



# NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 3, 2002  
Bulletin Number 7

Editors: Eric Kokish  
Richard Colker

## Ota-Ito Win Asuka Cup Top 10 Rankings

Rank	Score	Names
1	2414.00	Hiroko Ota - Koji Ito
2	2362.00	Subhashi Gupta - R. Venkatraman
3	2360.50	Tadashi Imakura - kazuhiko Yamada
4	2353.00	Masayasu Oga - Tom Cheng
5	2328.50	Bruce Neill - John Roberts
6	2308.00	Shunsuke Morimura - Tadashi Teramoto
7	2302.00	Michiko Iwahashi - Misuzu Ichihashi
8	2285.00	Peter Fredin - Magnus Lindkvist
9	2279.00	Piotr Gawrys - Makoto Hirata
10	2272.50	Yukiko Umezu - Etsuko Naito



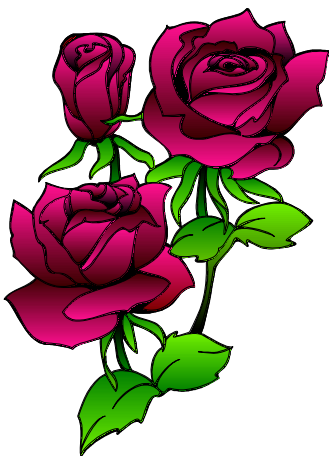
Asuka Cup Winners  
Hiroko Ota-Koji Ito



Asuka Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Subhash Gupta-B. Satyanarain



Asuka Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Tadashi Imakura-Kazuhiko Yamada



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# NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2002

## Domo Arigato

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to congratulate **NEC** for once again joining with **JCBL** to sponsor a bridge event which continues to grow in quality and competitiveness. It is a sign of this growth that it is now regularly attracting some of the best players in the world. Many have expressed praise for this tournament to us, saying that it has been one of their best bridge experiences. Kudos to the sponsors and especially the **JCBL** staff.

Yokohama, and especially the Pacifico, have grown to be wonderful places. The weather was dry and pleasant this year while the people were warm and friendly as always. It is our continuing great pleasure to be reunited each year with our many friends and to share once again the happy times, fun and excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts.

The significant prizes and broad participation have made the **NEC Bridge Festival** an important event on the bridge calendar. It grows in prestige each year and we hope it will continue to grow in the years to come.

The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who helped us with deals, stories and other information to keep you informed. Many thanks to Nakatani-san, for his peerless leadership and enduring friendship. To Richard Grenside, tormented director, who as always dealt with the usual problems and managed to surmount them all. To Omasa-san, who provided us remarkable technical and computer support. To Nakamura-san, for his especially wonderful pictures (which as usual we subjected to our peculiar sense of humor) and other technical assistance. To Hayashi-san and Suzuki-san for their help with many things, both technical and otherwise. To Higashiguchi-san who produces the internet coverage and who put up with our exotic late-night work schedule. To the many who brought us gifts, especially the food which was especially welcomed during our late-night work sessions. Thanks also to the many other volunteers who performed the myriad functions critical to this tournament's success, while we were hopelessly absorbed in our work. Our thanks also to the players, who produced a rich source of exciting, top-level bridge to write about.



# The Final of the NEC Cup

by Rich Colker

With the score Canada (**Jurek Czyzowicz, Kamel Fergani, Darren Wolpert, Nicolas L'Ecuyer**) 110, England (**Brian Senior, John Armstrong, Pablo Lambardi, Brian Callaghan**) 100, we pick up the action at the start of the fourth quarter.

## Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

The set started slowly... *very* slowly. On the first board England picked up an overtrick IMP in 3NT while on the second board Canada chose to play in their five-two spade fit while the Brits played their five-three diamond fit. Canada was duly rewarded with a 2-IMP gain when spades made three (+140) while diamonds only made two (+90). The next four boards were all game pushes and were followed by a boring seven-trick 1NT contract—just for a change of pace. When the eighth board of the set was placed on the table Canada was leading by 11 IMPs, 112-101.

Bd: 56	North		
Dlr: West	♠ K962		
Vul: None	♥ K64		
	♦ 542		
	♣ 962		
West		East	
♠ Q		♠ A107543	
♥ A73		♥ QJ	
♦ A93		♦ KQJ8	
♣ AKJ1074		♣ 8	
	South		
	♠ J8		
	♥ 109852		
	♦ 1076		
	♣ Q53		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

does—and this time he was right. Not only was the ♣Q inside (and he got a trump lead just to ensure that he had nothing to worry about in planning the play) but the ♦J showed up in dummy to provide a pitch for his third heart. 3NT made 12 tricks on the ♠K lead when the club finesse worked for +490 while 6♣ made the same 12 tricks for +920. 10 inspired IMPs for England, cutting Canada's lead to a mere 1 IMP at 112-111.

Bd: 57	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 104		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ9532		
	♦ KQ104		
	♣ J		
West		East	
♠ K983		♠ 76	
♥ KJ8		♥ 104	
♦ 2		♦ A63	
♣ Q9532		♣ AK10764	
	South		
	♠ AQJ52		
	♥ 76		
	♦ J9875		
	♣ 8		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	1♥	2♣	2♠
3NT	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
	1♥	2♣	2♠
3♥*	Dbl	4♣	All Pass

3NT was a bit frisky, and had a double-edged effect when it forced Senior to bid 4♥. L'Ecuyer started the ♣K and shifted immediately to the ♠7. Senior rose with the ace, finessed the ♥Q, cashed the ♥A, and had only to knock out the ♦A to secure one down, -50.

Callaghan's 3♥ bid was some sort of club raise (Why not a notrump contract? No one ever leads diamonds.) and Armstrong, with no room for a delicate probe, guessed well to bid only 4♣. There was nothing to the play and John quickly claimed his ten tricks; +130. Not a big

Do you believe in magic? John Armstrong

swing, but enough for England to regain the lead (for the moment) at 113-112.

+90. 9 IMPs to Canada, who vaulted back into the lead at 121-113.

Bd: 58	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 108743		
Vul: Both	♥ 107632		
	♦ A7		
	♣ 8		
West	East		
♠ 52	♠ AQJ6		
♥ KQJ	♥ A84		
♦ KJ42	♦ 965		
♣ 10642	♣ J73		
	South		
	♠ K9		
	♥ 95		
	♦ Q1083		
	♣ AKQ95		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Dbl	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
		1♣*	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Bd: 59	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KJ74		
Vul: None	♥ A1096		
	♦ KJ76		
	♣ 6		
West	East		
♠ Q102	♠ 9		
♥ 52	♥ KQJ843		
♦ 954	♦ A10832		
♣ KJ972	♣ 5		
	South		
	♠ A8653		
	♥ 7		
	♦ Q		
	♣ AQ10843		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♦	4♥	4♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♥*	2♥	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Fergani/L'Ecuyer had just settled into a nice, cosy 1NT contract when the serenity of the moment was shattered by Senior's 2♦ bid. Perhaps Lambardi was confused that Senior had not made a takeout a round earlier and that this might be something different, or perhaps he was simply not expecting so little in the way of high cards. In any case, his 2NT bid took his side beyond their 2♥ safety level and then it was a case of "double trouble."

There's no reason why the clubs couldn't have split more favorably, but when the opponents preempt (certain hairy-chested Dutch bridge magazine editors excluded) one should expect unfavorable splits. Lambardi won the ♥5 lead and got trumps right by playing to the ace and back to the jack, then drawing the third round. Since he needed the ♣K to either be onside or doubleton, the finesse figured to be the right play. But when the finesse lost Pablo was in way over his head. He ended two tricks short; -100.

Fergani led the ♥KQ, then shifted to the ♦2, 7, 9, 10 (render unto Caesar...and all that). Lambardi played clubs from the top (pitching a heart and two spades) and Fergani won and exited a second diamond. When L'Ecuyer came in with the ♠A, he led a diamond through Lambardi's queen-eight to Kamel's king-jack for two down, -500. Nicely done.

Playing in (only) game, Czyzowicz took a safe line for ten tricks. He won the heart lead with the ace, cashed the ♠K, then played a club to the ace and ruffed a club with the ♠J. When Armstrong showed out Jurek turned to Plan B. He led a diamond to the queen, Armstrong ducking, ruffed another club low, ruffed out the ♦A, and ruffed a third club. He now had to lose only a club and a trump; +450. 11 more IMPs

In the Closed Room Czyzowicz led his clubs from the top against 1NT. Armstrong took the spade finesse, then guessed the diamonds for

to Canada, leading now 132-113.

Bd: 60	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J1076532		
Vul: N/S	♥ A		
	♦ A102		
	♣ AK		
West	East		
♠ AQ	♠ K8		
♥ Q10832	♥ J754		
♦ Q5	♦ J763		
♣ 10874	♣ Q65		
	South		
	♠ 94		
	♥ K96		
	♦ K984		
	♣ J932		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♦*	All Pass	

We've a lot of sympathy for Senior's practical 4♠ rebid. When trumps broke two-two he was home with +650.

We have a good deal less sympathy for the 2♦ rebid. Perhaps Wolpert has read too many of Al Roth's Master Solvers' Club comments ("If I can get by this round I'll be better placed..."). Even getting by this round will gain what? If Czyzowicz has as little as ♠x ♦KJx(x)(x) he'll have good play for 4♠, and will risk playing in only 2♦. Nothing that South can do over 2♦ helps. Even a preference to 2♠ only confirms that you should have bid 4♠ the last time and not risked being left high and dry in 2♦. Darren scored up +130, but that was 11 IMPs to England, who now trailed by only 8 at 132-124.



"When I say double, I mean it."

Bd: 61	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 72		
Vul: Both	♥ AK52		
	♦ K982		
	♣ 1062		
West	East		
♠ Q43	♠ AKJ65		
♥ 863	♥ 974		
♦ J643	♦ Q10		
♣ KQ7	♣ A94		
	South		
	♠ 1098		
	♥ QJ10		
	♦ A75		
	♣ J853		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	<i>Czyzowicz</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

We suspect L'Ecuyer 2♣ could have been a doubleton and that 2♦ was artificial (ala Cole), in which case 2♥ said "I'm willing to play 2♥ opposite a five-card suit. 2♠ then showed a balanced, constructive raise (E/W played Bergen-style raises) and 2NT was constructive. (Why bid again? Can 3NT really have much play opposite a balanced 8-9 count?) Lambardi led the ♥Q and the defenders cashed their four hearts and two diamonds for two down; -200.

Wolpert was way too active for a player with a balanced 10-count and 3♦ went three down; -300. 11 IMPs for England, who were back in the lead at 135-132.

We'd like to tell you that the last three boards were nail biters, but in actuality Canada lost 3 more IMPs on undertricks. The final score was England 138, Canada 132. Congratulations to England, the 2002 NEC Cup champions.

## Meet the Team from England/Norway

(The following material was adapted from e-bridgemaster.com)



Paul Hackett

Paul D. Hackett was born in 1941. He currently resides in Manchester with his wife, Olivia. Paul was Britain's first real bridge professional. Paul and Olivia's two twin sons, Justin and Jason, are also both bridge professionals and former World Junior champions.

Paul was British Grand Master #137. In 1981, he finished second in both the European Teams and the European Union Pairs, and fifth in the Bermuda Bowl, playing with John Collings. Playing with Tony Waterlow, he also earned a silver medal at the 1995 European Pairs.

Paul has represented Great Britain in five World Championships, including the 1996 World Teams Olympiad where Paul, Jason and Justin were all members of the Great Britain

### Paul Hackett

team—a record.

Paul has numerous British National titles to his credit and is a regular winner at major international events. These include the Tunisian Open Teams in 1992 and 1993, the Estoril Teams in Portugal in 1994, the Schiphol International Teams in the Netherlands, the Singapore National Open Teams, and the Djarum Cup in Indonesia in 1995. He repeated his Indonesian victory and finished second in two North American NABC events (the Open Swiss and the BAM Teams) in 1996. In 1997, he won the Argentine National Teams and reached the final day of the Reisinger. In 1998, he reached the quarterfinals of the Rosenblum Teams and won both the NEC Cup in Japan (second in 1999, first again in 2000) and the Chilean Invitational.



Jason Hackett

### Jason & Justin Hackett

The Hackett twins were born on August 14, 1970, in Manchester, England. Jason is the elder by 10 minutes. Their father, Paul, has represented Great Britain in numerous international events, and they are probably the most successful bridge-playing family in the world. Jason and Justin were members of the British team that won the European Junior Championship in 1994 and the World crown a year later. A year after that, just before their 26<sup>th</sup> birthdays, they made their first appearance in the British Open team, at the World Team



Justin Hackett

Olympiad in Rhodes. Paul was a member of that same team, which set a record for any country.

The boys, who at the time of this writing are aged 31, have been playing bridge for almost two-thirds of their lives. They were first selected as members of the British junior squad in 1985, at the age of 15. A year after that, in 1986, they became the youngest players ever to compete in the World Pairs Olympiad. Since 1995, they have been the

youngest professional partnership in Europe. In that same year, at the age of 24 years and 11 months, Jason became the youngest ever player to achieve the rank of Grand Master, breaking the previous record held by a certain A. R. Forrester.

Jason and Justin have already established themselves as international stars: they have won major events in China, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Trinidad, Chile, Argentina and Australia. Although they have yet to win their first American National title, they have already come close on a number of occasions and it is only a matter of time.

Justin's contribution to the bridge world was acknowledged at the highest level in 1997 when he was invited to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace "in recognition of his distinction in the field."

#### **Justin Hackett:**

You do not have to be in Justin's company long before it becomes clear that he is "Football Crazy." When he is not playing bridge, he is usually jetting around the world to watch his beloved Red Devils play. Besides spectating, he also plays regularly and, indeed, he always wanted to become a professional footballer—for Manchester United, of course. "I grew up sure that one day I would run out onto the pitch at the 'Theatre of Dreams' wearing that famous red shirt," says Justin.

In addition to his obsession with United, Justin's other interests include cinema, theater, disco dancing, pubs and travel. As a student, he attended the University of Central Lancashire where he earned a degree in "French with History."

Both boys cited winning the World Junior Championships as their best bridge memory.

We also asked the boys about some of the other players they have encountered as opponents and teammates. Justin picked out Danny Davies, another member of the World Championship winning British junior team. "He was always sympathetic and was excellent at raising morale and helping players to regain confidence," comments Justin. "Then there is Geir Helgemo—a good friend and a great

player. He'll be around both as a teammate and an opponent for many years."

On September 1, 2001, Justin married German Internationalist Barbara Stawowy "On the day on which England defeated Germany 1-0 in the World Cup qualifying round." Our best to them in their future married life together.

#### **Jason Hackett:**

Having achieved the same school-leaving qualifications (9 'O' levels and 3 'A' levels) as his brother, Jason started his degree but dropped out to concentrate full-time on bridge. Also a football supporter, although not as fanatical as his brother, it is to Leeds United (one of Manchester United's fiercest rivals) that Jason pledges his allegiance. He admits that he really prefers cricket, though. One of the benefits of traveling around the world to play bridge is that you are sometimes able to get to see England playing overseas, and Jason came home from a recent tournament via the West Indies for exactly that reason. "We won the tournament in Japan," points out Jason, "so at least the trip was not a complete waste of time."

Jason's non-sporting interests are focused primarily on substances that can be imbibed. "My two main hobbies are beer and Vindaloo," he admits. When pressed, he also threw in listening to Irish and African music.

When asked about early memories of the game, Jason commented, "It has always struck me as curious that as a child I didn't see much of my father, who always seemed to be away at some tournament or other, but bizarrely I now see him all the time." Both boys cited Paul as the major influence on their game. They also added Brian Senior, who was their personal tutor in the junior team, and Raymond Brock, whose junior training scheme they agree had a significant effect on their success.

Jason mentioned Tony Forrester as his favorite teammate. "He is great to have around in terms of analyzing what goes wrong and developing tactics," observes Jason. He picked out Paul Chemla as an individual player for whom he has great admiration, and Meckstroth/Rodwell as the toughest opponents. "Scientific but certainly not boring," was Jason's description of

Meckwell's approach to the game. He also mentioned Helgemo and Tor Helness..."They never argue. I have had the pleasure of taking two 1100's from them, and on both occasions they just laughed. This definitely would not happen in our partnership."



Glenn Groetheim

Glenn Groetheim, born in Norway in 1959, is an engineer living in Trondheim, Norway.

Glenn first made an impact on international bridge at the age of just 21, when as a member of the Norwegian team he won a Gold medal at the 1980 European Junior Teams in Tel Aviv, Israel (that team also included a regular teammate of Glenn's today, Tor Helness).

Glenn broke into the Norwegian Open team shortly after losing his junior eligibility, and he soon had a medal to show for his efforts: a Bronze from the 1987 European Teams in Brighton, England.

Now a WBF World Life Master, Glenn hooked up with his current regular partner Terje Åa in the early 1990s. In 1993, they won the Schiphol Invitational Teams in The Netherlands shortly before making their first appearance in partnership at a major championship. Their Bronze medal at the European Teams Championship in Menton, France earned them a place in the Bermuda Bowl in Chile, along



Terje Aa

Terje Åa was born in Norway in 1961. He works for the Norwegian Post Office.

When asked about their ambitions in the game, Justin said, "I want to win the big one: the Bermuda Bowl. The World Pairs is also high on my list." Meanwhile, Jason wants to win the World Pairs and a major U.S. title.

## Glenn Groetheim

with teammates Arild Rasmussen, Jon Sveindal, Geir Helgemo, and Helness. There they reached the final, beating strong teams from Brazil and Poland on the way, before losing to the equally unheralded young Dutch team (Enri Leufkens/Berry Westra, Bauke Muller/Wubbo de Boer, Jan Westerhof/Piet Jansen, npc Jaap Trouwborst).

Four years later, they set out on the same path, finishing third in the European Teams, again playing with Helgemo-Helness but with another young pair, Boye Brogeland-Erik Saelensminde making up the sextet. And so on to the Bermuda Bowl they went, but this time they lost to the eventual winners, the French, in the semifinal. But they did not come away from Tunisia without a medal as they defeated the Americans in the playoff for third place.

Glenn recently published a book outlining the system he plays with Terje. "The Viking Precision Club (a Relay System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)" was co-authored by Alan Sontog and edited by Barry Rigal.

## Terje Aa

A WBF World Master, Terje has been a regular member of the Norwegian team since making



his debut in 1993. In that year, he won the Schiphol Invitational Teams in The Netherlands and then earned a Bronze medal at the European Teams Championship in Menton, France.

Having qualified via their third-place finish in Menton, the young Norwegian team of Terje and his regular partner Glenn Groetheim, plus teammates Arild Rasmussen, Jon Sveindal, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness proceeded to Chile for the Bermuda Bowl. There they reached the final, beating strong teams from Brazil and Poland along the way before losing to the young Dutch team of Enri Leufkens/Berry Westra, Bauke Muller/Wubbo de Boer, Jan Westerhof/Piet Jansen.

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In 2001 the same team represented Norway in the European Championships in Tenerife and finished second behind the triumphant Italians to earn Silver medals and a trip to the Bali (eventually Paris) Bermuda Bowl.

Terje and Glenn play a relay system called the Viking Precision Club, which has been beautifully presented to the world in a new book by Glenn and Alan Sontag (Devyn Press, 2001).



Geir Helgemo

Geir Helgemo was born in 1970 in Vinstra, Norway. He is a professional bridge player, columnist and widely regarded by his peers as the most talented player on the planet. As a junior, Geir compiled an impressive record, making his debut in the Norwegian Under-25 team at the age of only 18 in the 1988 European Junior Championships. Two years later he led his national team to victory in that event. In 1993 he achieved a remarkable double, earning Silver medals at both the World Junior Teams and the Bermuda Bowl. For good measure, he also won a Bronze medal at the European Open Teams Championship that year, a feat he repeated four years later.

Geir became a World Champion in 1995, in his final event as a junior, winning the World Junior Pairs in partnership with Boye Brogeland. The following year, he added another world title to his resume with a victory in the Generali

## Geir Helgemo

Masters Individual. In partnership with Tor Helness, Geir has won both of the world's two premier invitational pairs events twice: the Cap Gemini in 1994 and 1996 and the Macallan back-to-back in 1998 and 1999. In addition to numerous victories in Norwegian National events, Geir has won the British Spring Foursomes (in 1999) and the Schiphol International Teams in The Netherlands (in 1993). He won the 1997 Politiken Invitational Pairs playing with Krzysztof Martens. Geir has the ability to do well with new partners. He was awarded the IBPA's CC Wei Award for the year's best defensive play in 1990. After a string of near misses in NABC events (2<sup>nd</sup> in the Open Pairs and the Open Swiss in 1997, and in both the Life Masters Pairs and the Blue Ribbon Pairs in 1996 and 1997), Geir and his partner, Tony Forrester, earned their first North American titles in 1998, winning both the Open Pairs I and the prestigious Reisinger Board-A-Match Teams. A year later, his team (Forrester,

Andrew Robson, Rita Shugart) won the Reisinger again, a feat achieved by only three other teams in the 81-year history of the event and its predecessor (the Chicago Trophy). For several years the team has competed with great success in the toughest North American events playing four-handed. Although this idea hasn't really caught on, it is somewhat surprising that it hasn't.

Geir has recently collaborated on two books: Bridge with Imagination co-written with David Bird and Helgemo's World of Bridge with another long-time partner, Geo Tislevol. With a natural flair for the game and a remarkable ability to create problems for his opponents, Helgemo prefers to play simple, mostly natural methods, and to trust his judgment and instincts. The formula has always worked for him.

## Jassem Finds a Way

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ AJ96		
Vul: Both	♥ 108642		
	♦ K		
	♣ KQ7		
West		East	
♠ Q8754		♠ 10	
♥ K7		♥ A5	
♦ AQ2		♦ J1076543	
♣ 953		♣ 1082	
	South		
	♠ K32		
	♥ QJ93		
	♦ 98		
	♣ AJ64		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

office to tell us about a great play made against him by Krzysztof Jassem, who declared 4♥ doubled on the auction shown in the diagram.

In yesterday's bulletin we reported how the spade lead (from East) beat 4♥ at both tables when the declarers (names withheld out of pity) won and immediately played on trumps. East rose with the ace and played a diamond to his partner's the ace to get his spade ruff. Well, here's how the hand should have been played.

Played from the other side of the table Justin still found the spade lead: the suit-preference eight. But Jassem, unwilling to settle for -100, found a way out of this dilemma. His solution was a scissors coup: he cashed four rounds of clubs, pitching dummy's ♦K. If Jason ruffed he would have no way to put Justin in to obtain his spade ruff while if Justin ruffed he could give Jason his spade ruff (he did), but now the ace-king of trumps would crash together (they did).

This hand, from the second quarter of the NEC Cup finals, was also played by the e-bridge and England/Norway teams in the Bronze Medal playoff. Jason Hackett stopped by the Bulletin

This gets the editors' Best Played Hand of the Tournament Award.

## NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Call your friends and tell them that your exploits are being chronicled on the World Wide Web. They can follow all of the action at the 7<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html>

– or –

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp>

– or –

<http://www.greatbridgelinks.com>