:00

NEC Cup Finals Summary

Teams	1 st Segment	2 nd Segment	3 rd Segment	4 th Segment	Final
DEFENDERS	50	38	17	36	141
GREAT BRITAIN	32	28	66	44	170

NEC Cup 3rd-4th Playoff Summary

Teams	1 st Half	2 nd Half	Final
USA	34	22	56
AUSTRALIA	75	32	107



NEC Cup Winners: Justin, Jason, Brigitte, Paul and John



NEC Cup 2nd: Chen, Imakura, Hisatomi, Hirata, Ino and Teramoto



NEC Cup 3rd: Bagchi, Browne, Del'Monte and Newman



NEC Cup 4th: Robison, Hayden, Freed and Itabashi



Ouchi Cup Winners – A



Ouchi Cup Winners – B



Ouchi Cup Winners – C

Ouchi Cup Final Standings

Flight	Rank	VP	
A	1	185	Deny Sacul, Henky Lasut, Freddy Manoppo, Franky Karwur, Santje Panelewen, Robert Tobing
A	2	166	Irving Litvack, Roy Hughes, Darren Wolpert, Jurek Czyzowics
A	3	162	MIYAKUNI Kenji, FURUTA Kazuo, TANAKA Ryoga, SHIMIZU Yasuhiro
B	1	177	ANDO Yukie, KAIWA Fumio, AKITA Ken-ichi, UEDA Kunio
B	2	164	YOSHIMI Hideaki, MIMURO Hedeaki, TSUJI Nobuya, MIYAUCHI Hiroshi, INANAGA Junko
B	3	162	MIYAISHI Etsuko, YOSHIMORI Yukiko, ICHIKAWA Chieko, SAITO Kiniko
C	1	187	NAKANISHI Mieko, KOSHI Haruko, JANSSEN Hiroko, OSAKO Yoko
C	2	164	YAMADA Akihiko, OHNO Kyoko, TAKAHASHI Katsumi, YOSHIDA Masaru
C	3	160	KIMURA Atsushi, HAGIWARA Toshiko, KUBOTA Kayoko, HASEGAWA Eiko

Tales of the Ouchi Cup: How I Came to Be Too Brilliant

We've all heard of the unlucky expert. Well here's yet another version of the saga from Saturday's final session of the Ouchi Cup. You can play along, too. As West you pick up: ♠KQ10x ♥Qx ♦xxx ♣xxxx. The auction is:

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama-san</i>			
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

What do you lead against 4♥? Say you choose the ♠K—a popular choice in our estimation—and the following dummy appears:

	North
	♠ xxx
	♥ 76xx
	♦ AQxx
	♣ AK
West	
♠ KQ10x	
♥ Q8	
♦ xxx	
♣ xxxx	

When East signals encouragement you continue with a low spade to partner's ace and

win declarer's jack on the third round, the suit proving to be 4333. What now?

Did you find the play of the fourth spade to promote your side a trump trick? Well, so did Takayama-san, only to find that the complete deal was:

	North	
	♠ xxx	
	♥ 76xx	
	♦ AQxx	
	♣ AK	
West		East
♠ KQ10x		♠ Axx
♥ Q8		♥ x
♦ xxx		♦ Kxxx
♣ xxxx		♣ xxxxx
	♠ Jxx	
	♥ AKJ109x	
	♦ xx	
	♣ Qx	

As you can see, the ruff and discard you've provided is the only way for declarer to avoid a fourth and fatal loser—a diamond trick. So much for brilliance.

More Tales of the Ouchi Cup: Don't Mess With Hirata-san!

By day a mild-mannered university English professor. By night, he dons his Abe-Lincoln disguise and turns into...Hirata Man! We can see by the expression on your face that you don't believe us. Well, just watch. The place: the Pacifico Yokohama. The time: the first qualifying session of the Ouchi Cup.

Bd: 24	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 7	
Vul: None	♥ Q5	
	♦ 10652	
	♣ 987643	
West		East
♠ Q1063		♠ A542
♥ J83		♥ A974
♦ Q94		♦ 873
♣ KQ10		♣ J5
	♠ KJ98	
	♥ K1062	
	♦ AKJ	
	♣ A2	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hirata Man</i>		<i>Hayashi-san</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Hayashi-san was just along for the ride on this one. Those who know him know that Hirata Man works alone.

East led the ♠A and switched quickly to the ♦8.

Hirata Man rose with dummy's ace and ruffed a spade to hand, then led the ♥5! Imagine East's dilemma. If he rises with the ace Hirata Man can pitch his two diamond losers on the two major-suit kings (after unblocking the ♥Q and using whichever minor-suit entry remains in dummy) to lose only two trumps and the two major-suit aces. If East ducks, Hirata Man will pitch his ♥Q on the ♠K and now will lose only one spade, one diamond and two trumps. A dread Morton's Fork.

Most think that Morton's Fork was named after the English cleric of the same name who long ago wrote of religious/ethical dilemmas of a similar nature to the one here. But Hirata Man knows better. According to him it was named after Reginald Morton, White House Chaplain during the period when Abe Lincoln served as 16th President of the United States. As legend has it, says Makoto, "Reggie" (as he was known) was counseling Abe about the ethical pitfalls of deceiving the public concerning the vagaries of how the American Civil War was progressing. According to Makoto (who, by the way, claims he heard it directly from Abe. Right!), Reggie told Abe, "You can fool everyone some times, and some people all the time, but you can't fool everyone all the time."

Abe never forgot that, and when the above hand came up he applied it. As he said to East when the hand was over, "You can win the ♥A and lose your diamond trick, or you can win your diamond trick but lose your ♥A, but you can't win your ♥A *and* win your diamond trick." Words to live by.

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>

The Semifinals: The Tough Get...

Third Segment:

Neither leading team could afford to relax but the other guys needed something positive to get them headed in the right direction.

Bd: 34	North		
Dlr: East	♠ A4		
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ8754		
	♦ A86		
	♣ 53		
West		East	
♠ 109832		♠ J765	
♥ 3		♥ KQ9	
♦ J1072		♦ 93	
♣ 1074		♣ AQ96	
	South		
	♠ KQ		
	♥ 1062		
	♦ KQ54		
	♣ KJ82		

USA vs DEFENDERS

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
		1♣	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♣*
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dbl	All Pass	

This did not appear to be "the one" for USA, but appearances can be deceiving. 4♥ was an easy 620, a nice reward for that pug-ugly 2♥. Meanwhile, out there in the Open Room, Mark Itabashi was following his muse. 4♠ indeed! A club lead would have set the stage for minus 800 but Imakura made the more normal lead of the ♥A. Oops, no club tricks. So, how about diamonds. After two rounds of those the defense had only to play a third to get 500; South would win the first trump and let North ruff the fourth diamond with the ♠A. No,

Teramoto exited cautiously with a heart. The trumps fell together and Itabashi was out for minus 300 and a handy 8-imp gain. 75-43 for DEFENDERS, but maybe old Mr Momentum had made an encouraging statement.

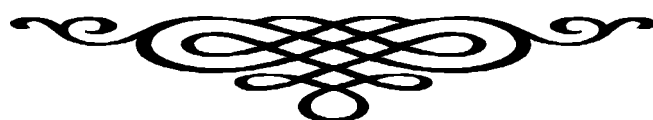
AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
		1♠	Dbl
4♠	6♥	Dbl	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Hey, nice try there, Khokan and Seamus. Not past John Armstrong, however. Yes, Ishmael Del'Monte's takeout double is an unlovely creature, but it's a bidder's game. Right? Peter Newman, out of room, took a shot at slam and was soon shown the error of his ways. Two down; minus 500. 15 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 112-78. No comebacks just yet in this match.

Here's a scenario for you. Someone picks up: ♠1096 ♥Q76 ♦8 ♣J108542, first seat, favorable vulnerability. He opens 3♣ and sees it go: Pass-Pass-Dbl-All Pass. The penalty passer's clubs are...AKQ963 and the wretch also holds an ace and a king. Our someone sees his life passing before his weary eyes. The \$64,000 question: is our hero (a) a Hackett; (b) a hairy-chested young Aussie, (c) a fierce Oriental warrior; or (d) an older gentleman from California?

If you did not choose (d) you are no longer eligible for our special Daily Bulletin "Lucky Stiff" draw, first prize in which is a two-session event with the guy who opened 3♣. Second prize is a four-session event with him.



Bd: 35	North	
Dlr: South	♠ AJ74	
Vul: E/W	♥ K432	
	♦ A542	
	♣ 7	
West		East
♠ K2		♠ Q853
♥ A8		♥ J1095
♦ 1097		♦ KQJ63
♣ AKQ963		♣ ---
	South	
	♠ 1096	
	♥ Q76	
	♦ 8	
	♣ J108542	

of a low spade to the nine and king. The ♦10 held, and so did the ♦9, Teramoto discarding a club. Itabashi cashed two high clubs (a heart and a spade from dummy), smiled ruefully, and reverted to diamonds, Imakura winning as Teramoto released the ♠10, a thoughtful play. Imakura had a good read on the whole layout now and cashed the ♠A before switching to the ♥K. This was very good defense but it was not good enough. Itabashi won the ♥A and exited with a heart. Teramoto won the queen and played the ♣J, but Itabashi ducked that and Teramoto had to either give dummy the rest or lead a club from the guarded ten to Itabashi's queen-nine.

Bridge at its most beautiful. *Honto.*

USA vs DEFENDERS

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

Gene Freed, this is your life. Come on down. Who wants to be a millionaire? Behind the green door, we have...Sorry, wrong genre.

Can any of us possibly imagine how Dawei Chen must have felt during this memorable auction? Against 3♣ doubled, he led the ♥A, 2, 5, 7. Then he switched to the ♠K, A, 8, 6. That's better. Now picture everyone's reaction to the next trick: ♣7...♦K...♣J, ♣Q. Spade to the queen, spade ruff, diamond. Freed won, and could have played diamond ruff, ♥K, diamond ruff. Instead, he played ♥Q, heart. Chen singled in another small trump, but he had to play a diamond now himself. Freed was down to trumps and had to lead one when he ruffed the diamond, so Dawei scored all six of his trumps, and the two major-suit winners gave the defense eight tricks. Down only four; minus 800. Not so bad, really.

Mark Itabashi had to negotiate 3NT on the lead

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

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

Both Norths led a spade to the nine and king. Jason played ♦10, ♣A, ♣K, diamond. Newman elected to take the second diamond and that was that; plus 600. Browne played two diamonds immediately, Armstrong withholding the ace as Papa discarded a club. Seamus tried two high clubs (a heart and a spade from dummy), then a third diamond. Armstrong won as Papa threw the ♥7. Armstrong decided to exit with a diamond, so Browne had a spade, a heart, three clubs, and four diamonds; plus 600. No swing.



"I know my pet flea is in here somewhere."

Bd: 38	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q
Vul: E/W	♥ K7632
	♦ A9
	♣ Q6432
West	East
♠ A108764	♠ K92
♥ AQ84	♥ J95
♦ Q	♦ 106532
♣ A8	♣ K9
	South
	♠ J53
	♥ 10
	♦ KJ874
	♣ J1075

That's a pretty grungy Michaels Cue-bid but the vulnerability tends to remove all vestiges of principle (the Great Shuffler knew what he was doing when he invented vulnerability on the Eighth Day). Armstrong, who may not have had this weapon available to him, passed over 1♠, and the good sacrifice was never in the picture.

At the other three tables it was up to South to take the plunge, and we're somewhat surprised that only one of their number was willing to risk the five-level. And even Freed might have committed himself earlier, with some chance of catching a big fish. This time 5♠ would have made, however.

Against 5♣ doubled, Ino led a spade, which left the defense with no chance for 500. On a diamond lead West can win the first trump, underlead the ♠A and get a diamond ruff, but that's only in the movies. 300 against 650, 8 imps to USA, who needed them badly, trailing now 51-75.

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♠(1)	3♠	3NT(2)
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT(2)
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) ♥ and a minor; (2) Which minor?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♠(1)	Pass	2NT(2)
Pass	3♣	3♠	4♣
4♠	All Pass		

(1) ♥ and a minor; (2) Which minor?

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♠(1)	Dbl*	4♣(2)
4♠	All Pass		

(1) ♥ and a minor; (2) Which minor?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Bd: 39	North
Dlr: South	♠ AKQ53
Vul: Both	♥ 76432
	♦ Q
	♣ 102
West	East
♠ 987	♠ 64
♥ J109	♥ K5
♦ 98652	♦ AKJ43
♣ Q5	♣ AKJ7
	South
	♠ J102
	♥ AQ8
	♦ 107
	♣ 98643

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

200 in both rooms; 9 imps to AUSTRALIA, 87-113.

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

If 3♠ was a game try, Freed had enough to accept it, but from here it looks as if 3♠ was a blocking bid and Freed just took a shot at game. Ino was pleased to survive his offshape takeout double to the tune of plus 200 on defense.

Hayden's 2♦ overcall found the big fit immediately but Itabashi contented himself with a simple raise. Curiously, this silenced Imakura and Hayden was pleased to try for game. 4♣ suited Itabashi's hand quite well, but with no aces or kings, he took the conservative course; one down after a spade to the queen and a low heart shift, Teramoto reverting to spades after taking two heart tricks. Down 100. 7 imps to the DEFENDERS, 82-51.

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Here too the dangerous takeout double worked better than the sound overcall. Should Justin have bid game after Jason's preemptive jump raise? We don't think so. We suspect that Justin doesn't think so either, but perhaps he was expecting an ace or a singleton spade for the vulnerable 4♦ bid. Down 200.

In anticipation of the launch of the Papa Hackett-Gene Freed partnership, the Secretariat has printed a certain number of tickets for kibitzing seats. Reserve early. Minus

Bd: 40	North	
Dlr: West	♠ Q8743	
Vul: None	♥ A64	
	♦ K52	
	♣ 62	
West		East
♠ 10		♠ KJ652
♥ 975		♥ Q102
♦ QJ76		♦ A1093
♣ AQ974		♣ K
	South	
	♠ A9	
	♥ KJ83	
	♦ 84	
	♣ J10853	

USA vs DEFENDERS

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
1NT!	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass!	2♠	Dbl	All Pass

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Hey, Dawei, you were 36 imps ahead to start the session, remember. Neither side vul., yet. Everything's a notrump these days. Ino must have thought that his opponents were trying to do him a favor, but 2♠ doubled went only one down. ♣K, low trump switch to the nine, ten, and queen. Heart to the jack, ♠A, ♥A, ♥K, heart to discard a club, East ruffing in. After cashing his high trumps, poor Ino had to lead a diamond. Minus 100. 2♦ was a good spot, plus 110. No swing.



"Good evening and welcome."

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

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

Justin's 3♦ was a little less comfortable than Hayden's 2♦ but handled well enough. Bagchi's 2NT was very awkward on a club lead. He won the king and led a spade to the nine, ten, and queen. The defenders cashed hearts but South was endplayed and Bagchi had to get both his clubs and the diamond finesse. Still, one down; minus 50. 4 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 117-87.

Bd: 43	North
Dlr: South	♠ Q62
Vul: None	♥ 98
	♦ 1054
	♣ K5432
West	East
♠ K93	♠ AJ8754
♥ A10	♥ 7643
♦ QJ832	♦ ---
♣ AQ6	♣ 987
	South
	♠ 10
	♥ KQJ52
	♦ AK976
	♣ J10

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Robison</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Freed</i>
			1♥
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
Dbl	Pass	3♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Itabashi</i>	<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
			1♥
Dbl	Pass	4♠	All Pass

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Newman</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			1♥
Dbl	Pass	2♠	3♦
Dbl	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Paul H</i>
			1♥
1NT	Pass	4♦*	Dbl
4♠	All Pass		

Double or 1NT? We would have expected a stronger vote for the takeout double, but, as you can see, our expert sample is evenly divided on this subject. The second issue is East's valuation over each of these calls, and again, there is no consensus. Bridge is a game of perception and there are no clear geographical divisions when it comes to matters of judgment.

In 3♠, Ino made four by using his heart spots to advantage. Hayden, in 4♠, got the ♦K lead, which he ruffed to lead a heart up, Teramoto splitting his honors. Hayden conceded a heart and Teramoto switched to the ♣J to the queen and king. The club continuation made it clear that Hayden had a second club winner, so now he simply drew two rounds of trumps and led the ♥7 through Teramoto for a ruffing finesse. Piece of cake! 6 imps to USA, 57-82. Still alive.

Justin got the lead of the ♥K, won the ace, ruffed a diamond, and lost the club finesse. He won the club return, ruffed another diamond, and played a heart. Ishmael won the ♥J and continued with the ♥Q. Justin ruffed with the king, led a spade to his ace, and a spade to the nine and ten. With both his round-suit sevens good by now, he had only to draw the last trump when he regained the lead; plus 420.

Seamus, playing 4♠ from the short side, got a diamond lead from Armstrong, and discarded a club from dummy. Papa won the ♦K and played a club. Declarer rose with the ace and passed the ♦Q, discarding dummy's last club. Did you envision the defenders scoring two diamond tricks but no club trick? Neither did we. Browne lost a heart and misguessed trumps to go one

down; minus 50. 10 imps to GREAT BRITAIN, 128-87. Not much hope left for AUSTRALIA.

declarers went minus 200 without much fanfare.

Papa was also in 5♣, but from the South side after:

North	South
1♥	2♣
3♣	3♥
3♠	4♦
4♥	4♠
5♣	All Pass

Seamus found the safe lead of a heart and Papa won in dummy (six from East) to pass the ♣Q. With the South hand concealed, West had a very difficult play now. Not unreasonably, he switched to a spade. Fatally. Plus 600.

That was really bad luck for AUSTRALIA because at the other table, Newman-Del'Monte reached the magnificent contract of 4♥ on a relay sequence. South knew that North held 3433 shape and was able to check on key cards for hearts very early. When North showed two key cards plus the ♥Q (with his 4♥ response), South knew that North would hold either ♥AKQ or ♦A plus the ♥KQ; in either case, 4♥ would be respectable. Plus 650 but only 2 imps to Oz, 89-129.

Bd: 44	North	
Dlr: West	♠ AJ97	
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ8	
	♦ 987	
	♣ 753	
West		East
♠ 83		♠ KQ6
♥ A94		♥ 6532
♦ Q3		♦ AJ106
♣ QJ10982		♣ AK
	South	
	♠ 10542	
	♥ J107	
	♦ K542	
	♣ 64	

At three tables, West opened the bidding with something representing a real opening (Chen's 9-12 notrump would have to be included in this group). They all got to game and made it when the ♦Q proved to be an entry after the defenders knocked out the ♥A early. At the fourth table, Itabashi opened 3♣ and bought it there; plus 110, but 7 imps to DEFENDERS, 89-57.

Bd: 45	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 875	
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ2	
	♦ Q63	
	♣ Q42	
West		East
♠ KJ6		♠ 10432
♥ 10973		♥ 65
♦ KJ87		♦ A10542
♣ K6		♣ 87
	South	
	♠ AQ9	
	♥ J84	
	♦ 9	
	♣ AJ10953	

In USA vs DEFENDERS both N/S pairs reached 5♣ from the North side (North opened 1♣, of course) and were treated harshly with a spade lead through the ace-queen. Both



"That's strange, I thought my bidding was quite normal."

Bd: 46	North	
Dlr: East	♠ K1084	
Vul: None	♥ AJ64	
	♦ J97	
	♣ 63	
West		East
♠ 96		♠ AJ52
♥ KQ532		♥ 987
♦ 2		♦ AK653
♣ KJ752		♣ 8
	South	
	♠ Q73	
	♥ 10	
	♦ Q1084	
	♣ AQ1094	

AUSTRALIA vs GREAT BRITAIN

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jason H	Newman	Justin H	Del'Monte
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Browne	Armstrng	Bagchi	Paul H
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

4♥ is not a great contract but you'd expect nearly everyone to get there. No one made it in the Semifinals of the NEC Cup, of course. The popular sequence leading to 2♥ is generally treated as constructive (else pass 1NT or raise 1♥ to 2♥ immediately) but there are as many problems in this approach as any other. We were surprised to see the aggressive Dawei pass 2♥, but right he was. He made eight tricks to gain 5imps, 94-57.

DEFENDERS won the last set 30-23 and won the match 100-57. GREAT BRITAIN won the last set 37-11 and won the match 134-89. It figured to be an excellent final.

USA vs DEFENDERS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	Robison	Ino	Freed
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Imakura	Hayden	Teramoto
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass



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The mineral water we've all been treated to in the playing areas was supplied by JAPAN Beverage. Thanks to them from all of us.

The NEC Cup Final

JAPAN vs GREAT BRITAIN

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

If the cast of characters seems familiar that's because it was like old home week here in Yokohama. The DEFENDING CHAMPIONS shall henceforth be known simply as "JAPAN" and GREAT BRITAIN can be reduced to "GB." 64 boards.

finessed against Ino's ♠Q; plus 110. 6 delightfulimps to GREAT BRITAIN.

Bd: 1	North
Dir: North	♠ AK3
Vul: None	♥ Q432
	♦ 6
	♣ KQ1064
West	East
♠ Q107	♠ 984
♥ K95	♥ AJ107
♦ KJ843	♦ A1097
♣ 73	♣ J5
	South
	♠ J652
	♥ 86
	♦ Q52
	♣ A982

Bd: 2	North
Dir: East	♠ AJ92
Vul: N/S	♥ K10765
	♦ KQ9
	♣ 10
West	East
♠ KQ7	♠ 8654
♥ 932	♥ AQ84
♦ J7	♦ 10863
♣ QJ762	♣ 9
	South
	♠ 103
	♥ J
	♦ A542
	♣ AK8543

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
	2♣	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

A lovely little deal to get GREAT BRITAIN off on the right foot. Papa's 3♣ had only the four obvious losers, but Jason's bold 3♦ had the potential for several more. Masayuki Ino started with the ♠A, cashed ♣KQ (South playing eight-deuce), then the ♠K, then exited with a spade. Jason thought that Ino would raise spades on three only with a ruffing value, which suggested he would have his actual shape. Backing his judgment he finessed against Dawei Chen's trump queen, then

Papa got a low heart lead to dummy's blank jack. He led the ♠10, covered by the queen and ace, and the ♠J to Tadashi Imakura's king. Back came the ♦J. Papa won the king and returned the ♥K to Tasdashi Teramoto's ace. The ♣9 was taken by dummy's ace and Papa finessed the ♦9 with a disappointing result. Teramoto won the ten and tucked him back in hand with the ♦Q. Papa played ♠9, spade, and Teramoto was back on play. He cashed the ♥Q to set the contract; minus 100.

Ino got a low diamond lead to the jack and king. He passed the ♣10 around to the jack and Jason switched to the ♠Q. Ino won and returned a spade, but Jason ducked dummy's

ten. Now ♣A, club, ♥6, ♥8, then the ♥J, which ran to the queen. Justin led another diamond around to the nine and Ino drove out the ♥A. Back in with the third diamond, he finished the hearts and exited with a spade to collect dummy's ♣K in the end; plus 600. 12 imps to JAPAN, 12-6.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q1042		
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ7		
	♦ K1065		
	♣ K2		
West		East	
♠ 9863		♠ AK	
♥ 632		♥ A10984	
♦ 42		♦ J987	
♣ Q1063		♣ 84	
	South		
	♠ J75		
	♥ J5		
	♦ AQ3		
	♣ AJ975		

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
			1♣	
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dbl*	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>	
			1NT	
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

Justin led the ♦7 against Ino's 3NT. The ten won and a spade play brought an honor. The heart switch came too late; plus 430. Imakura led a spade over to the ace and Teramoto switched to the ♥10. Declarer won the jack and played on clubs, going two down when the suit went badly for her and the defenders established their hearts. A second spade at trick three would have secured the contract. 11 imps to JAPAN, 23-6.

Bd: 5	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 109873		
Vul: N/S	♥ 43		
	♦ 1096		
	♣ KQ8		
West		East	
♠ Q62		♠ KJ54	
♥ A109		♥ J85	
♦ A85		♦ KQJ74	
♣ 5432		♣ 7	
	South		
	♠ A		
	♥ KQ762		
	♦ 32		
	♣ AJ1096		

JAPAN vs GREAT BRITAIN

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
	Pass	1♠	2♠(1)	
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2NT	
Pass	3♣(2)	Pass	Pass	
Dbl	Pass	3♦	Pass	
3♠	All Pass			
(1) ♥ and a minor; (2) Pass or correct to ♦				
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>	
	Pass	1♦	1♥	
1NT	All Pass			

Jason's double of 3♣, having made a non-forcing pass of the reputedly "natural" 2NT, was of the optional variety, denying a trump stack. 3♦ would have been a better contract than 3♠, and perhaps, in true Hackett style, Jason should have passed it; it was random whether Justin had more spades than diamonds. 3♠ went only one down on repeated club forces when declarer was able to cash three diamonds; minus 50.

Imakura's 1NT made nine tricks on a heart lead when Brigitte Mavromichalis cleared her suit upon winning the ♠A. The defense could have taken five clubs, a heart, and a spade. Plus 150; 5 imps to JAPAN, 28-6.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ 108
Vul: E/W	♥ KJ10975
	♦ 4
	♣ J1083
West	East
♠ J7653	♠ AK4
♥ 8	♥ A42
♦ 102	♦ AKQ875
♣ AK542	♣ 7
	South
	♠ Q92
	♥ Q63
	♦ J963
	♣ Q96

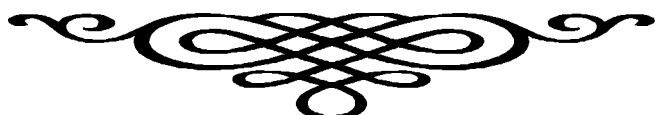
Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ AKJ75
Vul: None	♥ 8432
	♦ 10
	♣ 1093
West	East
♠ Q92	♠ 1063
♥ 975	♥ AJ
♦ J5	♦ AKQ74
♣ KQJ54	♣ 762
	South
	♠ 84
	♥ KQ106
	♦ 98632
	♣ A8

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
		2♣*	Pass	
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	
5♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass	
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>	
		2♣*	Pass	
3♣	3♥	3NT	All Pass	

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦(1)	
3♣	3♠(2)	Pass	4♥	
All Pass				
(1) ♦ and a major; (2) Pass or correct to ♥				
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>	
1NT	2♦(1)	3NT	All Pass	
(1) ♠ and another				

Credit Papa's 3♥ bid for some of the 12imps won by GREAT BRITAIN on this deal. Teramoto had a tough decision over 3♥ and bid what he thought he might make. Should Imakura have passed it? That's a partnership matter.

On an unlikely trump lead against 6♦, declarer draws trumps and clears spades. On any other lead, declarer ruffs his hearts in dummy, throws a spade on the ♣K, and loses a trump trick. Well bid by the twins, we think. JAPAN led now by 10imps, 28-18.



Both N/S pairs made their presence felt in the bidding, with mixed results. The 4♥ reached by Chen-Ino was not a good contract, but it had a play. After ♣K, ducked, ♣J to the ace, drawing trumps would have worked well; then a spade to the jack would have brought in the game. Chen played a diamond, however, took a club force, crossed to the ♠A, led a heart to the jack and queen, ruffed a diamond, ruffed out the spades, and ruffed another diamond, West discarding a club in front of dummy. Then declarer ruffed a spade winner with the ♥K and led another diamond, but Jason ruffed up with the ♥9 and played a trump. One down, minus 50.

If 4♥ was meant to be a save (it wasn't, of course), it proved to be a good one in a strange way. Papa led the ♠K against Imakura's 3NT, got a count card, and switched to the ♣9. That was as good as anything,

really, but when Brigitte won the ♣A, she returned a club. Plus 430. 9 imps to JAPAN, 37-18.

1♠, in contrast, was quite Papa-proof; plus 170. 7 imps to GB, 25-38.

Bd: 10	North		
Dir: East	♠ KQ1082		
Vul: Both	♥ 76		
	♦ 4		
	♣ AKJ83		
West		East	
♠ 95		♠ J743	
♥ AJ543		♥ 2	
♦ AJ2		♦ KQ10875	
♣ Q102		♣ 76	
	South		
	♠ A6		
	♥ KQ1098		
	♦ 963		
	♣ 954		

Bd: 11	North		
Dir: South	♠ A103		
Vul: None	♥ J7		
	♦ AJ652		
	♣ K103		
West		East	
♠ 87652		♠ KQJ4	
♥ 982		♥ AKQ65	
♦ 9843		♦ Q10	
♣ 8		♣ QJ	
	South		
	♠ 9		
	♥ 1043		
	♦ K7		
	♣ A976542		

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
		2♦	Pass	
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♥	
All Pass				
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>	
		Pass	Pass	
1♥	1♠	All Pass		

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
			3♣	
Pass	3NT	Dbl	4♣!	
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>	
			Pass	
Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♣	
Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Justin's all-natural weak 2♦ (love the flavor) jostled Ino-Chen into 4♥, a bit high on their cards. ♦A, low trump switch, diamond ruff, ♣A, three rounds of spades to discard the last diamond. Jason ruffed and still had two trumps coming. One down; minus 100.

If the auctions are correct, we suspect that we are passing through another dimension, a dimension not of time and space but of mind and imagination...There's the signpost up ahead...next stop...the Twilight Zone.



"Being tall is requires talent."

Even 2♥ was too high in the Closed Room. Spade lead, spade ruff, ♣A, ♦7 to the ace, spade ruff, ♦K. Minus 50. But who would have picked the bidding to end at 2♥, given South's hand facing a not-so-weak notrump?

Chen had a good hand for a nonvulnerable three-bid, and Ino took a practical shot at 3NT. When Justin doubled (as well he might have), it's difficult to understand why Dawei would run. Perhaps Imakura would have done so on his own, but here the net effect of Chen's unilateral escape was to get him doubled in 4♣

when Jason decided to try for four tricks on defense rather than ten on offense. Jason's heart lead was the only one to hold Chen to eleven tricks, but Justin won the ♥Q and switched to a spade. Now the hearts went on the established diamonds for twelve tricks; plus 710. 4♠ would have been only one down. 12imps to JAPAN, 50-25.

Bd: 12	North		
Dir: West	♠ 95		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ10982		
	♦ 10		
	♣ J972		
West		East	
♠ 10643		♠ AKJ7	
♥ 74		♥ A	
♦ 8754		♦ KJ932	
♣ K53		♣ Q106	
	South		
	♠ Q82		
	♥ J653		
	♦ AQ6		
	♣ A84		

Bd: 13	North		
Dir: North	♠ AQJ753		
Vul: Both	♥ 10754		
	♦ 85		
	♣ 4		
West		East	
♠ K1042		♠ 9	
♥ 63		♥ KQJ	
♦ J		♦ A7432	
♣ 1098765		♣ AJ32	
	South		
	♠ 86		
	♥ A982		
	♦ KQ1096		
	♣ KQ		

Open Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Jason H Ino Justin H Chen
 Pass 2♦(1) 2NT 3♥(2)
 All Pass
 (1) Multi 2♦; (2) Pass or correct to ♠

Closed Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Imakura Paul H Termoto Mavro
 Pass 2♥ Dbl 4♥
 Pass Pass Dbl Pass
 4♠ All Pass

Papa's weak 2♥ worked more effectively this time than Ino's Multi 2♦, nudging Imakura-Teramoto into 4♠, two down on the singleton diamond lead; minus 100. Justin judged well to sell out to 3♥ at the other table, and Jason's low club lead gave the defenders five tricks before declarer could reach dummy to finesse the ♦Q for a spade discard; down 100 here too. 5imps to GB, 30-50.

Open Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Jason H Ino Justin H Chen
 2♦(1) Pass 2NT*
 Pass 3♥(2) Pass 3♠(3)
 All Pass
 (1) Multi 2♦; (2) Good weak 2♠; (3) Invitational

Closed Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Imakura Paul H Termoto Mavro
 2NT(1) Pass 3♣ All Pass
 (1) Puppet to 3♣

Once again, we see the Multi and the natural weak two compared. Again Justin did well to stay out of the auction (his methods did not permit him to act on the first round, and he had reason to be cowed on the second). 3♠ went two down, losing two hearts, a club, a diamond, a diamond ruff, and a slow trump trick. Ino might have saved a trick. Minus 200. 3♣ produced a very comfortable plus 130. 2imps to GB, 32-50.



"Director...here I am."

Bd: 14	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 1062		
Vul: None	♥ Q74		
	♦ 2		
	♣ KJ9752		
West		East	
♠ AKQ853		♠ 974	
♥ 5		♥ K632	
♦ AJ643		♦ Q107	
♣ 10		♣ 643	
	South		
	♠ J		
	♥ AJ1098		
	♦ K985		
	♣ AQ8		

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♥*	Dbl	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

Ino-Chen found the wrong strain but a practical level; plus 90. Imakura-Teramoto also found a seven-card fit where an eight-card fit was available, but they went minus when Imakura got a club lead and let Brigitte win the first trick. The defense got a club ruff and several other tricks for two down; minus 100. No swing. A busy first set concluded with JAPAN ahead by 18 imps, 50-32.

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♥(1)	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	All Pass		
(1) ♠ and a minor			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Mavro</i>
		Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

No swing at E/W plus 420. N/S's clubs, which might produce eleven tricks, never mentioned.

Bd: 17	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 85		
Vul: None	♥ 7		
	♦ A10982		
	♣ J10743		
West		East	
♠ 1062		♠ A9743	
♥ AK1065		♥ Q942	
♦ K65		♦ Q4	
♣ K6		♣ 82	
	South		
	♠ KQJ		
	♥ J83		
	♦ J73		
	♣ AQ95		

Bd: 15	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KJ932		
Vul: N/S	♥ 86		
	♦ 97543		
	♣ 7		
West		East	
♠ 76		♠ A84	
♥ Q107		♥ AK93	
♦ J86		♦ Q102	
♣ A10632		♣ Q98	
	South		
	♠ Q105		
	♥ J542		
	♦ AK		
	♣ KJ54		

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			1♣
1♥	2♣	3♥	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
			Pass
2♥	2♦	Pass	Pass
	Pass	3♥	All Pass

3♥ was cold; a push at plus 140. We mention this deal so you can appreciate the Hackett weak two-bid approach. Settling for one quiet raiselet didn't do the North hand justice, but Takihiko Hirata was surely planning to do more if the auction hadn't gotten so high.

went minus 200. Once he knew that Ino's hand was balanced, we believe he should have known that it had to contain the ♦Q (with 15-17 HCP they have to start with a minor in this position). Papa's 3♦ went minus 100 at the other table, so JAPAN gained 7 imps, 57-32.

Bd: 18	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 95		
Vul: N/S	♥ K82		
	♦ KJ5		
	♣ KJ942		
West		East	
♠ 76		♠ AKQ8	
♥ Q9		♥ J65	
♦ 1098742		♦ Q6	
♣ Q103		♣ A765	
	South		
	♠ J10432		
	♥ A10743		
	♦ A3		
	♣ 8		

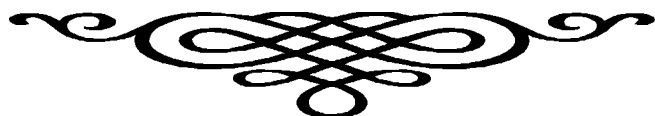
Bd: 20	North		
Dlr: West	♠ A986		
Vul: Both	♥ 108		
	♦ KQJ7		
	♣ 963		
West		East	
♠ Q1054		♠ J3	
♥ 2		♥ AKJ743	
♦ 108652		♦ 9	
♣ AK10		♣ QJ42	
	South		
	♠ K72		
	♥ Q965		
	♦ A43		
	♣ 875		

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
		1NT	2♦(1)	
2NT(2)	Pass	3♣	Pass	
3♦	All Pass			
(1) ♥+♠				
(2) lebensohl puppet to 3♣				
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Jason H</i>	
		1♣	2♣(1)	
Pass	3NT!	All Pass		
(1) ♥+♠				

	Open Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Chen</i>	
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass	
	Closed Room			
West	North	East	South	
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Jason H</i>	
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT(1)	
Dbl	3♦	Pass	Pass	
Dbl	All Pass			
(1) Pick a minor				

Three looks like a whole lot of notrump; it appears that Justin was expecting a bit more from his brother for his two-suited intervention at these colors. In any case, 3NT proved to be an exciting contract. ♠K, low club to the eight, queen, and king, ♠9 to the queen, low club to the ten and jack, establishing a major tenace. Justin crossed to the ♥A and knocked out the ♠A. Ino played a heart to the queen and king and Justin crossed to the ♦A to cash the two good spades. Now he needed the diamond finesse, more or less, and so he took it and

John Armstrong's 3♥ was one down without any complexity; minus 100. Justin was caught speeding in the Closed Room when Teramoto smelled blood and pounced. 3♦ doubled was two down; minus 500, so GB turned over 12 imps and trailed by 37 imps, 32-69.



Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ K92
Vul: N/S	♥ 843
	♦ AQJ65
	♣ 82
West	East
♠ 63	♠ J10874
♥ QJ1096	♥ K7
♦ K32	♦ 10984
♣ KQ3	♣ 104
	South
	♠ AQ5
	♥ A52
	♦ 7
	♣ AJ9765

game bonus. That had to fail on a heart lead also and Chen finished minus 200, taking the ruffing finesse in diamonds. 13 imps to GB, 45-69.

Bd: 23	North
Dlr: South	♠ A432
Vul: Both	♥ 76
	♦ J9864
	♣ 65
West	East
♠ J97	♠ Q65
♥ KQ842	♥ J10953
♦ A	♦ K1032
♣ J1097	♣ Q
	South
	♠ K108
	♥ A
	♦ Q75
	♣ AK8432

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	2♦	2♥	2NT(1)
Pass	3♥	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣		

(1) Moderate 3♣ bid

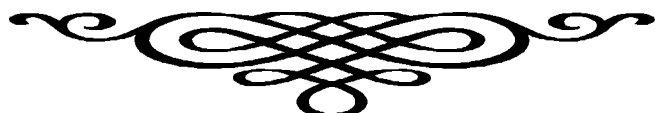
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Ino led a spade against Justin's 3NT, which ran to the king. A club went to the seven and queen, and now it seemed that Teramoto would switch to hearts and defeat the contract. That would be the wrong play, however, if Justin held the ♥K, as he figured to hold for his 2NT rebid (note that, as is often the case, Justin held no hand at all). In truth everything looked futile to Teramoto, who switched to a low diamond. Justin took no chances; he put up the ace and knocked out the ♣K. Teramoto cashed the ♦K but Justin had the rest; plus 630. Really, the diamond switch could not defeat the contract; declarer would duck twice if he had to.

Chen and Hirata would not have made 3NT at their table, so 5♣ was their best shot at the

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			1♣
1♥	Dbl*	3♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
			1♣
1♥	1♠	3♣*	Dbl*
Pass	Pass	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

Jason scrambled home in 3♠ on an obscure line that we can't quite follow from the play record, but we think it was more-or-less legitimate; plus 140. 4♥ had four obvious losers for minus 100. Perhaps that big 4♦ bid was an attempt to direct the defense against a spade contract, but no one had shown any real interest in that suit yet. 1 imp to GB, 46-70.



Bd: 26	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J105		
Vul: Both	♥ AQ832		
	♦ 32		
	♣ 852		
West		East	
♠ 9743		♠ AKQ6	
♥ KJ5		♥ 7	
♦ K985		♦ AQ10	
♣ A7		♣ KQJ96	
	South		
	♠ 82		
	♥ 10964		
	♦ J764		
	♣ 1043		

Bd: 27	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KJ10765		
Vul: None	♥ 76		
	♦ K32		
	♣ QJ		
West		East	
♠ Q84		♠ A32	
♥ 9853		♥ 104	
♦ 976		♦ AQJ8	
♣ 985		♣ 7632	
	South		
	♠ 9		
	♥ AKQJ2		
	♦ 1054		
	♣ AK104		

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		1♣	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

How sad. With 6♠ or 6NT (by West) very good contracts, neither E/W pair got close. If Ino's 4♣ was the correct call, Teramoto's 4♠ was not, so we suspect a misunderstanding. Meanwhile, the real tragedy came in the Open Room, where Papa had a mechanical accident. He thought he had bid 1♠ at his first turn but had extracted the 1NT card and never noticed his error until it was too late. He thought 2♠ was a simple raise and that 3♦ over his own 2NT game try showed a moderate 3145 hand. That was particularly bad luck for GB, who lost 11imps where they stood a fighting chance to gain 12 by reaching slam. JAPAN, 81-56.



Standing Room Only in the VuGraph theatre

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Termoto</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Just an overtrick imp here, Justin getting a diamond lead around to his king. Consider, however, that Chen got a diamond lead through dummy's king. Had the ♠A been in the West hand, a spade return would have beaten 3NT. Although you would be a bit unlucky to fail at 3NT from the South side, 3♦ is a much better choice than 2NT. JAPAN, 81-57.



"It's really a huge responsibility being so popular."

Bd: 29	North	
Dlr: North	♠ 86	
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ83	
	♦ AK4	
	♣ J54	
West		East
♠ J4		♠ A10532
♥ 96		♥ 10752
♦ J9653		♦ 1087
♣ Q1083		♣ 2
	South	
	♠ KQ97	
	♥ J4	
	♦ Q2	
	♣ AK976	

Jason's 6NT was more promising. He got a diamond lead (the honest five), won the ace, and led a spade to his king. He cashed the ♣A, then the ♦Q, and ran hearts, Ino discarding the ♠5 on the last. West discarded three-nine of diamonds and then the ♣8 after Jason threw his last small club. Had he cashed the ♦K before leading a second spade, he would have made his contract easily. Instead, he led the spade first. Had Ino played low on the spade, he would have taken the last two tricks with the ace-ten. Instead he went in with the ace (Teramoto's jack falling) and exited with the ♠3. Suddenly, Jason was back in the running. But could he really finesse dummy's nine?

To do so would mean that he had been given a chance to make a contract that had to fail with normal defense in a clear endgame. Meanwhile, playing the ♠Q was entirely legitimate. If Teramoto had started with J104, there would be no defense in the endgame. If Ino ducks the spade, the king wins, and declarer cashes the ♣K before exiting in spades to collect the ♦K in the end.

We can't tell you whether Jason was thinking of the Grosvenor Gambit possibilities in this torment-laden position, but in the end he put up the ♠Q and lost the last trick to Ino's ♠10 for one down. Minus 100. 3imps to GB, 60-81.

On the last deal of the set, the nature of the competitive auction that led Hirata-Chen to 4♠ got them doubled. The contract was cold and the twins were not doubled. 4imps to JAPAN, who won the quarter, 38-28 to lead at the half by 28imps, 88-60.

	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Paul H</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Armstrng</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

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

Chen's 6♣ had no chance on the lie of the cards and he finished two down after cashing ace-king of trumps; minus 200.

More to Come...

Look for a "Special Edition" bulletin later today with analysis of the third and fourth segments of the NEC Cup final, results from Sunday's pair games and much, much more.