



NEC Bridge Festival

Tuesday, February 8, 2005
Bulletin Number 1

Editors: Eric Kokish, Richard Colker

Welcome to the 10th NEC Cup Bridge Festival

This year's 10th NEC Cup boasts one of the strongest international fields ever in this event, including many top players. Stage One will be an 8-round Swiss Teams consisting of 20-board matches, IMPs converted to Victory Points, qualifying eight teams for the KO phase. The 47-team field has been divided into top and bottom halves and the first Swiss match has been arranged so that each team in the top half is matched at random against a team from the bottom half (with one three-way match due to the odd number of teams); subsequent match pairings will be based on current VP totals. The quarter-finals and semi-finals will consist of 40-board matches while the final will be contested over 64 boards.

The Daily Bulletin Office/Secretariat and the Chief Director

As always, we need your help to keep everyone informed of what's happening at this tournament. Please report anything amusing, challenging, or skillful that happens in your matches (bridge or otherwise) to the **Daily Bulletin Office, a.k.a. The Secretariat** (E206). If we're not there, leave a note on one of our computers (they're on the tables along the opposite wall at the far right as you enter the room). The **Secretariat** will open each day at 10:00 am. You can contact the Secretariat via a house phone from the hotel, by dialing 228-6618 from Yokohama City, 045-228-6618 from outside the city or 0+81 45 228 6618 from overseas. If you're trying to reach someone you can't find you can leave a message with us and we'll do our best to get it to them. The **Chief Tournament Director** for this year's **NEC Bridge Festival** is once again the witty, urbane, unflappable and occasionally immovable **Richard Grenside**. Call him if you wish, but be aware that you do so at your own risk.

Players Welcomed at Opening Ceremony

At yesterday evening's opening ceremony emcee **Haruko Koshi** introduced **Fujita Kimio**, JCBL President, and **Suzuki Hitoshi**, NEC Corporation representative, each of whom offered this year's contestants some well-chosen words of welcome.



Fujita Kimio, JCBL President



Suzuki Hitoshi, NEC Corporation

NEC Cup 2005: Conditions of Contest

An 8 round Swiss, qualifying the top 8 teams to the Knockout phase; no playbacks.

V.P. Scale	WBF 20-board scale (a copy can be found in the score book provided in your NEC Bridge Festival bag).
Seating Rights	Blind seating 10 minutes before the start of match
KO-Phase Seating	The winner of a coin toss has the choice of seating in either of the two 20-board segments. In the four 16-board segments of the final, the choices will alternate over segments.
Swiss Pairings	First round Swiss matches were made by randomly pairing each team in the top half with a team from the bottom half.
Home and visiting	1st numbered team sits N/S in open room, E/W in closed room.
Tie-Breaks	<p>At the end of the Swiss, ties will be broken by IMP quotient. If more than two teams are involved, WBF 2004 Conditions of Contest procedures will apply.</p> <p>In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.</p>
Systems	No HUM or Brown Sticker methods will be permitted in this event.
Length of Matches	2 hours and 50 minutes will be allotted for each 20-board segment (or 2 hours and 20 minutes for each 16-board segment of the final). In addition a 5-minute grace period will be allotted to each team. Overtime and slow play penalties as per WBF 2004 Conditions of Contest.
Appeals	The WBF Code of Practice will be in effect. The Chief Director will have 12C3 authority. Appeals which are found to be without merit may incur a penalty of up to 3 VPs.
Match Scoring	Pick-up slips are to be completed and all match results are to be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections and notifications of appeals will be permitted up until the start of the next session.
KO Draw	<p>The team finishing 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4th-8th group. And so on.</p> <p>In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.</p>
Smoking	No player may leave the Annex Hall during play without permission due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online broadcast.

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 10th NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:
<http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html> – or – <http://www.jcbl.or.jp>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

The NEC Cup Guest List

As is our custom, we extend a special welcome to all the *gai jin* fortunate enough to be visiting Japan for the first time. It goes without saying that we are always delighted to see everyone else again too. The 2005 NEC Cup has an entry of 47 teams, just short of last year's 50. *Konichi wa* also to Bridge Base Online, the world's leading Online Bridge site (hi Fred, Sheri, Uday, world), that will be carrying every session of the NEC Cup on live Vugraph, starting with this morning's match between Russia and Japan-Hana. After eight 20-board Swiss matches, only eight teams will qualify for the knockout stage. Each year we see that it's not only the most fancied teams that are still playing for the championship on Thursday evening, so don't despair if you start badly, keep your spirits up, and play with heart until someone tells you that you can't play any longer.

It's a special treat for us to have with us this year the freshly-anointed World Olympiad Women's Teams champions with us this year—all six of them. For those who did not make it to Istanbul for the 2004 World Championships, it's not too late to congratulate **Vicky Gromova/Tanya Ponomareva, Maria Lebedeva/Olga Galaktionova, Natalia Karpenko/Irina Vasilkova** when you meet them at the card table or at breakfast.

Almost as successful in Istanbul was the young Dutch team that won silver medals in the Open Teams, bowing to Russia in the final. The Netherlands is represented here by four members of that team: **Jan Jansma/Louk Verhees, Bas Drijver/Maarten Schollaardt**—and coach **Erik Kirchoff**.

Last year's NEC Cup was won by a strong but unheralded team of women from China. Four of those players—**Yong Ling Dong, Yan Hong Wang, Ru Yan, Xiao Yin Zhur**—return to defend their title, joined by national team veterans **Ling Gu** and **Ya Lan Zhang**.

There is tremendous depth to the field in the 10th NEC Cup. Poland's team includes **Piotr Gawrys** and **Michal Kwiecien**, two of the world's most successful players. Their partners, **Dariusz Kowalksi** and **Piotr Bizon**, respectively, have both represented Poland internationally, and this is a team expected to challenge strongly for the title. Accompanying the team is **Radek Kielbasinski**, the dynamic President of the Polish Bridge Union.

Always a factor at the NEC are Hacketts and Norwegians, this year's entry composed of **Hacketts Paul** and **Justin, Geir Helgemo** and **Tor Helness**. Check under England/Norway in your press guide.

Israel finished a strong second last year, and the same foursome—**Michael Barel/Migry Zur Campanile, Doron** and **Israel Yadlin**—are back to try to move up a place in the 2005 rankings. Although npc Pietro Campanile's physical presence will be missed, not only by the team but also by the Bulletin staff (Pietro was a welcome live body in our office last year), his spirit will be with us with a daily article. Ciao Pietrushko.

And then there's Russia/Poland, in the persons of **Andrei Gromov/Alexander Dubinin** and **Cezary Balicki/Adam Zmudzinski**, contenders in any event they enter. Cezary won the International Bridge Press Association's 2004 Best Played Hand award for a deal he played in last year's NEC Cup. Andrei and Sasha were on the Russian bronze medal team in the Open series at the Istanbul Olympiad. There is strong betting support for this team.

USA is represented by **Steve Landen/Drew Casen** and **Larry Mori/Venkatrao Koneru**. Steve and Drew are two leading lights on the American tournament scene and both Larry and Ven have quietly had strong records of success over the years.

It's always great fun to have **Rita Shugart** and **Andrew Robson** in the field, and their teammates this year are one of the world's hottest pairs: Egyptian stars **Tarek Sadek** and **Walid El Ahmady**. Expect them to be in the thick of things all the way. Their team is listed as USA/Egypt. Andy will have to live with that.

Canada's entry is a solid group. **Jurek Czyzowicz/Darren Wolpert, Kamel Fergani/Nicolas**

L'Ecuyer were second in the 2002 NEC Cup and have since represented Canada in the Monte Carlo Bermuda Bowl, missing the knockout stage by a pip.

As we would expect, PABF has some strong entries. Kaosiung's Yeh Brothers team (Chinese Taipei) includes the legendary **Patrick Huang**, and his teammates **Chi-Hua Chen, Wei-Chen Chiu, Hsin-Lung Yang, Chien-Kuo Wang, Yi-wen Lai**.

Indonesia will be spearheaded by **Taufik Asbi/Robert Tobing**, perennial members of the open team. **Lusje Bojoh/Joice Tueje** are one of the strongest women's pairs in the Far East, and **Angelina Komara/Munawar Sawiruddin** add a different look (guys, girls, and one of each). Having **Amran Zamzami** with us in Yokohama is a special treat.

The Japan-Tajima lineup includes Chinese stars **Zhong "Fusky" Fu/ZJie "Jack" Zhao**, and the inimitable **Ishmael "Ish" Del'Monte, Tadashi Teramoto**, and **Mitsue Tajima**.

Korea (CACTI), **Sungae Yang, Jungyoon Park, Kunghae Sung**, and **Soona Kwon**, and Thailand, **Vallapa Svangsopakul, Pichai Nimityongskul, Pravati Silabhusiddhi, Thongchai Yongchareon, Prapongse Maijarem, Apisai Makmitree**, and Hong Kong, **SP Chan, Chow Shu Ching, KF Tung**, and **Chris Wu**, will all make their presence felt.

The Japanese hosts will field strong representative sides in their open and women's teams, and the NEC Cup is a great opportunity for the youth team to get some valuable experience against strong competition. But In addition to the national teams, there are several strong entries that foreign teams should not take lightly: Hana, Hirata, Morimura, Abe-chan, SKOTII, and Naito.

We're anxious to publish as many team profiles as we receive. Although sometimes less is better, we're looking for not so much about bridge achievements but a closer look at personalities without getting too serious. The sooner you submit your team's story the better the chance that we'll get them published before the tournament ends. We'd like to hear about anything you think others will be interested in reading, from the brilliant to the bizarre. Come see us in E-206 any old time.

We close with the words of the immortal **Tadayoshi Nakatani**: "Please enjoy yourselves and play well. But if you can't play well, please play quickly."

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Team Rosters: 10th NEC Cup

#	Name	Members
1	China Women:	Gu Ling, Zhang Ya Lan, Zhu Xiao Yin, Dong Yong Ling, Yan Ru, Wang Yan Hong, Liu Jie (Team Leader), Wang Zhi Ge (NPC)
2	Canada:	Jurek Czyzowicz, Darren Wolpert, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Kamel Fergani
3	Poland:	Piotr Gawrys, Dariusz Kowalski, Piotr Bizon, Michal Kwiecien, Radoslaw Kielbasinski (NPC)
4	USA/Egypt:	Rita Shugart, Andrew Robson, Walid Elahmady, Tarek Sadek
5	Netherlands:	Jan Jansma, Louk Verhees, Bas Drijver, Maarten Schollaardt, Erik Kirchhoff (coach)
6	USA:	Steve Landen, Drew Casen, Venkatrao Koneru, Larry Mori
7	Chinese Taipei:	Patrick Huang, Chi-Hua Chen, Wei-Chen Chiu, Hsin-Lung Yang, Chien-Kuo Wang, Yi-Wen Lai, Mrs. Huang, Mrs. Chen
8	Indonesia:	Angelina W Komara, Lusje Olha Bojoh, Julita Grace Joice Tueje, Robert Parasian, Taufik Gautama Asbi, Munawar Sawiruddin, Jacqueline Manansang (Manager)
9	England/Norway:	Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness
10	Israel:	Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile
11	Russia Women:	Tatiana Ponomareva, Maria Lebedeva, Natalia Karpenko, Irina Vasilkova, Olga Galaktionova, Victoria Gromova
12	Russia/Poland:	Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki
13	CACTI(Korea):	Sungae YANG, Jungyoon PARK, Kyunghae SUNG, Sooja KWON
14	Thailand:	Vallapa Svangsopakul, Pichai Nimityongskul, Pravati Silabhusiddhi, Thongchai Yongchareon, Prapongse Maijarern, Apisai Makmitree
15	Hong Kong:	SP Chan, Chow Shu Ching, KF Tung, Chris Wu
16	Japan Open:	Yasuhiro Shimizu, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Makoto Kono
17	Japan Women:	Kyoko Shimamura, Shoko Fukuda, Hiroko Ota, Nobuko Setoguchi, Ayako Amano, Miho Sekizawa
18	TAJIMA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Mitsue Tajima, Fu Zhong, Zhao Jie, Ishmael Del'Monte
19	HIRATA:	Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Makoto Hirata, Tadashi Yoshida
20	MORIMURA:	Tadashi Imakura, Shunsuke Morimura, Masayuki Ino, Takahiko Hirata, Hiroshi Kaku, Hideki Takano
21	Drami&Alice:	Yuko Yamada, Koji Yamada, Makiko Sato, Eiji Otake, Toshiko Kaho
22	ABE-chan:	Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Hiroya Abe, Yuichi Masamura
23	ESPERANZA:	Haruko Koshi, Mieko Nakanishi, Yoko Oosako, Nobuko Matsubara, Misuzu Ichihashi, Sachiko Yamada
24	GIRASOL:	Sachiko Yamamura, Taeko Kawamura, Kimi Makita, Keiko Matsuzaki, Midori Sakamoto
25	HANA:	Takashi Maeda, Seiya Shimizu, Takeshi Hanayama, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Sei Nagasaka, Yasushi Kobayashi
26	Gryffindor:	Yoko Nenohi, Hiroko Sekiyama, Michiko Ono, Toshiko Miyashiro, Kyoko Toyofuku, Kumiko Matsuo
27	SKOTII:	Tsuneo Sakurai, Takahiro Kamiyo, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Yoshio Tsuji, Takehiko Tada
28	Spice:	Yayoi Sakamoto, Michio Goto, Yukiko Umezumi, Etsuko Naito
29	PS-Jack:	Masakatsu Sugino, Masako Otsuka, Akiko Miwa, Teruo Miyazaki, Takako Fujimoto, Fumiko Nanjyo
30	Fairy Tale:	Takao Onodera, Ryo Okuno, Yukinao Honma, Zhang Shudi, Takeshi Higashiguchi, Kazunori Sasaki
31	Condor:	Yoshiko Murata, Emiko Tamura, Hiroko Kobayashi, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Osami Kimura, Kinzaburo Nishino
32	Ozawa:	Toyohiko Ozawa, Kazuhisa Kojima, Kei Nemoto, Shunichi Haga, Masaki Yoshida
33	NAITO:	Yoko Maruyama, Sakiko Naito, Toru Henmi, Megumi Takasaka, Keisuke Akama, Kenji Miyakuni
34	SWAN:	Minako Hiratsuka, Hisayo Goto, Michiko Shida, Aiko Banno, Kotomi Asakoshi
35	MERRY QUEENS:	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Toyoko Nakakawaji, Toshiko Hiramori
36	SunFlowers:	Takako Nakatani, Masaru Naniwada, Taeko Kuratani, Reiko Fukuda, Hisako Kondo, Sachiko Ueda
37	Friends:	Yoko Saito, Mamiko Odaira, Tsukasa Ito, Toshiko Nishi, Koichi Onishi, Yasuko Kosaka
38	XYZ:	Atsuko Kurita, Junko Den, Chieko Ichikawa, Kuniko Saito
39	Solaris:	Naomi Terauchi, Sachiko Nakatani, Yuko Yoneyama, Natsuko Asaka, Yasuyo Iida, Sachiko Ueno
40	TEAM YASU:	Shoko Somemiya, Setsuko Neya, Kimiko Kamakari, Yumiko Oda, Misae Kato, Tomoko Sakai
41	HAYASHI:	Jun Cheng, Makiko Hayashi, Mark LaForge, Natsuhiko Nagumo, Chieko Yamazaki, Sia Chong Meng
42	Kawabata:	Akiko Kawabata, Sonoko Yamamoto, Sumiko Sugino, Misako Fukazawa
43	MY-Bridge:	Masafumi Yoshizawa, Yoshitaka Agata, Shigeyuki Murano, Noriko Yoshizawa, Takashi Sumita, Yoko Fukuyama
44	49ers:	Ryo Matsubara, Ayako Matsubara, Yoshinori Kurachi, Kazuo Takano, Hideto Yamaguchi
45	KinKi:	Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka, Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Kiyoko Fushida
46	Cosmos:	Nobuko Wakasa, Masaharu Wakasa, Keiko Enomoto, Yoko Takahashi, Kazuko Tsumori, Noriko Komiyama
47	Japan Youth:	Yuichi Ikemoto, Shugo Tanaka, Ruri Ote, Hiroyuki Taguchi, Takeshi Niekawa, Satoshi Imai

1st-round match-ups: 1 vs 31; 2 vs 36; 3 vs 29; 4 vs 35; 5 vs 44; 6 vs 47; 7 vs 24; 8 vs 32; 9 vs 37; 10 vs 34; 11 vs 25 (on BBO); 12 vs 45; 13 vs 28; 14 vs 33; 15 vs 26 vs 46; 16 vs 41; 17 vs 27; 18 vs 30; 19 vs 40; 20 vs 38; 21 vs 42; 22 vs 39; 23 vs 43

Good luck today, everyone!

Russian Women Win World Olympiad Team Championship: "The One that Got Away"

by Matthew Granovetter, bridgetoday.com

The American women made a comeback in the last set of the Women's Teams Olympiad final, but fell short losing the match by a mere 12 imps to their Russian opponents. It will be a long time before they forget Board 86, where 17 imps went to the Russians:

Dir: South		North (dummy)	
Vul: N/S		♠ A10632	
		♥ KQ7	
		♦ 4	
		♣ QJ106	
West		East	
♠ J84		♠ K95	
♥ 1094		♥ 52	
♦ KQJ532		♦ 1086	
♣ 3		♣ K7542	
		South	
		♣ Q7	
		♥ AJ863	
		♦ A97	
		♣ A98	

clear whether declarer was off an ace.

At both tables, West led the ♣3. At Table One, Montin won dummy's queen, played a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond, then led the ♣6 to the nine. West ruffed and returned a trump, won in dummy. Declarer was finished now and led another club to hand, but West ruffed that too and Montin eventually lost a spade for down two; 200 to Russia.

At Table 2, Victoria Gromova played the ♣6 from dummy and won the trick with her nine. She then drew two rounds of trumps followed by a heart to the king and a heart to the ace as West, Tobi Sokolow, followed with the four and ten. It looks as though Sokolow was falsecarding with the ten to induce declarer to give up the lead to East if possible. At that point declarer could have drawn the last trump, taken another club finesse and played a spade from dummy. East would then have to duck to beat the contract; otherwise, declarer could unblock the queen setting up a finesse against the jack. Instead, Gromova hoped West had started with only two trumps. She led the ♠Q from her hand and floated it to East's king. Janice Molson (East) then had to decide whether her partner had a third trump or the ♦A. She elected to play a diamond, and Gromova made the contract. She won the ♦A, led a spade to the ace, ruffed a spade, drew the last trump ending in dummy, pitched diamonds on dummy's last two spades, then took the club finesse. Plus 1430 in one room and 200 in the other was a net total of 1630, 17 imps.

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Galaktionova</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Lebedeva</i>	<i>Montin</i>
3♦	4♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	5♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♠

Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>
3♦	4♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	4NT
All Pass			6♥

Both tables reached 6♥. When the Americans were N/S, Randi Montin, South, used 4♠ for her Keycard Blackwood bid rather than 4NT. Jill Meyers' 5♥ response showed two keycards and the queen of trumps, and Montin's 5♠ bid confirmed all the keycards and asked for kings. 6♥ showed zero kings. Gromova, at Table 2, became declarer in 6♥ after a straightforward Keycard Blackwood bid of 4NT, followed by a sign-off in 6♥. Notice that at this table it wasn't

Analysis: This was a good hand for "Switch in Time" defense, where suit-preference is given in trumps. A high-low in trumps (regardless of the number of trumps) would show the ♦A (the higher suit between diamonds and clubs) while playing up-the-line would deny the ♦A and, therefore, the only chance is a club ruff. If you play high-low in trumps to say "I have another trump and want a ruff" it might work on this hand, but this method takes away any chance for the defender to falsecard declarer without falsecarding partner, which is what happened.

Matthew and Pamela Granovetter are Editors of Bridge Today, an excellent monthly magazine that is published electronically. Please visit Bridgetoday.com to learn more and sign up for a free issue.

Meet Team Poland



Bizon

Piotr Bizon, 48, is a member of Unia Winkhaus Leszno, one of Poland's leading bridge clubs. A professor of theoretical physics he shares time between Cracow, Vienna, and Potsdam. In the late 1980s he won many European tournaments and national championships, playing mainly with Marek Blat. After taking a twelve-year break to study black holes, he came back and won the Polish Pairs Championship with Darek Kowalski and represented Poland in the European Team Championship in 2002 in Salsomaggiore. For the past six months, Piotr's old friend and new partner, Michal Kwiecien, has been trying to "unteach" Piotr his unorthodox bidding style, so far without apparent success.



Gawrys

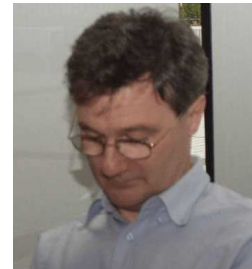
Piotr Gawrys, 49, is from Warsaw where he is an architect and businessman. His bridge club is Topeko-Energetyk Lagisza. He is one of the best bridge players in Polish bridge history. His major successes: first place in the 1984 World Teams Olympiad in Seattle; first place in the 1993 European Open Teams Championship held in Menton; second place in the 1991 Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama; third place in the 1991 European Open Teams Championship in Killarney; second place in the 1994 Rosenblum Teams in Albuquerque; first place in the 1995 European Pairs Championship held in Rome; first place in the 1992 European Individual Championships; second place in the 2000 Generali World Individual Championships; first place in the 2002 World Mixed Championships in Maastricht; first place in the 2002 Vanderbilt Teams. His main partners have been Henryk Wolny, Krzysztof Lasocki, Marcin Lesniewski, Piotr Tuszyński and Jacek Pszczola. His current

partner is Dariusz Kowalski.



Kowalski

Dariusz Kowalski, 41, is from Warsaw. Like Gawrys, his bridge club is Topeco-Energetyk Lagisza. Professionally, he is involved in the financial market. He is an asset manager for Generali Life Insurance Company. He has many Polish Championships to his credit (including junior events), and was a member of the Polish Open Team at the 2002 European Open Teams Championship in Salsomaggiore (in partnership with Piotr Bizon).



Kwecien

Michal Kwecien, 47, is an automotive engineer from Lublin and a businessman. His bridge club is Unia Winkhaus Leszno. His major successes include: first place in the 1998 World Open Pairs Championship in Lille; second place in the 1997 European Open Teams Championship in Montecatini; third place in the 1997 World Transnational Open Teams in Hammamet; second place in the 2000 World Teams Olympiad in Maastricht; first place in the 2001 prestigious Cavendish Invitational Pairs in Las Vegas; third place in the 2001 European Open Teams Championship in Tenerife; third place in the 2001 Bermuda Bowl in Paris; second place in the 2002 IOC Grand Prix in Salt Lake City; third place in the 2002 Rosenblum Teams in Montreal (all with Jacek Pszczola, whom he played with for 10 years). He also won gold in the 1982 European Junior Teams Championship in Salsomaggiore (with his former partner, Marek Wójcicki). His hobbies are skiing, bicycling, and tourism.

Bridge with the Duke

by Pietro Campanile

People nicknamed him "Duke" because of a dog he was fond of in childhood. Everyone who saw him take over a movie set with his personality and his captivating smile could not doubt that the qualities implied by his nickname were very real. Yet there was something not many knew: John Wayne loved playing bridge. There were periods when he was absolutely crazy about it and would try to arrange a game whenever the chance presented itself, which was often during breaks between scenes on a movie set.

His biographers were quick to point out that his "machismo" was the natural result of a rather unusual occurrence. When the little boy found out his parents decided to christen him Marion Morrison, he must have been so frightened by the girlish name that he had to spend the rest of his life proving that "a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do"!

His family moved to California. That meant Los Angeles, and Los Angeles meant Hollywood. A young Marion Morrison soon started hanging around the movie sets trying to get some easy money doing minor roles. He got his first job as a prop man in exchange for football tickets. He was cast in his first leading role in 1929 in the movie *The Big Trail*. After nearly ten years of appearing in small westerns and action films, during which time he took the name of John Wayne, he shot to fame almost overnight when John Ford cast him in the lead role in the 1939 film *Stagecoach*. He never looked back. Among his more memorable films are *Fort Apache*, *Rio Grande*, *Rio Bravo*, and *The Alamo*. He won an Academy Award in 1969 for best actor for his portrayal of Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit*.

The Duke was true to his image even at the bridge table. Here is a deal from a high-stakes rubber bridge game:



Dir: East		♠ Q32	
Vul: Both		♥ AK652	
		♦ A4	
		♣ KJ9	
♠ A		♠ KJ9	
♥ 10874		♥ QJ	
♦ J9652		♦ KQ83	
♣ 1087		♣ Q652	
		♠ 1087654	
		♥ 93	
		♦ 107	
		♣ A43	
West	North	East	South
			<i>Wayne</i>
		1♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Wayne took West's lead of the ♦6 with the ace and immediately played the ♠Q. East naturally covered with the king and cannot have been too pleased when West had to play his ace.

After having shot those two big Indians with the same bullet, the Duke was off to a good start but there was still a lot of riding to do to get the cattle safely back to the ranch. West returned a diamond to East's queen, and in order to cut down on possible ruffs in dummy, he continued with the ♠J and a spade. Wayne got to dummy with the ♥A and cashed his ♥K, noting the fall of the queen and jack from East.

Time to round up the wagons, light a fire and do some thinking. If East was simply monkeying around with ♥QJ10 and the hearts were three-three, the contract was in the bag. Otherwise, he would have to guess clubs. Where was the ♣Q? East had so far shown up with ♠KJ, ♥QJ and probably the ♦KQ (since West would have cashed the ♦K himself instead of playing a diamond when he took the lead with the ♠A). That made 12 points, enough for an opening bid. However, West, who had at least four diamonds, had passed over the double and would probably not have done so if he'd been dealt the ♣Q as well as the singleton ♠A and the ♦J.

Showtime: the Duke backed his judgment and played the ♣J from dummy, covered by the queen and ace. A low club to the nine was the

finishing touch, and the contract was made in spectacular fashion. After such a hand, one can almost imagine Wayne slowly putting his

smoking gun back in his holster and looking up with relief at the red cliffs of the Grand Canyon profiled against the clear blue Colorado sky.

Meet Team Israel

Israel, a.k.a. The Merry Band from Zion (with apologies to Boney M)

The land by the rivers of Babylon was in turmoil: the fearless Yadlin brothers, the so-called "Children of Paradise," were again sailing their boat on the river, looking for their lost teammate Migry, the mythical "Red Girl in the Ring." She had been taken hostage by Daddy Cool and Ma Baker, after finishing only second in last year's NEC. It was only through the prompt intervention of her young trusty liege Michael "Rasputin" Barel that she was saved before being immolated to the dark gods of Kalimba de Luna.



Israel and Doron Yadlin

Israel and Doron Yadlin

Hailing from glamorous Petah Tikva and strenuously claiming to be still in their very late forties, the Yadlin brothers come with an impressive pedigree and the title of reigning European Open Teams champions. They have been playing together for fifteen years and have been the mainstays of many an Israeli Open team. Doron has recently discovered a dangerous addiction to noodles which he hopes he will overcome soon, while Israel has been carefully acclimating himself to the demands of Japanese cuisine by taking an accelerated course in "How to recognize plastic replica dishes in Japanese restaurants 101."



Michael Barel

Michael Barel

Blessed with a natural gift for always knowing

the correct bid and play but cursed by Baba Yaga with not being able to use his talent till the hand is over, Michael is now one year into the "Migryzoic era" and still loves arguing over her mistakes, like the first time they played together. The legendary argument over the signal with the $\diamond 6$ in last year's NEC final is coming soon to a hearing at the Israeli Supreme Court. In the meantime, Michael is busy honing his debating skills ready for the yearly systemic discussions with the Koke of all Kokes.



Migry Zur-Campanile

Migry Zur-Campanile

Finally we come to the incomparable queen of meatballs, as she was crowned at a gastronomic pageant in Verona last September, shortly after the Generali Masters, the one and only red-head of the bridge world, Migry Zur Campanile. Her overwhelming beauty, razor-sharp wit and Einstein-like intelligence have dazzled many a player at the bridge table and outside (Gosh, what drivel do I have to write to earn my measly salary? - Pietro Campanile). She has confounded pundits for the last two decades by proving that you can win two world championships simply by counting to 13 and following suit. Will she be able to repeat her amazing feat here? We cross our fingers and wait . . .

The 2004 NEC Cup: China Ladies vs Israel

Going into the KO phase of last year's NEC Cup, top-qualifying USA was a heavy favorite against seventh-qualifying China Ladies and second-qualifying Poland/Russia was heavily favored over fourth-qualifying Israel. Indonesia, who qualified third, was favored over sixth-qualifying Germany/USA and fifth-qualifying Canada was slightly favored over eighth-place England, the defenders, who had not been playing up to form.

Thumbing their noses at conventional wisdom China Ladies upset USA 161-131 and Israel turned back Poland/Russia by a single IMP, 64-63. England sought to repeat her 2003 performance by dispatching Canada 97-93, and Indonesia beat Germany/USA, 71-51.

The semi-finals saw two more upsets as China Ladies put an end to England's designs on a third straight NEC Cup title 94-65 and Israel sent Indonesia packing 92-47. So the 2004 NEC Cup final featured two first-time NEC Bridge Festival participants: China Ladies versus Israel.

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

Both Israeli pairs played home-made versions of 2-over-1 while the Chinese all played Precision.

The two teams met in the Swiss, with Israel enjoying a 24-6 win. But that was "another time, another day," as the legendary Bing would sing.

Bd: 1	North		
Dir: North	♠ 10853		
Vul: None	♥ AKQ3		
	♦ Q107		
	♣ Q7		
	West	East	
	♠ QJ97	♠ 642	
	♥ 97	♥ 62	
	♦ J	♦ A986	
	♣ KJ9865	♣ A1042	
	South		
	♠ AK		
	♥ J10854		
	♦ K5432		
	♣ 3		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dbl	2♥	3♣	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Against 4♥ both West players led the ♦J, seven, ace, low. East returned the ♦6 and both declarers followed with the five, concealing two lower spot cards in an attempt to convince West that the six was a *high* diamond suggesting a switch to spades. **Wang Yanhong** was not deceived and switched to the ♣6 (fifth from six). **Yan Ru** won the ace and dealt her partner another diamond ruff for one down, -50. **Michael Barel** got it wrong at the other table by switching to the ♠Q: +450. 11 IMPs to China.

Bd: 2	North		
Dir: East	♠ A8752		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ9		
	♦ AQ106		
	♣ Q		
	West	East	
	♠ K94	♠ Q10	
	♥ J863	♥ A2	
	♦ 93	♦ J542	
	♣ J1073	♣ A8642	
		South	
		♠ J63	
		♥ 10754	
		♦ K87	
		♣ K95	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
		1NT(1)	Pass
Pass	Dbl	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

(1) Strong, artificial
(2) Negative

Trade the eight and nine of spades and declarer

can hold the trump losers to one by leading low toward the jack. If East plays the queen, the jack next time pins the ten. Nineless in Yokohama, **Doron Yadlin** and **Dong Yongling** had to lose two trumps and two aces. Israel won the board with +140 in one room and +100 in the other for 6 IMPs, 6-11.

East: +150. 8 IMPs to China, 19-6.

Bd: 6	North		
Dir: East	♠ J9	West	East
Vul: E/W	♥ 10753	♠ 7	♠ K3
	♦ Q853	♥ AKQ2	♥ 94
	♣ AK7	♦ A92	♦ J10764
		♣ J10832	♣ 9654
	South		
	♠ AQ1086542		
	♥ J86		
	♦ K		
	♣ Q		

Bd: 4	North		
Dir: West	♠ K10752	West	East
Vul: Both	♥ Q3	♠ J943	♠ AQ86
	♦ A104	♥ KJ10854	♥ 96
	♣ Q42	♦ 9	♦ Q83
		♣ 63	♣ KJ85
	South		
	♠ ---		
	♥ A72		
	♦ KJ7652		
	♣ A1097		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	D. Yadlin	Yan	I. Yadlin
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Zhu	Campanile	Dong
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

All Pass

This proved to be an easy hand for Wang/Yan when East followed to the ♥A with the nine. West cashed two more hearts and the ♦A: -50.

In contrast, Barel/Campanile had their problems. Barel led the ♥K, asking for count, and **Migry Campanile** followed with the four, even cards (when available) showing an even number of cards. West switched to the ♦A, three, ten, king. East tried to discourage a diamond continuation (lowest even is the most discouraging card, suit-preference implications not relevant in “unknown-length” situations) but West “knew” East could not hold the ♦4 or ♦6, which would be more clearly discouraging, in that order. As the ♦10 was the one most likely to be from relative shortness, declarer figured to indeed be short in hearts. Therefore, Barel did not revert to hearts and continued diamonds, hoping that East could ruff and would also hold the ace of trumps to set the contract. Perhaps he was unlucky in finding the actual layout, but our brains are swimming trying to figure out the carding subtleties. Dong discarded hearts on the ♦Q and ♣K and took the trump finesse for +450. 11 IMPs to China, 30-6.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	D. Yadlin	Yan	I. Yadlin
Pass	Pass	1♦(1)	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♦(2)
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦(3)
Pass	3♠(4)	All Pass	

(1) Precision, could be singleton

(2) Allegedly a cue bid showing support

(3) Hopeful, but not confident

(4) You were right not to be confident

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Zhu	Campanile	Dong
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	4♣
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

The Yadlins landed in an undignified contract when the potentially very short diamond opening tested their agreements and found them lost at sea in different dinghies, neither having an oar. Doron played tenaciously and pieced together seven tricks to escape for -200.

3NT doubled would have been touch and go at the other table, but Dong retreated to 4♦ and made five on a heart lead without guessing the ♦Q by running the ♣10 to the jack to endplay

Bd: 7	North
Dir: South	♠ K52
Vul: Both	♥ J82
	♦ AQ10
	♣ AJ73
West	East
♠ J84	♠ AQ106
♥ 53	♥ K109764
♦ 8643	♦ J2
♣ Q984	♣ K
	South
	♠ 973
	♥ AQ
	♦ K975
	♣ 10652

The first two tricks were the same in **Zhu Xiaoyin's** 2NT, but after the first club trick she played on diamonds, cashing four rounds when the jack capitulated, East discarding two spades. Declarer cashed the ♥A, then led a club to the jack. East, preparing to claim, inadvertently discarded a heart to keep the ♠Q, so North exited with a heart to collect the ♠K at the end: +150. 6 IMPs to China, 36-6.

Bd: 8	North
Dir: West	♠ J10864
Vul: None	♥ 98
	♦ J43
	♣ K63
West	East
♠ AK9	♠ 75
♥ K7	♥ A642
♦ 87652	♦ KQ10
♣ 1075	♣ J842
	South
	♠ Q32
	♥ QJ1053
	♦ A9
	♣ AQ9

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
Pass	1NT	2♣(1)	2♥(2)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass
 (1) Majors
 (2) Stopper
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	1NT	2♦(1)	Pass
2♥(2)	Pass	Pass	2NT

All Pass
 (1) Hearts or spades
 (2) Pass-or-correct

In 3NT, Doron Yadlin won the ♥Q at trick one and led the ♣10, collecting both high honors from E/W. He opted to concede a club trick to West to set up a third-round finesse in the suit, but Wang switched to the ♠J and the defenders took four spade tricks to set the contract.



Doron Yadlin

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥(1)	Pass	2♠

All Pass
 (1) Spades

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT

All Pass

In 2♠, Israel Yadlin won the diamond lead and returned a diamond. Yan switched to a heart and Wang had a chance to beat the contract by clearing trumps. Instead, she played a third diamond and Yadlin ruffed in hand. He lost only two trumps and the ♥A now for +110. Dong's 1NT was hopeless on a diamond lead, the defense taking four diamonds and both major-suit ace-kings: -100. 5 IMPs to Israel, 11-36.



ruffed, but declarer had control and lost only one more trump trick for +180. 4 IMPs to Israel, 15-36.

Bd: 9	North
Dir: North	♠ 8
Vul: E/W	♥ J7
	♦ J10842
	♣ Q9765
West	East
♠ AK4	♠ Q975
♥ KQ84	♥ 953
♦ 53	♦ AK976
♣ J1082	♣ 4
	South
	♠ J10632
	♥ A1062
	♦ Q
	♣ AK3

Bd: 10	North
Dir: East	♠ A8764
Vul: Both	♥ Q3
	♦ KJ987
	♣ 5
West	East
♠ 9	♠ KQ
♥ KJ10975	♥ A82
♦ 542	♦ Q6
♣ 632	♣ AKQJ74
	South
	♠ J10532
	♥ 64
	♦ A103
	♣ 1098

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
	2NT(1)	Pass	3♣

All Pass
(1) Minors, weak

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♦	Dbl

All Pass

Doron's 2NT opening lived up to its reputation as a weak two-suiter, Israel allowing for it by converting to 3♣ with quite a good hand. Wang sensibly led a trump, choosing the deuce, and dummy's five held. Yan played low on the ♦2 and the queen won. On a low spade led towards dummy, Wang went in with the king (another thoughtful play) and continued trumps. Israel ruffed a spade and ruffed a low diamond with the ♣A, ruffed a spade with the ♣9, cashed the ♣Q, and led the ♥J. Had he passed it, he would have made his contract, collecting two hearts on the endplay. When he rose with the ace and exited with a spade, he could take no more tricks: -50.

Zhu was pleased to convert Dong's takeout double of 2♦ to penalty but that sensible decision didn't turn out very well. Dong led the ♣A, saw the encouraging seven, and switched to the ♠3, which ran to the nine. Campanile led the ♥5 towards dummy and South took her ace to give her partner a spade ruff. Declarer ruffed the club return, cashed a high trump, crossed to a high heart, and led a trump, North splitting her honors. Declarer won and led a spade, which North

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
		1♣(1)	Pass
1♦(1)	Dbl(3)	2♣	2♠
3♥	3♠	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Strong, artificial

(2) Negative

(3) Clubs and hearts, or diamonds and spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
		2NT	Pass
4♦(1)	Dbl	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Hearts

If E/W are going to make 4♥, N/S will do well to save at 4♠ even if they misguess the ♦Q, but Zhu/Dhong could not easily find their fit while the Yadlins were not sufficiently confident that they had enough trumps and that 4♥ was going to make. In fact, that was a good decision by the Yadlins because Wang lost to the ♥Q to go one down after North led the ♣5, a clear singleton: -100. Sure, North might have had two singletons, but not this particular North. Barel, who got the same lead, got the trumps right and made seven, +710. 13 IMPs to Israel, 28-36.



Bd: 11	North		
Dir: South	♠ K10874		
Vul: None	♥ 1053		
	♦ K8		
	♣ K98		
West		East	
♠ 96		♠ J5	
♥ K98		♥ AQ762	
♦ A3		♦ J109762	
♣ AQ10752		♣ ---	
	South		
	♠ AQ32		
	♥ J4		
	♦ Q54		
	♣ J643		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
1NT(1)	All Pass		
(1) 12-14			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Wang took nine tricks in 1NT on a low club lead: +150.

Campanile declared 3NT from the East side and got the lead of the ♠7 to the nine and king. She led a diamond to the king, attacking her weakest suit early as a tactical move. A low spade from dummy brought the ace and Zhu switched to a low club to the jack and ace. Campanile took her nine tricks for +400. 6 IMPs to Israel, 34-43.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
2♣(1)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Limited, 6+♣ or 5♣/4M

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
1♣	1♠	Dbl	2♠
2NT(1)	Pass	3♦	All Pass

(1) Usually a competitive 3♣ bid

In 3♦, Campanile lost two spades and two trumps: +110. In 4♥, Yan got the lead of the ♦4, won the ace, threw a spade on the ♣A, and played a diamond. North won and played spades but declarer ruffed the second and ruffed a diamond with the ♥8. Zhu overruffed but that was the last trick for the defense: +420. 7 IMPs to China, 43-28.

Bd: 14	North		
Dir: East	♠ K65		
Vul: None	♥ K954		
	♦ A52		
	♣ A85		
West		East	
♠ J8		♠ 109	
♥ AJ102		♥ Q73	
♦ Q97		♦ KJ63	
♣ J732		♣ KQ96	
	South		
	♠ AQ7432		
	♥ 86		
	♦ 1084		
	♣ 104		

Bd: 12	North		
Dir: West	♠ A9		
Vul: N/S	♥ 2		
	♦ J943		
	♣ K87653		
West		East	
♠ J843		♠ KQ5	
♥ AQ96		♥ KJ3	
♦ K7		♦ 10852	
♣ A109		♣ Q42	
	South		
	♠ 10762		
	♥ 108754		
	♦ AQ6		
	♣ J		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	3NT	1NT(1)	2♣(2)
Dbl	All Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Ostensibly 12-14
(2) Any one-suiter

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	2NT(2)	Pass	2♦(1)
All Pass			3♠(2)

(1) Multi
(2) Inquiry
(3) Minimum with spades

Dong scored the ♥K to make 3♠: +140.

Doron Yadlin had to do the same to make 3NT doubled on the lead of the ♣Q, which he ducked after West encouraged. He won the low club continuation and ran spades, West discarding the ♥2, encouraging, then the ♣7, the ♥J and the ♣3. East released two low diamonds and two low hearts. While the opening notrump suggested that the ♥A would be in East, West's double and carding suggested the opposite. Doron led a heart from dummy, and when West contributed the ♥10, followed low from hand. Aarggghh! That was -100 rather than +550, and China gained 6 IMPs where a 9-IMP loss seemed certain. 49-34, China.

Wang/Yan reached 2NT instead, in normal fashion. Five diamonds and two spades later, Yan was two down, 100. 6 IMPs to Israel, 40-49.

Bd: 16	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q3		
Vul: E/W	♥ K93		
	♦ KQJ1053		
	♣ A7		
	West		East
	♠ KJ752		♠ 109864
	♥ 8654		♥ AQ
	♦ 6		♦ A72
	♣ 1092		♣ QJ8
	South		
	♠ A		
	♥ J1072		
	♦ 984		
	♣ K6543		

Bd: 15	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K9876		
Vul: N/S	♥ 732		
	♦ KJ8		
	♣ 93		
	West		East
	♠ J10		♠ Q32
	♥ 1095		♥ AKQ86
	♦ 543		♦ Q6
	♣ J8742		♣ AKQ
	South		
	♠ A54		
	♥ J4		
	♦ A10972		
	♣ 1065		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

It's interesting that both North players thought a 1NT opening the best way to describe their hand, particularly because Zhu's was a 13-15 notrump while Doron's was a "flexible" 15-17. Zhu took eight tricks on a spade lead for +120. With E/W on for 3♠, that was a nice result for China.

The strong notrump also acted as a preempt in the Open Room, but if 1NT was perhaps a trifle off-center, what can we say about Israel Yadlin's pass of his brother's no-major response to Stayman? If you or I did such a thing, North would be 3=3=2=5 with something like: ♠xxx ♥KQx ♦AK ♣Axxxx. We'd miss 6♣ and go down in 2♦. Israel's truly bizarre decision cost nothing as he had ten easy tricks: +130. What courage! What chutzpah! What a nose for the table!

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	Pass
1♦(2)	Pass	2NT	All Pass

(1) Strong, artificial

(2) Negative

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♥(2)	All Pass		

(1) Strong, artificial

(2) Artificial, Very weak

Campanile scored a coup of sorts by not opening a 20-22 2NT, then judging to pass her partner's "second negative" 2♥ response. Barel lost two spades and two diamonds on the lead of the ♣9: +140.

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

The second segment began with China Ladies leading Israel, 49-40.

Bd: 17	North
Dir: North	♠ K104
Vul: None	♥ 1087
	♦ K84
	♣ AQ76
West	East
♠ A63	♠ QJ97
♥ K2	♥ Q9543
♦ AQ9652	♦ 3
♣ 105	♣ K92
	South
	♠ 852
	♥ AJ6
	♦ J107
	♣ J843

53-40.

Bd: 18	North
Dir: East	♠ K1096
Vul: N/S	♥ 8543
	♦ J4
	♣ Q75
West	East
♠ A874	♠ J3
♥ AKQ9	♥ J762
♦ 109	♦ AQ87
♣ 1062	♣ AJ8
	South
	♠ Q52
	♥ 10
	♦ K6532
	♣ K943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
	1♣	1♥	1NT

2♦ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
	1♦(1)	1♥	Pass

2NT All Pass

(1) Precision (could be as few as two)

While some might perceive Wang's 2♦ bid to be a bit conservative, she was aware of the liberties her side might take with their one-level overcalls. Doron led the ♥8 to Wang's king and he rose with the ♣A when she played a club, returning a club to dummy's king at trick three. Wang ruffed a club, led a low spade to Doron's king, ducked the heart return to Israel's jack and ruffed the ♥A continuation. She cashed two rounds of spades ending in dummy, played a diamond to the jack, queen and king, ruffed the club return and tried the ♦A. When the jack failed to fall she claimed eight tricks; +90.

At the other table Barel took a more aggressive approach with the West cards and found himself in an inferior 2NT. Lu led the ♣6 and Hou failed to play the jack, allowing Barel to win cheaply in hand with the ten. When a low spade to the queen held, Barel led a heart to the king, cashed the ♠A, and exited with a third spade. Lu won and played ace and a third club, Barel pitching a diamond. The ♠J was followed by the diamond finesse, Hou splitting with the ten. Lu cashed the ♣Q and played a heart to the jack. Hou cleared the hearts and exited with the ♦J, and Barel had the rest: one down, -50. 4 IMPs to C-L, leading

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
		1NT	Pass

2♦(1) Pass 2♥ Pass

4♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Yan received a spade lead against 4♥. She rose with the ace (not best), passed the ♦9 to Israel's king, won the heart return in dummy and played a second diamond to the jack and ace. A heart to dummy now revealed the bad trump split and when she shifted back to spades her spade play at trick one came back to haunt her. Doron rose with the ♠K and tabled a third round of trumps, leaving Yan a trick short. One down, -50.

Barel received a trump lead, won in hand, and played the ♦10 to the jack (not best), queen and king. Hou shifted to a spade and Barel ducked, won the spade return and ruffed a spade. With the ♦9 an entry to ruff his fourth spade with the ♥J, Barel had the necessary communications to draw trumps and cross back to dummy with the ♣A to cash his last two diamonds. Losing only a spade and a diamond: +450. 11 IMPs to Israel, now trailing 53-51.

Israel picked up an overtrick-IMP on each of the next two boards to tie C-L at 53.

Bd: 21		North	
Dir: North		♠ AK2	
Vul: N/S		♥ Q1042	
		♦ K32	
		♣ 1062	
West		East	
♠ 109873		♠ Q65	
♥ A6		♥ J53	
♦ 4		♦ QJ1098	
♣ AQ983		♣ 75	
		South	
		♠ J4	
		♥ K987	
		♦ A765	
		♣ KJ4	

Hou emerged with an easy nine tricks: +140. 6 IMPs to C-L, leading 59-53.

Bd: 22		North	
Dir: East		♠ 5	
Vul: E/W		♥ 643	
		♦ J9863	
		♣ 10654	
West		East	
♠ Q9764		♠ AK1032	
♥ 10		♥ 9752	
♦ KQ754		♦ 2	
♣ A8		♣ 932	
		South	
		♠ J8	
		♥ AKQJ8	
		♦ A10	
		♣ KQJ7	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
1♠	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	Dbl
All Pass		2♠	2NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
1♠	1♦(1)	Pass	1♥
3♣	2♥	2♠	Dbl(2)
	3♥	All Pass	

Something is wrong with your bidding system if you can't locate your four-four heart fit given the first two bids in the auction. Assuming North would open 1♦ with equal or longer diamonds than clubs, Israel's 1♦ response with four-four in the reds would never be right unless Doron held four-five (or an equivalent) in the minors. But a 1♥ response would be right any time Doron held four hearts. *N'est-ce pas?*

Doron ducked the ♦Q lead, won the continuation in hand, and guessed the hearts by playing low to the seven, ace. Back came the ♠10, ducked to the queen, and Yan accurately exited with a second spade. A club to the jack and queen was followed by a third spade; now Doron could only cash out his hearts for one down, -100.

Lu/Hou managed to play 3♥ from the right side (played by North East can lead a club to West for a diamond shift at trick two, giving the defense two clubs, the ♥A and two ruffs). Hou won the diamond lead in hand and led a heart up. Barel rose with the ace hoping to find a quick entry to Campanile's hand to obtain a diamond ruff and

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦(1)

All Pass

(1) Multi, weak with one major or 20-22 bal.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
1NT(2)	Pass	4♠	Dbl

All Pass

(1) Precision

(2) Diamonds and spades

Doron chose exactly the wrong time to get fancy with Multi with 4♥ a near certainty and diamonds splitting rather unkindly. Israel finished three down, -150.

Some days you eat the bear, some days the bear eats you. Hou opened her powerhouse 21-count a strong club and before she could say "peep" she was staring down the barrels of a 4♠ bid. She doubled to show balanced strength, ending the auction. Unfortunately for her, 4♠ could not be beaten; +790. 12 IMPs to Israel, who took the lead, 65-59.

C-L picked up an overtrick IMP on the next deal to close to 65-60. Then,



Bd: 24		North	
Dir: West		♠ AQ8	
Vul: None		♥ 3	
		♦ AKJ1094	
		♣ KQ4	
West		East	
♠ J43		♠ K9752	
♥ 642		♥ AQ875	
♦ 852		♦ 7	
♣ J832		♣ 65	
		South	
		♠ 106	
		♥ KJ109	
		♦ Q63	
		♣ A1097	

Bd: 25		North	
Dir: North		♠ J42	
Vul: E/W		♥ Q1087	
		♦ KQ752	
		♣ 9	
West		East	
♠ K1096		♠ 53	
♥ AJ62		♥ K9	
♦ J94		♦ A1086	
♣ KQ		♣ J10652	
		South	
		♠ AQ87	
		♥ 543	
		♦ 3	
		♣ A8743	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
Pass	1♦	2♦(1)	Dbl
2♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dbl	All Pass	

(1) Majors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
Pass	1♣(1)	1♥(2)	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

(1) Precision

(2) Majors

We're guessing that Doron's first double was takeout and his second penalty; both seem a bit eccentric. The overriding feature of North's hand is his diamonds, so why be so intent on doubling the opponents at a low level before describing his hand to partner? Still, he did not deserve the fate that befell him. The Yadlins managed to collect 500 against 2♠ doubled, which should have yielded them a small gain on the board.

In the Closed Room Lu/Hou overbid to 6♦, which had little chance on simply passive defense. But Campanile, after cashing her ♥A at trick one and getting the ♥6 from Barel (was this count or suit-preference for spades—with only the jack!), switched to a low spade and 6♦ rolled home: +920. 9 IMPs for C-L, back in the lead 69-65.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room Campanile scored up nine tricks in 1NT on the ♠7 lead. In the Open Room Israel could not resist showing his "solid" heart sequence ("I wanted to play hearts in the four-three fit with the ruffs in my hand") but could not quite handle things. Two down, -100. 2 IMPs to Israel, 69-67.

Bd: 26		North	
Dir: East		♠ 1073	
Vul: Both		♥ QJ9762	
		♦ ---	
		♣ AQ104	
West		East	
♠ 9		♠ AK862	
♥ 4		♥ A10	
♦ KQJ108652		♦ A4	
♣ 976		♣ KJ32	
		South	
		♠ QJ54	
		♥ K853	
		♦ 973	
		♣ 85	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
		1♣(1)	Pass
1♦(2)	Dbl(3)	1♠	Pass
2♦	2♥(4)	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

- (1) Precision
- (2) Negative
- (3) ♣+♥ or ♦+♠ (at least 4-4)
- (4) ♣+♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
		1♠	Pass
1NT(1)	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
(1) F1			

We can't help thinking that there must be a more descriptive bid for the West hand over a strong 1♣ than a negative 1♦. Still, this did not seem to prevent Wang/Yan from bidding to the cold 6♦ contract: +1370. Barel/Campanile did not fare nearly as well in the absence of informative interference from Lu. 5♦ made six, +620. 13 IMPs to C-L, leading 82-67.

Bd: 27	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q6542		
Vul: None	♥ 82		
	♦ J652		
	♣ A6		
		West	East
		♠ J10	♠ K8
		♥ AKQ963	♥ 10754
		♦ 9843	♦ Q7
		♣ 2	♣ KQ1097
			South
			♠ A973
			♥ J
			♦ AK10
			♣ J8543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
			1♣
1♥	1♠(1)	3♣(2)	3♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
			2♣(1)
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

As so often happens when one table stops in a partscore while the other bids game, the results at each table resemble more the contract at the other table than at their own. So it was here, where Barel/Campanile bid the E/W cards to 4♥ with four top losers while Wang/ Yan stopped in a spade partscore cold for game. Plus 170 for C-L and -50 for Israel: 3 IMPs to Israel, down 82-70.

Bd: 28	North		
Dlr: West	♠ KJ9832		
Vul: N/S	♥ 5		
	♦ AK6		
	♣ KQ10		
		West	East
		♠ 64	♠ Q7
		♥ AK76	♥ QJ1093
		♦ 854	♦ QJ
		♣ A852	♣ J743
			South
			♠ A105
			♥ 842
			♦ 109732
			♣ 96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
1♦(1)	1♠	Dbl	Pass
2♣	2♠	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
1♣	Dbl	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

It seems Israel Yadlin must have experienced temporary paralysis of his bidding hand on this deal when he failed to raise to 2♠ the first time and then couldn't bid 3♠ the second time. And wouldn't you know it, this time his partner had his vulnerable against non-vulnerable 1♠ and 2♠ bids. Go figure. 3♣ went down two, -100.

At the other table Hou had no such inhibitions and Lu/Hou managed to reach the cold spade game. To add insult to injury, Lu scored up an overtrick when the "quack" of diamonds fell doubleton: +650, 11 IMPs to C-L, ahead 93-70.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
	1♠	Dbl	All Pass

The standard lead on this auction is a trump but Lu cashed the ♣AK and exited with the ♦2 to the ten and jack. When Doron led a heart up Lu went in with the ace to play a second heart, Hou winning the king to return her remaining diamond. As the defenders had extracted all of declarer's safe exit cards, Doron tried the ♦AK. Hou ruffed low and led the ♠Q, which declarer took with the ace to exit with his diamond loser, Lu winning as Hou parted with her last plain card, Doron could take only the king-nine of trumps for two down, -300.

On Campanile's trump lead, Zhu took the ten with the ace and led a club up. East won and switched to the ♦2. Declarer won her jack and continued clubs, East playing a diamond to knock out the ace. When Zhu led a heart Campanile ducked and Barel won to play trumps. Zhu ducked the queen, then won her nine to lead a second heart, which Campanile took with the ace to play another diamond. Barel could discard and allow the ♦K to win or ruff a loser to allow declarer to come to trump parity and score either the ♦K or an extra trump trick. One down, -100, 5 IMPs to China, 98-80.

Bd: 34	North
Dlr: East	♠ A732
Vul: N/S	♥ ---
	♦ KJ82
	♣ A10974
West	East
♠ 10854	♠ KQ6
♥ AKJ9653	♥ Q1082
♦ 3	♦ Q10964
♣ 8	♣ 5
	South
	♠ J9
	♥ 74
	♦ A75
	♣ KQJ632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
3♥	Dbl*	4♥	1♣
Pass	Dbl	Pass	5♣
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: North	♠ K102
Vul: Both	♥ A653
	♦ 86
	♣ AQJ10
West	East
♠ AQ98653	♠ J4
♥ J102	♥ K84
♦ A	♦ KQ109432
♣ 32	♣ 4
	South
	♠ 7
	♥ Q97
	♦ J75
	♣ K98765

Open Room/Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Hou</i>
	1NT	3♦	All Pass

With both Souths leading their singletons this should have been a push board at -100. But in the Closed Room Lu inexplicably failed to play king and a spade after winning the ♣A at trick three (both declarers won the ♠A at trick one, cashed the ♦A, and then led a club) to promote a trump trick for Hou. 5 IMPs to Israel, trailing 93-75.

Board 30 was a push at +170, and the final two boards produced small gains of 2 and 3 IMPs for Israel, who finished the second session down 13, 93-80.

Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

Bd: 33	North
Dlr: North	♠ AK963
Vul: None	♥ 54
	♦ AKJ6
	♣ 84
West	East
♠ QJ10874	♠ 5
♥ K87	♥ A632
♦ 105	♦ Q982
♣ 52	♣ AK109
	South
	♠ 2
	♥ QJ109
	♦ 743
	♣ QJ763

Closed Room

West <i>Barel</i>	North <i>Zhu</i>	East <i>Campanile</i>	South <i>Dong</i>
4♥ Pass	6♣ Dbl	6♥ All Pass	2♣(1) Pass

The West hand looks more like 4♥ than the 3♥ overall Hou chose. Perhaps she realized that at her second turn when she more-or-less violated captaincy to compete to 5♥. The defenders took three aces for one down, -100, and 5♣ would have made easily. Well done by Hou.

Zhu's leap to 6♣ forced a decision on Campanile and it was difficult not to bid 6♥, the safe insurance action. On this layout there were two unavoidable losers in 6♣ and 6♥ doubled cost 300. 5 more IMPs to China, 103-80.

The players all stopped in game on Boards 35, 36 and 37 although slam was good on Boards 35 and 36. Then came...

Bd: 38		North	
Dir: East		♠ QJ86	
Vul: E/W		♥ K10432	
		♦ 92	
		♣ K8	
West		East	
♠ 1053		♠ A	
♥ 5		♥ AQ9876	
♦ J10876		♦ AK4	
♣ QJ94		♣ A52	
		South	
		♠ K9742	
		♥ J	
		♦ Q53	
		♣ 10763	

Open Room

West <i>Hou</i>	North <i>D.Yadlin</i>	East <i>Lu</i>	South <i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	2♠	1♣(1)	1♠
Pass	Dbl	4♥	Pass
		All Pass	

(1) Strong, artificial

Closed Room

West <i>Barel</i>	North <i>Zhu</i>	East <i>Campanile</i>	South <i>Dong</i>
2♦(1)	Pass	2♣(2)	Pass
3♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass	4♦	Pass

(1) Strong, artificial

(2) At least a little something

4♥ doubled went down two, -500, the spade competition by the Yadlins creating a bit of discomfort.

Barel's 5♦ was a fragile affair. Zhu led the ♦2 and Barel won the ace, played ♥A, heart ruff, ♣Q to the king and ace, club to the nine, spade to the ace, heart ruff, spade ruff, heart. Dong ruffed in with the ♦Q and Barel threw his spade. Dong returned a trump but Barel had two of the last three tricks for +600. 15 IMPs to Israel, back within hailing distance, 95-103.

Board 39 was pushed in 4♥ when a favorable lie of the cards allowed slam to make. Then...

Bd: 40		North	
Dir: West		♠ J732	
Vul: None		♥ AJ8	
		♦ A	
		♣ AQ973	
West		East	
♠ A984		♠ KQ	
♥ 632		♥ K954	
♦ Q32		♦ J94	
♣ J104		♣ K865	
		South	
		♠ 1065	
		♥ Q107	
		♦ K108765	
		♣ 2	

Open Room

West <i>Hou</i>	North <i>D.Yadlin</i>	East <i>Lu</i>	South <i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♦(1)

All Pass

(1) Weak

Closed Room

West <i>Barel</i>	North <i>Zhu</i>	East <i>Campanile</i>	South <i>Dong</i>
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

(1) Strong, artificial

(2) Negative

With diamonds three-three, Israel Yadlin made 2♦: +90. In 1NT, Zhu could not take advantage of the good break in diamonds after a low heart lead and finished down two, -100. 5 IMPs to Israel, 100-103.



Bd: 41	North
Dir: North	♠ KQJ43
Vul: E/W	♥ J10
	♦ J103
	♣ J73
West	East
♠ 85	♠ A976
♥ K764	♥ A9532
♦ 4	♦ 76
♣ A108642	♣ K9
	South
	♠ 102
	♥ Q8
	♦ AKQ9852
	♣ Q5

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦(1)
(1) Hearts			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
All Pass		Pass	2♥

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
All Pass		Pass	2♥

Barel led a costly club to allow two overtricks: +170. Lu led a spade, which was best, but later Hou did not cover the ♦J from dummy, allowing Doron to build a diamond trick to pitch a club from South: +140. 1 IMP to China, 104-108.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
4♥	Pass	1♥	1NT
All Pass	Dbl	Pass	5♦
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
3♦*	Pass	1♥	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Where Hou's 4♥ needn't have shown much defense, Barel's cue-raise convinced Campanile to double 5♦. That was a good strategy here as declarer was off five top tricks. Israel gained 8 IMPs for E/W +500 vs +150, and reclaimed the lead, 108-103.

Bd: 44	North
Dir: West	♠ Q85
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ76
	♦ 976
	♣ K87
West	East
♠ 76	♠ KJ9432
♥ Q1092	♥ 43
♦ K83	♦ J4
♣ AQ54	♣ 1063
	South
	♠ A10
	♥ K85
	♦ AQ1052
	♣ J92

Bd: 42	North
Dir: East	♠ K83
Vul: Both	♥ AQ3
	♦ Q65
	♣ A1074
West	East
♠ A107	♠ QJ95
♥ J102	♥ 76
♦ A1098	♦ K732
♣ J52	♣ Q86
	South
	♠ 642
	♥ K9854
	♦ J4
	♣ K93

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hou</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦(1)	Dbl
2♥(2)	Dbl	2♠	All Pass
(1) Multi			
(2) Pass-or-correct			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Israel Yadlin's double of the Multi 2♦ opening showed diamonds and values. He thought Doron was likely to bid again, but as the situation was not forcing it might have been better for him to double 2♠ for takeout if that was their agreement. The Yadlins defended 2♠

accurately and set it two for -100, but that proved to be nowhere near good enough to save the board.

Barel's light opening bid created a scenario in which Dong could mention her suit at the two level. When Zhu tried for game she accepted although she lacked a sixth diamond and significant extra values. That seems more than reasonable to me, vulnerable at IMPs, because there's no way to tell how useful the ♠10 and ♣9 will be. Campanile led the ♣3 over to the ace and Barel switched to the ♥10. Although Zhu could have taken four tricks in the suit now by following low, she put in the jack and led the ♦9, covered all around. She had nine tricks now and made a tenth when Barel led a club away from his queen in an attempt to set the contract: +630. 11 IMPs to China, 115-108.

The last four deals of the set were of minor interest. Israel won the third quarter 30-24, but China led in the match 117-110.

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

In a match that had been close all the way, both teams saddled up for the last roundup with a chance to realize their karma as the 2004 team of destiny.

For China **Wang Yanhong** and **Yan Ru** replaced Hou/Lu for the last 16 deals.

On the first board 6♣ was an excellent contract but no one chose to bid the suit and 4♥ was the final contract at both tables. Another push but a lost opportunity for the trailing team to regain the lead.

Bd: 50	North		
Dir: East	♠ 107654		
Vul: N/S	♥ J7		
	♦ 98		
	♣ 10987		
	West	East	
	♠ Q2	♠ 83	
	♥ AQ43	♥ K10962	
	♦ 32	♦ K107654	
	♣ K6542	♣ ---	
	South		
	♠ AKJ9		
	♥ 85		
	♦ AQJ		
	♣ AQJ3		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	D.Yadlin	Yan	I.Yadlin
		2♥(1)	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl

All Pass

(1) Hearts and a minor, weak

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Zhu	Campanile	Dong
		2♥(1)	Dbl
4♥	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

(1) Hearts and a minor, weak

The money contract for N/S is 4♠, not so much because they might make it but because they're not getting much from 4♥ doubled. Whether the Law of Total Tricks should point Doron towards 4♠ or passing Israel's "second" double would be worth writing about, but the truth is that Israel's double of 4♥ was his *first* positive action on the deal and was, by agreement, *penalty*. Why did he not double 2♥? Because he was distracted and forgot to do so, although later, when the bidding tray came back to him, he was surprised to learn that he had passed. The defense got two spades and two diamonds for -100.

Zhu's voluntary 4♠ over 4♥ was a courageous effort, but Dong took her seriously and tried for slam, choosing 5♥ rather than 5♠, which would have focused on trump quality. Barel did not double 5♥ because he didn't want to give his opponents a chance to pass or double to convey extra information, but by not doing so he left it open to East to consider alternative lead options. Convinced that her opponents would not have two heart losers, Campanile led the ♦4. Declarer finessed, cashed the ace-king of trumps, came to the ♠10, took another diamond finesse, threw a heart on the ♦A and lost only a heart and a club for +650. 11 IMPs to China, 128-110.

Board 51 was pushed in a partscore when 3NT was a decent contract for E/W, but only from the East side.



"Playing bridge is so draining!"

Bd: 52	North
Dir: West	♠ 842
Vul: Both	♥ K7
	♦ A104
	♣ AKJ54
West	East
♠ KQ97	♠ 1053
♥ J	♥ AQ53
♦ KJ97	♦ Q85
♣ 7632	♣ Q108
	South
	♠ AJ6
	♥ 1098642
	♦ 632
	♣ 9

Bd: 53	North
Dir: North	♠ A76532
Vul: N/S	♥ 1082
	♦ 6
	♣ QJ4
West	East
♠ 10	♠ J84
♥ A543	♥ J76
♦ AK75	♦ QJ109
♣ K982	♣ A107
	South
	♠ KQ9
	♥ KQ9
	♦ 8432
	♣ 653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	D. Yadlin	Yan	I. Yadlin
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Zhu	Campanile	Dong
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Dbl	Pass	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

It was difficult to double 4♥ in the Open Room but as Doron went three down, Wang/Yan were not disappointed with their +300. The lead of the ♠3 was ducked to the queen and Doron took Wang's low diamond shift with the ace to lead a spade to the jack with some hope. Alas, it lost to the king and the defenders took two diamonds and waited for two trump tricks.

In the Closed Room, where Dong/Zhu were in partscore mode before reconsidering their decision, Campanile might have doubled 4♥ on general principles, but somehow contracts reached this way by good players are often cold, and East decided not to double out of spite. On Barel's ambiguous lead of the ♠K East was obliged to give *count*. Here an attitude signal would have been better because when declarer ducked, West had no idea who had the jack and continued with a second spade. Dong won the jack and led a club to the jack, playing for the contract. No luck there, but she discarded diamonds on high clubs and lost only two trump tricks for -100. 5 IMPs to China, 133-110.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	D. Yadlin	Yan	I. Yadlin
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	2♥(2)
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♦	All Pass

(1) Multi

(2) Pass or correct

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Zhu	Campanile	Dong
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♦	3♠	All Pass	

The fact that Israel Yadlin did not bid 3♠ over either 2♠ or 3♦ is a clue as to just how filthy their vulnerable weak two-bids could be, but that sort of reticence in the bidding strikes us as losing tactics regardless. 3♦ made four when declarer had time to build a third club trick for a hearty discard: +130. 3♠ turned on the heart guess, which was straightforward after East turned up with the ♦QJ and the ♣A: +140. 7 "team" IMPs to China, ahead now by 30, 140-110.

Israel next gained 1 partscore IMP. Then...



Israel Yadlin

Bd: 55	North
Dir: South	♠ 7
Vul: Both	♥ 10974
	♦ Q1074
	♣ 10542
West	East
♠ KQ10	♠ 98653
♥ Q652	♥ A8
♦ AJ6	♦ 98
♣ Q73	♣ KJ96
	South
	♠ AJ42
	♥ KJ3
	♦ K532
	♣ A8

Bd: 57	North
Dir: North	♠ AK
Vul: E/W	♥ AKQ843
	♦ J9864
	♣ ---
West	East
♠ Q10	♠ J943
♥ 7	♥ 965
♦ A107	♦ K5
♣ AKJ7542	♣ Q986
	South
	♠ 87652
	♥ J102
	♦ Q32
	♣ 103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	D.Yadlin	Yan	I.Yadlin
			1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Zhu	Campanile	Dong
			1♣(1)
Pass	1♦(2)	Pass	1NT

All Pass

(1) Strong, artificial

(2) Negative

Both West players led the ♥2 against 1NT. Campanile won the ace and switched to the ♣J, catering to South's queen-third or ace-queen-third. Dong won the ace and attacked diamonds, neutralizing West's jack. Barel won the ♦A and switched to the ♠K, East discouraging. When South ducked Barel played ♣Q, club, and Campanile switched back to hearts after taking her club tricks. One down: -100.

Yan followed to the first heart with the eight, an interesting play. Israel won the ♥J, played ♦K, diamond to the jack and queen, and a heart down. Yan won her ace and returned a low club, but Israel won and knocked out the ♦A and had seven winners for +90. 5 IMPs to Israel, 116-140.

Both teams bid a very pushy game on Board 56 and went down on the same lead.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	D.Yadlin	Yan	I.Yadlin
	1♥	Pass	Pass

3♣

4♥

5♣

Pass

Dbl

All Pass

Closed Room

West North East South

Barel Zhu Campanile Dong

1♣(1)

Pass

1♦(2)

Pass

Pass

2♣

3♥

Pass

4♥

All Pass

(1) Strong, artificial

(2) Negative

Barel passed initially because direct action would have been weak, but even if he had reopened 1♥ with 3♣ it's not likely that Campanile would have saved against 4♥, which might easily have been going down. Yan's winning decision (-200 vs +450) gained China 6 IMPs and extended the Chinese lead to 30 IMPs with seven deals remaining. Perhaps the South players will not pass 1♥ next time.



Migry Zur_Campanile

Bd: 58		North	
Dir: East		♠ Q109742	
Vul: Both		♥ Q2	
		♦ 6	
		♣ J932	
West		East	
♠ A63		♠ ---	
♥ 98743		♥ KJ1065	
♦ AKJ3		♦ Q742	
♣ K		♣ Q875	
		South	
		♠ KJ85	
		♥ A	
		♦ 10985	
		♣ A1064	

Bd: 59		North	
Dir: South		♠ AK1042	
Vul: None		♥ ---	
		♦ QJ93	
		♣ K762	
West		East	
♠ J9		♠ Q753	
♥ KJ9843		♥ 1076	
♦ K4		♦ A107	
♣ 943		♣ AQ5	
		South	
		♠ 86	
		♥ AQ52	
		♦ 8652	
		♣ J108	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
		Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
		Pass	1♦(1)
1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Precision

N/S can make 4♠ unless East leads a club and West underleads in diamonds to get a club ruff. When Zhu passed over 1♥, there was no chance for her side to get there, but the Yadlins were alive and in the running after Doron's free 1♠. Whether either of them could logically bid 4♠ over 4♥ is a matter of partnership philosophy and perhaps also of whether 1♠ promised at least five.

On the lead of the ♦6, Dong did not give her partner a diamond ruff when she won the trump ace, instead underleading the ♣A: +680. The Yadlins got both of those tricks to hold Wang to +620. 2 IMPs to Israel, 118-146.



Michael Barel

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D. Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I. Yadlin</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♦(1)	2♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

(1) Multi

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♦(1)	2♠	Dbl(1)	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

(1) Pass only with a weak 2♠

Although Yan made 3♥ doubled with an overtrick, it's difficult to blame the Yadlins for doing what they did. Maybe we're becoming soft in our old age. Plus 730 for Yan, +170 for Barel, 10 IMPs for China, 156-118. With five boards to play, it looked very grim for Israel.

Bd: 60		North	
Dir: West		♠ 93	
Vul: N/S		♥ 93	
		♦ QJ753	
		♣ KQ62	
West		East	
♠ K52		♠ AJ74	
♥ 864		♥ J107	
♦ 10842		♦ AK96	
♣ J95		♣ A4	
		South	
		♠ Q1086	
		♥ AKQ52	
		♦ ---	
		♣ 10873	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	2♣(2)
Pass	2♦(3)	Pass	2♥(4)
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

- (1) Strong
- (2) Diamonds or majors
- (3) To play opposite diamonds
- (4) Majors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣(1)
Pass	2♦(2)	Pass	2♥

- All Pass
- (1) Majors
- (2) Equal length in the majors

In 2♥ the opening lead was a trump and Israel had time to work on clubs and make two spade plays from dummy for +110.

Both Yan's double of 2♥ and Wang's 2♠ were dangerous actions, but as no one doubled, the cost was only 150, so Israel gained only 1 IMP, 119-156.

Bd: 61	North
Dir: North	♠ 964
Vul: Both	♥ J2
	♦ Q94
	♣ AQJ95
West	East
♠ KJ8	♠ A102
♥ 943	♥ 876
♦ AK732	♦ J5
♣ K10	♣ 87432
	South
	♠ Q753
	♥ AKQ105
	♦ 1086
	♣ 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
2♦	Pass	Pass	1♥
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
All Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥

Dong lost the first six tricks in 2♥ for -100. In 2♦ Wang eventually lost a third-round spade ruff and a slow trump trick to go with three heart losers and two club losers: -200. 7 IMPs to Israel, 126-156. Israel was still in miracle territory with three boards to play.

Bd: 62	North
Dir: East	♠ AK107
Vul: None	♥ 85
	♦ KQ76
	♣ 642
West	East
♠ J964	♠ 853
♥ AQ6	♥ J32
♦ 42	♦ A105
♣ AQ83	♣ KJ97
	South
	♠ Q2
	♥ K10974
	♦ J983
	♣ 105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
1♦(1)	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- (1) Precision

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
1♣	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

We're surprised Zhu didn't risk an overcall of 1♦ or 1♠ but was willing to reopen in a four-card suit in a dangerous situation. She picked the right suit but went down one just the same: -50.

Yan was clearly expecting a "real" hand of some sort from Wang, but was soon disappointed. West was two down, -200. 4 IMPs to Israel, 130-156.



Bd: 63	North	
Dir: South	♠ AQ1032	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q82	
	♦ 64	
	♣ J74	
West		East
♠ 764		♠ KJ5
♥ J963		♥ 1075
♦ KQJ53		♦ A
♣ 6		♣ AK10982
	South	
	♠ 98	
	♥ AK4	
	♦ 109872	
	♣ Q53	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
1♦(1)	Pass	1♥	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Dbl
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Precision			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Dong led the ♣J against Campanile who ducked, then ducked the ♣10, losing her ninth winner. Dong switched to the ♦J and declarer won the ace, cashed the ten, cashed the ♠K and led a second spade to the ace, catering to doubleton ten or queen in addition to the three-three breaks. The ♠J was her new ninth trick: +600.

The defense against Wang's 4♠ started with a club to the ace and the ♣Q. Declarer covered and North ruffed, exiting with a heart to the queen and king. A spade to the jack lost to the queen. Wang won the heart return in dummy, ruffed a heart, overruffed a club, came to the ♠K, led the ♦10 to the king and the ♦4 to his ace before leading the ♠9, squeezing North in the red suits for +620. 1 IMP to China, who won the final stanza 46-20 and the 2004 NEC Cup 163-130.

It was evident to anyone who had been watching that China was indeed the team of destiny. Although they allowed about 2 IMPs a board, their bridge was practical, enterprising, and technically quite good. They were worthy winners of this great event.

The Israeli team played well for the most part too and certainly enjoyed the worst of the luck at the table. China consistently did the right thing on the "big" deals making it difficult for Israel to have won.

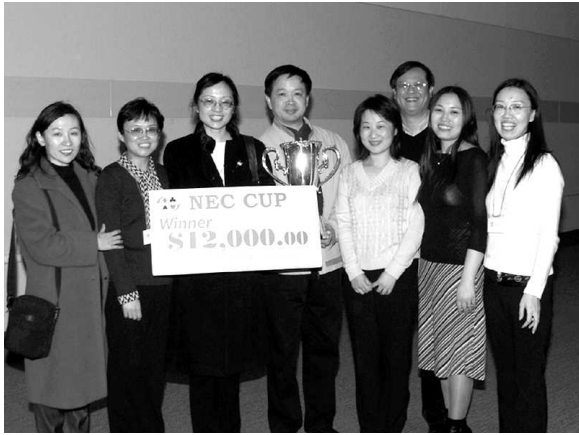


Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>D.Yadlin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>I.Yadlin</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	Pass
(1) Limited, 6+♣ or 5♣/4M			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Zhu</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	1♠	3♣	All Pass

Dong/Zhu took their four major-suit tricks on the go and waited for their trump trick: -50.

The defense was accurate too against Doron's 2♠ and he was -200 without having a chance to do better. 6 IMPs to China, 162-130.

Bd: 64	North	
Dir: West	♠ 10753	
Vul: E/W	♥ J973	
	♦ 9532	
	♣ 3	
West		East
♠ K962		♠ AJ4
♥ K10		♥ A542
♦ A106		♦ KQ74
♣ K765		♣ 84
	South	
	♠ Q8	
	♥ Q86	
	♦ J8	
	♣ AQJ1092	



2004 NEC Cup Champions: China Ladies



2004 NEC Cup Runners-Up: Israel

10th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Monday (Feb. 7)	18:30-20:30	Reception	F205-206
Tuesday (Feb. 8)	10:00-12:50	Players Meeting	F201/F202 (20 boards/match)
	12:50-14:00	NEC Cup Swiss (1)	
	14:00-16:50	Lunch Break	
Wednesday (Feb. 9)	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Swiss (2)	F201/F202
	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Swiss (3)	
	12:50-14:00	NEC Cup Swiss (4)	
	14:00-16:50	Lunch Break	
Thursday (Feb. 10)	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Swiss (5)	F201/F202
	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Swiss (6)	
	13:10-16:00	NEC Cup Swiss (7)	
	16:00-17:10	NEC Cup Swiss (8)	
	17:10-20:00	Lunch Break	
Friday (Feb. 11)	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)	F206
	12:50-14:00	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)	F206
	14:00-16:50	Lunch Break	
	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	
Saturday (Feb. 12)	10:00-17:00	NEC Cup Semi-Final (2)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama SRR & Swiss Teams (1)	F201-204
	10:00-12:20	NEC Cup Final (1) & 3 rd Playoff (1)	F206
	12:30-14:50	NEC Cup Final (2) & 3 rd Playoff (2)	
	14:50-16:00	Lunch Break	
	16:00-18:20	NEC Cup Final (3)	
Sunday (Feb. 13)	18:30-20:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama SRR & Swiss Teams (2)	F201-204
	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup	F201-204
	18:00-20:30	Closing Ceremony	F205-206

Swiss matches & Semi-Final segments = 20 boards; Final and 3rd place playoff segments = 16 boards