



# NEC Bridge Festival

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Bulletin Number 6

Editors: Eric Kokish, Richard Colker

## Israel: the 2005 NEC Cup Champions

They were runners-up last year to the Chinese Ladies, but this year the bridesmaid became the bride when with strong first and third quarters the Israelis (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile) held off the veteran team from Russia/Poland (Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki) to take the 2005 NEC Cup. The board-by-board match account begins on page 11 and concludes in today's second edition.



2005 NEC Cup Champions

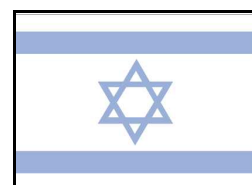


2005 NEC Cup Runners-up

### NEC Cup Final: Quarter-by-Quarter Results



Team	C/O	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Final
Israel	.5	46	26	56	30	158
Russia/Poland		29	31	31	39	130



### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Our home page is at <http://bridge.cplaza.ne.jp/necfest.html> – or – <http://www.jcbl.or.jp>

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## Yokohama SRR & Swiss Teams

### Flight A 28T, 120A

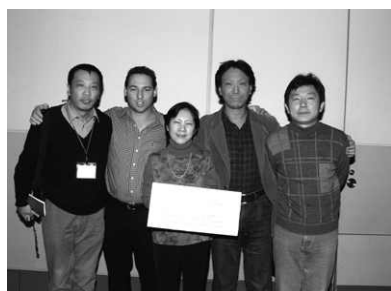
1. NETHERLANDS	201	Jan Jansma, Louk Verhees, Bas Drijver, Maarten Schollaardt
2. TAJIMA	166	Tadashi Teramoto, Mitsue Tajima, Fu Zhong, Zhao Jie, Ishmael Del'Monte
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4. FAIRY TALE	151	Ryo Okuno, Yukinao Honma, Keisuke Kito, Takao Onodera
5. HANAYAMA	148	Takeshi Hanayama, Yuki Fukuyoshi, Masayuki Hayasaka, Toshiko Kaho
6. USA	146	Steve Landen, Drew Casen, Venkatrao Koneru, Larry Mori
7. ENGLAND/NORWAY	144	Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness
8. CANADA	141	Jurek Czyzowicz, Darren Wolpert, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Kamel Fergani
9. USA/EGYPT	138	Rita Shugart, Andrew Robson, Walid El Ahmady, Tarek Sadek
10. NAITO	134	Kenji Miyakuni, Makoto Kono, Toru Henmi, Sakiko Naito

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2. KAIWA	157	Fumio Kaiwa, Sachiyo Uenaka, Kenichi Akita, Kunio Ueda
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4. HAYASHI	151	Makiko Hayashi, Maresuke Fujii, Mark LaForge, Natsuhiko Nagumo
5. ESPERANZA	149	Haruko Koshi, Mieko Nakanishi, Yoko Oosako, Misuzu Ichihashi
6. GRYFFINDOR	144	Hiroko Sekiyama, Yoko Nenohi, Michiko Ono, Toshiko Miyashiro
7. PS-JACK	140	Masakatsu Sugino, Masako Otsuka, Teruo Miyazaki, Akiko Miwa
8. GELLER	134	Masaru Yoshida, Yuichi Masamura, Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara
9. MARUYAMA	130	Yoko Maruyama, Keisuke Akama, Ayako Amano, Miho Sekizawa
10. SASAKI	128	Kazunori Sasaki, Yoshitaka Narita, Takeshi Higashiguchi, Tetsuo Machida

### Flight C 26T, 120A

1. MIURA	199	Kyoko Miura, Yukiko Otani, Keiko Anazawa, Shimako Yaji
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3. TANAKA	152	Noriko Tanaka, Mikiko Ito, Masako Kurita, Yoko Ota
4. NANIWADA	148	Masaru Naniwada, Mitsuyo Naniwada, Ryo Matsubara, Ayako Matsubara
5. XYZ	138	Kuniko Saito, Atsuko Kurita, Chieko Ichikawa, Junko Den
6-7. ITO	137	Eriko Ito, Takako Fujimoto, Shoko Imai, Mari Mitani
6-7. FRIENDS	137	Tsukasa Ito, Toshiko Nishi, Koichi Onishi, Yasuyoshi Toriumi
8. IZAKI	134	Kenichi Izaki, Motoharu Ushio, Nobuko Yagi, Hideko Tanaka
9. MY-BRIDGE	132	Masafumi Yoshizawa, Noriko Yoshizawa, Takashi Sumita, Yoko Fukuyama, Yoshitaka Agata, Shigeyuki Murano
10. TEAM YASU	130	Kimiko Kamakari, Yumiko Oda, Misae Kato, Shoko Somemiya



2nd Flight A



1st Flight A



3rd Flight A



1st Flight B



1st Flight C

## The Semifinals, Bds 21-40: Japan Open versus Israel

by Eric Kokish

Israel led Japan Open at the start of the second half by 2 IMPs, 42-40. But the match would open up in a hurry...

Bd: 21	North		
Dir: North	♠ J952		
Vul: None	♥ 752		
	♦ 7		
	♣ QJ873		
	West		East
	♠ Q103		♠ K876
	♥ KQ964		♥ 108
	♦ 8		♦ AQ105
	♣ A642		♣ K105
	South		
	♠ A4		
	♥ AJ3		
	♦ KJ96432		
	♣ 9		
Open Room/Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Although 3NT was made at three of the four tables in play, it is not an easy contract to play. Consider the fate of Kazuo Furuta, who got the lead of the ♦6 from Migry Campanile. When Michael Barel could not cover the eight, Furuta decided not to waste any of his potentially important diamond honors and followed with the ♦5. Next, he led a heart to the ten and jack, and back came the ♣9 to the jack and king. He knocked out the ♥A, won the passive heart return, cashed his two remaining hearts (pitching first a spade and then a club), and led the ♠3 to the king and ace. Campanile exited with a spade, Furuta flying with the queen to exit with a third round of the suit to North's jack. North exited with the ♣Q, smothering declarer's now-vulnerable ten, and Furuta could no longer count nine tricks—in fact, he couldn't even count eight, and the contract ended two down, -100.

In the Open Room, Yasuhiro Shimizu boldly led the ♣9 to the jack and king, so Israel Yadlin could attack hearts from the right side, Shimizu covering the ten with the jack, then ducking the eight on the second round. The ♠K was taken by the ace and Shimizu exited with a spade, but Israel rose with the queen to drive out the ♥A, simultaneously endplaying Shimizu, who had to play a diamond, giving declarer his ninth trick. Israel took four hearts, one spade, two diamonds, and two clubs for +400. 11 IMPs to Israel, leading 53-40.

In R/P versus Japan-Hana, 3NT was made at both tables (once with an overtrick and once with two overtricks) for a 1-IMP pickup for R/P, leading 65-12. "What were the opening leads?" you might ask? Takeshi Hanayama led the ♦K, Adam Zmudzinski the ♥A, both well-reasoned choices. All of this suggests that this would be a good lead problem for a bridge magazine panel. I guess we'll see soon enough whether diligent magazine editors read this rag.

Bd: 22	North		
Dir: East	♠ AJ7653		
Vul: N/S	♥ 8432		
	♦ A3		
	♣ 2		
	West		East
	♠ 942		♠ 108
	♥ Q		♥ AK1065
	♦ 9		♦ J642
	♣ AKQJ8543		♣ 96
	South		
	♠ KQ		
	♥ J97		
	♦ KQ10875		
	♣ 107		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
		Pass	1♦
3♦(1)	3♠	Pass	4♠
5♣	5♠	Dbl	All Pass
(1) Bid 3NT with a diamond stopper			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		2♦(1)	Pass
2NT(2)	Pass	3♣(3)	All Pass
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠; (2) Asking; (3) Five-card weak two			

I'm not sure how Dawei Chen planned to extricate himself if his 2NT inquiry had caught a different reply, but here 2NT worked marvelously: +110 in 3♣, the defenders combining nicely to arrange an over-ruff in spades (♦K to the ace, spade to the king, ♠Q overtaken, ♠J...).

Meanwhile, back in Deadwood Gulch, where the bidding started more traditionally, the Negev's Lone Ranger tried the effect of asking for a diamond stopper. Lesser men would deliver some serious help in the other side suits, but Doron is not generally concerned with incidentals of that nature. If his brother couldn't bid 3NT (no matter that Yoshiyuki Nakamura showed a good hand), then Doron couldn't very well stay out of 5♣, and his decision worked well, pushing Nakamura to 5♠, where he was doubled for penalty by Israel. Three rounds of hearts and a club trick defeated 5♠ doubled two tricks, -500. 9 IMPs to Israel, 62-40. A handsome start for the visiting team.

In the other match, the Closed Room bidding started the same way as at Doron's table, suggesting that a Kobayashi/Doron partnership is in the cards for next year. Where Israel Y did not bid 3NT over 3♠, Seiya Shimizu took the plunge—apparently spade stoppers are for children if there's a hint of a diamond guard present. Cezary Balicki reopened 3NT with 4♥, and Shimizu doubled that and the conversion to 4♠ as well. Now Kobayashi thought better of his 3♦ overcall and removed the double, turning +200 into a minus, which proved to be only 100 when Balicki/Zmudzinski dropped a strange trick. 5 IMPs to Japan-Hana, 17-65.

Balicki led the ♦A. How should South signal? A poll of various sidelined Poles in the Bulletin Room produced unanimous support for the ♦Q, suit preference for spades, which would have worked easily enough. Adam followed with the five, apparently count. Cezary played a second

diamond. In fact, they were lucky to beat 5♣ doubled after this start. Had declarer owned the ♣10 or a ninth club, the nine would have been an entry for two additional timely heart winners. As it went, Zmudzinski had to keep jack-third of hearts and so had to blank the ♠Q in this ending:

	North	
	♠ AJ76	
	♥ 8	
	♦ ---	
	♣ ---	
West		East
♠ 942		♠ 10
♥ Q		♥ AK10
♦ ---		♦ J
♣ 3		♣ --
	South	
	♠ Q	
	♥ J97	
	♦ K	
	♣ ---	

On the last club, dummy discards the ♠10, and South must discard the ♠Q. Declarer overtakes the ♥Q with the ace and exits with the ♦J to endplay South in hearts. Which gives you a more graphic picture of how serious an error it was not to switch to spades after the ♦A.

Well played, Doron? Well, almost. On the penultimate trump he discarded the ♦J from dummy, allowing Zmudzinski to release the ♦K. If declarer cashes the ♥Q and leads a spade, North can go up with the ace, but in the event Doron overtook the ♥Q and cashed the ace, and that was that.



"A man walks into a bar with a penguin on his shoulder..."

Bd: 23	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 93	
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ952	
	♦ KJ72	
	♣ AJ	
West		East
♠ QJ1062		♠ 8
♥ KJ7		♥ 104
♦ Q963		♦ 108
♣ 3		♣ KQ1098754
	South	
	♠ AK754	
	♥ 863	
	♦ A54	
	♣ 62	

A routine 4♥ making five at three of the four tables in the semifinals. At the fourth, however...

West	North	East	South
Kobayashi	Balicki	Shimizu	Zmudzinski
Pass	2♥	4♣	1♠
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	Pass

Three down, -800, and 8 IMPs to R/P, 73-12.

Bd: 25	North	
Dlr: North	♠ J109	
Vul: N/S	♥ J9432	
	♦ A43	
	♣ K6	
West		East
♠ AK543		♠ Q7
♥ A7		♥ KQ10
♦ J2		♦ 10965
♣ QJ108		♣ A543
	South	
	♠ 862	
	♥ 865	
	♦ KQ87	
	♣ 972	

This was a straightforward 3NT at three of the four tables, but Gromov/Dubinin had a systemic mixup and played in 2♦: 1♠-1NT; 2♣-2♦, where 2♣ might be a two-card suit and 2♦ was a relay, forgotten. 8 IMPs to Japan-Hana, 25-73.

Bd: 26	North		
Dlr: East	♠ Q76		
Vul: E/W	♥ J3		
	♦ K7532		
	♣ J43		
West		East	
♠ A10		♠ 852	
♥ Q1052		♥ 9874	
♦ A6		♦ Q984	
♣ AK982		♣ Q5	
	South		
	♠ KJ943		
	♥ AK6		
	♦ J10		
	♣ 1076		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♥(1)	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
(1) Constructive raise to 2♠			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	1♠
1NT	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Shimizu guessed diamonds for +110.

Furuta thought it more likely that Chen would not hold four hearts for his 1NT overcall, so chose diamonds, unluckily. Perhaps 2NT would have led to 3♥. He nearly made 3♦, however. The ♦J ran to the queen at trick one and a second trump went to the ace, followed by a parade of clubs. North ruffed the fourth low, but declarer over-ruffed, went to the ♠A, and played another club to score the ♦9 en passant, -100. No swing.

This was a good board for R/P in the other match. Dubinin doubled twice with the West and Gromov scrambled into hearts, +140. Kobayashi doubled, then bid clubs, and Shimizu cue-bid, inducing 3NT from Kobayashi, down 200. 8 IMPs to R/P, 81-25.

Bd: 28	North
Dir: West	♠ KJ97432
Vul: None	♥ ---
	♦ J93
	♣ 963
West	East
♠ 1086	♠ 5
♥ J98	♥ AK7642
♦ Q6	♦ AK84
♣ A10875	♣ J2
	South
	♠ AQ
	♥ Q1053
	♦ 10752
	♣ KQ4

Japan Open vs Israel

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	3♠	4♥	Dbl

All Pass

Japan Hana vs Russia/Poland

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	Dbl

All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
Pass	3♠	4♥	All Pass

There was no legitimate way to defeat 4♥, doubled or otherwise, so Israel Y's remarkable pass of 3♠ was an expensive thing to do. 11 IMPs to Japan Open, 51-63.

Much depends on your preempting style, of course, but it feels as if South should do something over 4♥, backing his judgment, one way or the other. Still, Zmudzinski's non-committal pass was the winner, bringing in 5 IMPs, 86-26. 4♠ doubled goes down 500 against

best defense and -590 is worse than -420.

Bd: 29	North
Dir: North	♠ QJ9542
Vul: E/W	♥ J97
	♦ 2
	♣ 1065
West	East
♠ 876	♠ A
♥ KQ5	♥ 863
♦ K1075	♦ 98643
♣ AQJ	♣ 8432
	South
	♠ K103
	♥ A1042
	♦ AQJ
	♣ K97

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
	2♦(1)	Pass	2NT(2)
Pass	3♥(3)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠; (2) Inquiry; (3) Min. 2♠

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	2♦(1)	Pass	4♣(2)
Pass	4♥(3)	Pass	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) Weak 2♥ or 2♠; (2) Transfer to your major; (3) Spades

Undeniably, it's a matter of perception, and I wouldn't try to impose my belief that the North hand is a 3♠ opening, first seat, favorable, on anyone, but it's interesting that both Nagasaka and Balicki passed while both Nakamura and Barel thought it suitable for a Multi.

In Japan Hana vs Russia/Poland, both Souths declared spade partials, and both made three on a trump lead and rounded-suit switch, declarer taking the ruffing finesse in diamonds.

In Japan Open vs Israel, neither South fared as well, on a trump lead and club switch. Shimizu put up the king and went three down, -150.

Campanile ducked to the jack, won the trump continuation, ruffed out West's  $\diamond K$ , and passed the  $\heartsuit 9$  to the queen. West had a trump with which to leave his hand, and a second heart finesse lost. West cashed the  $\clubsuit A$ . Down 300, 4 IMPs to Japan Open, 55-63.

Bd: 30	North		
Dlr: East	$\spadesuit$ ---		
Vul: Both	$\heartsuit$ 7654		
	$\diamond$ KJ95		
	$\clubsuit$ KJ1075		
West		East	
$\spadesuit$ A9		$\spadesuit$ 7643	
$\heartsuit$ AK1083		$\heartsuit$ J9	
$\diamond$ Q7		$\diamond$ A8632	
$\clubsuit$ 8432		$\clubsuit$ Q9	
	South		
	$\spadesuit$ KQJ10852		
	$\heartsuit$ Q2		
	$\diamond$ 104		
	$\clubsuit$ A6		

This was a spade partial at three tables, but Nagasaka/Hanayama reached 4 $\spadesuit$ ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
		Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
2 $\heartsuit$	Dbl	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$
Pass	4 $\clubsuit$	Pass	4 $\spadesuit$
All Pass			

Dubin led three rounds of hearts, on the last of which Gromov discarded a club. When Dubin won the  $\spadesuit A$ , he played...another heart. Hanayama discarded his diamond losers on club winners for +620, 10 IMPs to Japan Hana, 36-86.



"That damn penguin follows me everywhere."

Bd: 31	North		
Dlr: South	$\spadesuit$ QJ108		
Vul: None	$\heartsuit$ AK32		
	$\diamond$ J85		
	$\clubsuit$ 106		
West		East	
$\spadesuit$ A542		$\spadesuit$ K3	
$\heartsuit$ 8		$\heartsuit$ 975	
$\diamond$ A3		$\diamond$ Q10742	
$\clubsuit$ J98752		$\clubsuit$ AKQ	
	South		
	$\spadesuit$ 976		
	$\heartsuit$ QJ1064		
	$\diamond$ K96		
	$\clubsuit$ 43		
Japan Open vs Israel			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	2 $\diamond$	2 $\spadesuit$
3 $\clubsuit$	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$
Dbl	2 $\heartsuit$	2NT	3 $\heartsuit$
3 $\spadesuit$	All Pass		
Japan Hana vs Russia/Poland			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	2 $\diamond$	4 $\heartsuit$
Dbl	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
Pass	1 $\clubsuit$ (1)	1 $\diamond$	Pass
1 $\spadesuit$	2 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	Dbl(2)
(1) Polish, F1; (2) Hearts			

Although E/W can make 5 $\clubsuit$ , no one really got close. The Russians didn't have to, of course, because they could double 4 $\heartsuit$  and collect 500, a

12-IMP gain by combining with their teammates +110 in 2♥.

Whatever Chen/Furuta were doing in the bidding, they were not on the same page. 3♠ was two down, -100, while the Yadrins were scoring +150 in 3♣. I'm not sure what there is about the East hand that makes it more suitable for a 2♦ overcall of 1♠ than for a takeout double, but my spies in the Land of Milk and Honey tell me it has something to do with four-card heart support. Lost in Translation, part two. 6 IMPs to Israel, 69-55.



Bd: 33	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q975		
Vul: Both	♥ J853		
	♦ 107		
	♣ 1086		
West		East	
♠ 2		♠ AKJ10863	
♥ A1042		♥ K	
♦ KQ852		♦ A4	
♣ K32		♣ Q95	
	South		
	♠ 4		
	♥ Q976		
	♦ J963		
	♣ AJ74		
Japan Open vs Israel			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Japan Hana vs Russia/Poland			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
		1♣(1)	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass
(1) Precision, strong, F1			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

6♠ isn't the worst slam in the world, but South led the ♣A and shifted to a red suit at the two relevant tables. Furuta and Gromov had to go one down, -100. 13 IMPs to Israel, 82-55, and 13 IMPs to Japan Hana, 49-99.

Bd: 34	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AK		
Vul: None	♥ K92		
	♦ A6532		
	♣ Q43		
West		East	
♠ QJ5		♠ 9842	
♥ Q853		♥ 10764	
♦ K9		♦ Q107	
♣ 10852		♣ A6	
	South		
	♠ 10763		
	♥ AJ		
	♦ J84		
	♣ KJ97		

North declared 3NT at all four tables after denying a major. Whether East leads a spade or a heart, declarer faces an uphill struggle. In fact, the contract was made at two tables only because the defenders messed up the diamond suit, Seiya Shimizu by going up with the queen on a low diamond play towards dummy's jack, Doron Yadrin by going up with the king (less comprehensibly) on a low diamond towards the



closed hand. Russia/Poland gained 10 IMPs, 109-49, as did Japan Open, 65-82.

Bd: 36	North
Dlr: West	♠ J54
Vul: E/W	♥ J2
	♦ 8762
	♣ J764
West	East
♠ K1098632	♠ Q
♥ A	♥ Q10865
♦ AQ	♦ J954
♣ 953	♣ AQ8
	South
	♠ A7
	♥ K9743
	♦ K103
	♣ K102

At three of four tables, West declared 4♠, uncontested. In Japan Open vs Israel, North either led a low club on the go or switched to one. When declarer played low from dummy, South played the king, and now the diamond finesse brought home the contract.

In a similar position, Kobayashi played the ♣Q from dummy, so the defenders built two club tricks to set the contract. At the other table, the E/W bidding died at 2♠, but South reopened with a double and finished as declarer in 3♣, down 200. 7 IMPs to R/P, 116-49.

Bd: 37	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q10973
Vul: None	♥ AQ93
	♦ 1074
	♣ J
West	East
♠ A	♠ KJ8642
♥ J1084	♥ 62
♦ Q632	♦ K5
♣ KQ75	♣ 432
	South
	♠ 5
	♥ K75
	♦ AJ98
	♣ A10986

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
	2♥(1)	All Pass	
(1) ♥+♠, 0-10			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		2♦(1)	Pass
2♠(2)	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠; (2) Pass with spades, consider more than 3♥ with hearts			

2♠ doubled was down 300 while 2♥ made three, +140. 4 IMPs to Israel, 86-66. The same two contracts were played in the other match, but Gromov fared a trick better in 2♠ doubled, playing from the East seat, so R/P gained an IMP, 117-49.

Bd: 40	North
Dlr: West	♠ 5
Vul: Both	♥ K
	♦ J1032
	♣ AK109872
West	East
♠ J72	♠ AKQ4
♥ 542	♥ AQ87
♦ A984	♦ K6
♣ QJ4	♣ 653
	South
	♠ 109863
	♥ J10963
	♦ Q75
	♣ ---

At three tables, North opened 1♣ and West responded 1NT to East's takeout double. East raised to 3NT for +600. At the fourth table, Balicki opened 2♣, Precision, then volunteered 3♣ after West's 2♦ reply to East's takeout double. With no security anywhere, Shimizu decided not to double a second time, and 3♣ was passed out. One down, -100, but 11 IMPs to R/P, who won the second half 64-37, and the match, 128-49.

Israel conceded 4 IMPs over the last three deals

but won the session 44-30 and the match 86-70.

It would be Russia/Poland versus Israel over 64 boards in the final of the NEC Cup, with the

Israelis hoping to do one place better than last year, and R/P hoping to get the proverbial Israeli monkey off their backs—they had not beaten them yet in Japan.

## Hong Kong Inter-City Bridge Tournament

16-21 August, 2005

### Venue:

- The event will be held at the Excelsior Hotel in Causeway Bay (a prime shopping area on the Hong Kong side with easy access via major transportation).

### Rates:

- Superior Rooms (285 sq. ft.) are \$900 plus 13% tax.
- Superior Rooms with harbor view are \$1,000 plus 13% tax.
- Suites for up to \$2,850 plus tax.

### Playing area:

- The playing area is on the third floor and faces a beautiful harbor.

### Other:

- The entry fees for all events are the same as last year (\$6,000 for visiting Open Teams).
- The hotel will be issuing discount coupons to players for meals if consumed on the premises.
- An additional event—a Transnational Board-A-Match Teams (maximum from each country permitted)— will be scheduled.
- The qualifying stage of the Open teams will be played over 2.5 days (28 hours) with an estimated total of nearly 58 hours of bridge over 6 days—or around 70 boards per day!

## Team Rosters for 10th NEC Cup Finalists

Team Name	Members
Israel	Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile
Russia/Poland	Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki



# NEC Cup Final: Russia/Poland versus Israel

by Rich Colker

## First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

The two finalists arrived in the final having taken very different routes in their semifinal matches. Russia/Poland (Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki) dispatched Japan Hana quite handily (128-49) while Israel (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile) struggled against Japan Open (86-70). But past is past (although perhaps prelude as well), and it was time to get down to the business at hand.

You may have heard this before, but the fireworks started immediately.

Whether Gromov was uncharacteristically trying to throw sand in the Israeli's eyes with his 1NT bid or whether he was systemically showing clubs (or the minors?) only his shrink may know. But whatever the motive, the Yadlins had no trouble reaching their cold 4♠ and Doron took twelve tricks when Gromov led the ♥7 to the queen and Dubinin tried to cash the ♥A at trick two. Plus 480.

At the other table the wheels came off for the Poles. Kokes thinks the blame lies with the hopeless 2♥ convention: 2♠ could be based on three small if responder is short in hearts, so East cannot risk competing with 3♠ over 3♣. I think that obstructive methods such as these come with a price: much of the time they confuse the opponents but occasionally they confuse the users. If one is philosophically wedded to their use, one must be prepared to pay the piper when called to do so and get on with life. In this case the ticket to getting on was -470 when Barel scored up 3♣ doubled: spade to the ace, ♦K to the ace, club to the jack and queen, diamond to the queen, diamond ruff, claim. 14 IMPs to Israel.

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 10		
Vul: None	♥ 75		
	♦ A1092		
	♣ A109532		
	West		East
	♠ AQ9842		♠ J7653
	♥ 10		♥ KJ986
	♦ K4		♦ Q86
	♣ KQ84		♣ ---
	South		
	♠ K		
	♥ AQ432		
	♦ J753		
	♣ J76		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	1NT	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
2♠(2)	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		
(1) ♥+another suit; (2) Pass-or-correct			

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q874		
Vul: Both	♥ J10		
	♦ AKJ2		
	♣ 532		
	West		East
	♠ K53		♠ A1096
	♥ Q98742		♥ 53
	♦ 54		♦ Q10763
	♣ A4		♣ Q6
	South		
	♠ J2		
	♥ AK6		
	♦ 98		
	♣ KJ10987		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov/Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>	
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣(1)
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
All Pass			
(1) Natural			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	All Pass

The North hand does not look like an opening bid to us, but we've not been raised in the cauldron that is Israel. "The best defense is a good offense," says the Israeli Army veteran, and it's hard to argue with him looking at his result. Balicki led the ♠10 which rode around to the queen, and Barel guessed the clubs playing low to the jack and ace. The defense cashed their three spade tricks but Michael had the rest; +600.

The Russian's auction seems more normal considering each of the N/S hands in isolation, but we'd all like to be in 3NT given a view of the two hands together. Gromov had only three losers in 3♣, +130, but that was 10 more IMPs to the Israelis, ahead now 24-0.

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J8763		
Vul: None	♥ 7653		
	♦ A92		
	♣ J		
	West	East	
	♠ 9	♠ K4	
	♥ QJ1092	♥ A	
	♦ KJ765	♦ Q103	
	♣ A6	♣ Q1098542	
	South		
	♠ AQ1052		
	♥ K84		
	♦ 84		
	♣ K73		

In the Open Room 2♣ created a game force. Even so, East should be in no hurry to rebid notrump, which should show a more balanced hand—not to mention better/stronger spades. Had he rebid 3♣, as in the other room (though there 3♣ was non-forcing—the only rebid that was), E/W would have had a better chance of landing in a makeable contract. After 3♣ West would rebid 3♦, and now East could bid 3NT suggesting less in spades. West, looking at his singleton spade, might now remove to 4♣, though that would not guarantee that East would not press on to the five level. As it was, Dubinin led a spade against 3NT and when Israel knocked out the ♦A the defense cashed out for one down, -50.

In the Closed Room Campanile led the ♦8 against the unbreakable 3♣, five, nine, queen. Seeing the handwriting on the wall Balicki tried playing a second diamond to the jack and ace. But Barel was not fooled and gave Campanile her ruff. Campanile got out with ace and a spade, and Balicki safety played the trumps (to guard against an original holding of king-jack-fourth with South) by passing the ♣10 to the jack. Nine tricks, +110, and R/P was finally on the scoreboard, trailing 25-4.



"Is that darn penguin back there?"

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q643		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQJ63		
	♦ K75		
	♣ Q		
	West		East
	♠ A85		♠ KJ102
	♥ 10954		♥ ---
	♦ 1094		♦ A63
	♣ K109		♣ J76532
		South	
		♠ 97	
		♥ K872	
		♦ QJ82	
		♣ A84	
	Open Room		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	1♥	Pass	2NT(1)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(1) Limit raise (♥)			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	1♥	1NT(1)	2♠(2)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(1) 4♠/5+ m; (2) Limit raise (♥)			

flow to Russia/Poland...

Bd: 11	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q976532		
Vul: None	♥ 108		
	♦ 104		
	♣ QJ		
	West		East
	♠ AJ1084		♠ ---
	♥ J		♥ AK97432
	♦ 86		♦ 7532
	♣ K9872		♣ A6
		South	
		♠ K	
		♥ Q65	
		♦ AKQJ9	
		♣ 10543	
	Open Room		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
			1♦
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			1♦
1♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Easts led the ♣5 against 4♥. Both declarers won dummy's ace, ducked a spade, ruffed the club return, ducked another spade, and ruffed another club return. At trick six Gromov ruffed a spade in dummy, played the ♦Q, ducked, then led a heart to the jack followed by a low diamond toward dummy. Israel rose with the ace and played the killing ♠K, promoting a trump trick for Doron when Gromov ruffed with the ♥K; -50. (It would not have helped Gromov to ruff low as Doron could either pitch his last diamond or overruff, as he wished. The culprit was Gromov's premature spade ruff at trick six.) At the other table Barel led a diamond to the queen at trick six, then a heart to the jack, and the ♦K to Balicki's ace. Balicki played a fourth club, ♥7, ♥9, ♥Q. Barel ruffed a spade, crossed to the ♦J, and claimed the last two tricks on a high crossruff; +420. 10 more IMPs to Israel, leading 35-4.

Finally, some double-digit blood was about to

Against the Yadrins' 3♥ contract Dubinin cashed the ♦AK at tricks one and two, then got out with the ♠K to dummy's ace, declarer pitching a diamond. Israel crossed to the ♣K, ruffed his last diamond, Gromov pitching his remaining club, and tried to return to hand by ruffing a spade with the ♥4, but got overruffed with the ♥5. Dubinin now led the ♣10, suit preference for spades, as Gromov ruffed out dummy's ace. Gromov dutifully returned a spade promoting Dubinin's ♥Q into the setting trick, -50. It goes without saying (but we'll say it anyhow) that the contract could have been made had declarer simply cashed both club honors ending in hand before ruffing his last diamond.

But that's not all, folks...

In the Closed Room E/W were in 4♥ and the defense began the same way, ♦AK, ♠K. At trick

four Balicki ruffed a spade off dummy as South overruffed and got out with the ♥Q. But now declarer ran his remaining trumps, squeezing South in the minors. Plus 420, 10 IMPs to R/P, trailing now 36-14.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J1054		
Vul: N/S	♥ J63		
	♦ 4		
	♣ A8543		
West		East	
♠ Q97		♠ 32	
♥ 52		♥ AKQ1098	
♦ 8753		♦ QJ10	
♣ Q1062		♣ K7	
	South		
	♠ AK86		
	♥ 74		
	♦ AK962		
	♣ J9		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbf
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Had the ♠Q been onside with the opener this would have been a very different story, but with the cards lying as they are the Russians had to lose two hearts, one club and a trump; -100. The Israelis must have been happy to discover that trumps were not located favorably. Plus 140 was a handy 6-IMP pickup. Israel led 42-14.

Bd: 14	North		
Dlr: East	♠ ---		
Vul: None	♥ AJ654		
	♦ KJ1075		
	♣ 1043		
West		East	
♠ 6432		♠ A105	
♥ Q92		♥ 107	
♦ 32		♦ AQ84	
♣ AJ92		♣ K875	
	South		
	♠ KQJ987		
	♥ K83		
	♦ 96		
	♣ Q6		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
2♣	2♥	1♣	1♠
		All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	2♥	1♣(1)	1♠
All Pass		Pass	3♥
(1) Polish club (weak notrump or various strong)			

Bridge is such a fickle game. South has a more than reasonable 1♠ overcall and an even better hand once North bids hearts. North has a nice five-five hand, the only drawback being a void in partner's suit. Yet N/S are not safe even at the three level. Both Easts led a club and both E/W pairs managed to cash two clubs and two diamonds before leading a third diamond promoting themselves a trump trick.. Down one, -50, for Israel. Making two, +110, and 4 IMPs to R/P. Israel 42, R/P 18.



"Oh, who had the beans for dinner?"

Bd: 15	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J962		
Vul: N/S	♥ K86		
	♦ K1097		
	♣ Q6		
West		East	
♠ K73		♠ 1084	
♥ QJ1074		♥ 32	
♦ 2		♦ J854	
♣ K983		♣ J1074	
South			
♠ AQ5			
♥ A95			
♦ AQ63			
♣ A52			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
			1♣(1)
Dbl(2)	1NT(3)	2♣(4)	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			
(1) Precision; (2) ♣+♥ or ♦+♠; (3) Nat.; (4) Pass-or-correct			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Russians began a Precision club auction but stopped off along the way to double the Yadlins in 3♣. Dubinin led a low club and Israel rose with the king and led the ♥Q. Gromov stepped up and played a spade to the queen and king. The ♥J went to the ace and Dubinin cashed the ♠A and played a third spade, Gromov winning the jack, cashed the ♦K and played his last spade, Israel ruffing with the ♣10 and Dubinin judging right to pitch a heart. The defense still had two trump tricks to come for three down, -500. Campanile managed to take 10 tricks in 3NT for +630. 4 more IMPs to Israel, leading 46-18.

Bd: 16	North		
Dlr: West	♠ K63		
Vul: E/W	♥ AKQ2		
	♦ KJ7652		
	♣ ---		
West		East	
♠ 10987		♠ J42	
♥ 83		♥ 1095	
♦ 10		♦ A98	
♣ AQ8432		♣ J975	
South			
♠ AQ5			
♥ J764			
♦ Q43			
♣ K106			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣(2)	Pass	2♠(3)
Pass	4♣(4)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) Polish club (weak notrump or various strong); (2) Relay; (3) Hearts; (4) Splinter			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣(1)	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			
(1) Splinter			

Both N/S pairs had a splinter auction, the Russians judging to stop in game with the wasted ♣K opposite shortness, the Israelis blasting into slam. (In fairness, Barel's 4♣ bid seems a bit of an overbid, though it could work out well. 3♥ is more the value bid.) Both Wests led the ♦10 and quickly received their ruff. Plus 450 for the Russians, -50 for the Israelis. 11 IMPs to R/P, who ended the session on an up-note, but trailed 46-29.

# NEC Cup Final: Russia/Poland versus Israel

by Eric Kokish

## Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

Bd: 17	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A43		
Vul: None	♥ AKQ96		
	♦ Q		
	♣ KJ84		
	West		East
	♠ Q85		♠ K2
	♥ 7		♥ J85432
	♦ K108432		♦ 96
	♣ A52		♣ Q76
	South		
	♠ J10976		
	♥ 10		
	♦ AJ75		
	♣ 1093		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)
2♦	2♥(3)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
(1) Polish, F1; (2) Usually 0-7; (3) Strong, nat., unrelated to clubs			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	Dbl(1)	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
(1) Three-card spade support			

Doron led his singleton heart against Zmudzinski's 4♠. Declarer won in dummy, led the ♦Q to his ace, and ran the ♠9. Israel won his king and played a diamond to force dummy. Zmudzinski, who had been playing Doron for short spades from the outset, cashed the ♠A. With no good news there, he reverted to hearts, discarding a diamond. Doron ruffed, cashed the ♦K, and continued diamonds, but then rose with the ace when Adam led the ♣10. One down, -50.

Dubinin led the ♦3 against Campanile, the queen holding the trick. She played ♥AK, discarding a club, and West ruffed, cashed the ♣A, and continued clubs. Declarer won the ♣K and played ♠A, spade, taking the rest when the trumps behaved. There was still a trump in dummy to ruff a diamond, and the ♥Q, on which to discard her last losing diamond, +420. 10 IMPs to Israel, 56-29.

Bd: 18	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AK876		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q64		
	♦ Q96		
	♣ 93		
	West		East
	♠ 104		♠ 532
	♥ A10872		♥ K9
	♦ K854		♦ J3
	♣ 102		♣ KQ8654
	South		
	♠ QJ9		
	♥ J53		
	♦ A1072		
	♣ AJ7		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		Pass	1♣(1)
1♥	Dbl(2)	Pass	1♠(3)
Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
(1) Polish, F1; (2) At least four spades; (3) Typically a weak notrump with three spades			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠(1)	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			
(1) At least five spades			

The auction came up very well for Balicki, who was able to invite game, yet finish in just 2♠.



Zmudzinski, declaring from the short side, got the lead of the ♣10 to the queen and ace, drew trumps, and led the ♥4, expecting East to have honor-doubleton. When that panned out according to plan, he made three, +140. The double of 2♥ might have been based on queen-low, so Doron was reluctant to lead the suit.

Barel, in 3♠ from the long side, had the ♥K on lead, and so ran into a third-round ruff. He lost a club and a diamond too to go one down, -100: 6 IMPs to R/P, 35-46.

Just for the record, is that really a mandatory 1♥ overcall?

Bd: 19		North	
Dir: South		♠ J9	
Vul: E/W		♥ AK98	
		♦ Q764	
		♣ KQ4	
West		East	
♠ AK		♠ Q7652	
♥ 4		♥ J752	
♦ AJ853		♦ 2	
♣ J9862		♣ A105	
		South	
		♠ 10843	
		♥ Q1063	
		♦ K109	
		♣ 73	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠(1)	3♥(2)
All Pass			
(1) At least five spades; (2) Preemptive			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♦(1)	1NT	2♣(2)	Pass
2♠	All Pass		
(1) Precision, but 4+♦; (2) ♥+♠			

Against Balicki's 3♥, Israel led his singleton diamond. Doron got it right by winning the ace,

cashing the ♠K to confirm that the diamond lead was from shortness (by Israel's discouraging spade card), and giving Israel a diamond ruff. Spade to the ace, diamond ruff followed, and Israel exited with a trump. The defenders got two club tricks for two down, -100.

On the lead of the ♣K, Dubinin went two down in 2♠, trying to split the trumps and using a diamond ruff to reach East. He took no more tricks after that for two down, -200. Israel gained 7 IMPs, 63-35.

Bd: 22		North	
Dir: East		♠ K986	
Vul: E/W		♥ 85	
		♦ 10873	
		♣ KQ6	
West		East	
♠ 73		♠ J102	
♥ Q42		♥ AKJ763	
♦ KQJ5		♦ 62	
♣ 10742		♣ 85	
		South	
		♠ AQ54	
		♥ 109	
		♦ A94	
		♣ AJ93	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
2♠(2)	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠ or 20-22 Bal.; (2) Pass with ♠, willing to play at least 3♥ opposite ♥			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
2♥(2)	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	Dbl
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠; (2) Pass with hearts, else correct to 2♠			

Although Barel took 10 tricks in 2♠ after ♥A, diamond switch, he would have been held to three on two rounds of hearts, so stopping safely was a good result, +170.

Zmudzinski also had to pass over 2♦, systemically, but he never got into the auction. 3♥ was one down, -100, and Israel gained 2 IMPs, 66-35.

Bd: 23	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AQ1063		
Vul: Both	♥ J5		
	♦ KQ		
	♣ A1063		
	West		East
	♠ K42		♠ 85
	♥ 1097		♥ K8432
	♦ 10		♦ A954
	♣ KQJ975		♣ 82
		South	
		♠ J97	
		♥ AQ6	
		♦ J87632	
		♣ 4	
	Open Room		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♣	Dbl	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT(1)
3♣	Dbl	All Pass	

(1) Three-card spade raise with shortness

Balicki made six when he snuck the ♦Q past Israel, and Doron was permitted to ruff the second diamond. On the trump return, declarer had time for everything; +680.

In 3♣ doubled, Dubin took the ♦K with the ace and led a trump to the king and ace. The ♦Q was ruffed, and Dubin cashed a high trump before passing the ♥10. He lost three spades, two trumps, and two hearts for three down, -800. 3 IMPs to Israel, 69-35.

Bd: 27	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J		
Vul: None	♥ AKJ1064		
	♦ A9862		
	♣ 9		
	West		East
	♠ KQ82		♠ 9654
	♥ 98		♥ Q7
	♦ Q5		♦ KJ103
	♣ KQ842		♣ AJ7
		South	
		♠ A1073	
		♥ 532	
		♦ 74	
		♣ 10653	
	Open Room		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
			Pass
1♣	4♥	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			Pass
2♣(1)	4♥	Dbl	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		
(1) 6+♣, or 5♣/4M, 11-15 HCP			

It's nice to be able to bid 4♥ with hands like Norths, and also with something in the family of KQJ10-eighth and little else, and most of the time it's not so important that partner know your hand type. But sometimes your partner is involved, and it's a good idea to try to separate your hand types by doubling at your next turn with this type of hand if given the opportunity. When Barel did not double 4♠, Campanile expected him to have a more traditional preempt and took the push to 5♥. As Israel Yadin did not compete with a negative double at the other table, Barel's task was somewhat more daunting than Balicki's. Both of them played carefully to take 10 tricks on a spade lead.

Balicki won the ace and led a diamond, ducking West's queen. He discarded his club loser on the spade continuation, won the diamond

continuation with the ace, and ruffed a diamond, over-ruffed. He won the trump switch with the ace, ruffed a diamond safely, ruffed himself in, drew the last trump, and claimed, +420.

Barel won the ♠A and conceded a club immediately. He ruffed the club continuation, and played ♦A, diamond. West won and played another club. Barel ruffed, cashed ace-king of trumps, and ruffed a diamond...hopefully. No, they were four-two and he had to go one down, -100. 11 IMPs to R/P, 48-70.

It was 72-48 when the last board of the session graced the tables...

Bd: 32	North		
Dir: West	♠ 6		
Vul: E/W	♥ 1084		
	♦ K7543		
	♣ A643		
	West		East
	♠ A743		♠ KQ10
	♥ AQ762		♥ K3
	♦ 8		♦ AQ9
	♣ KQ2		♣ J10875
		South	
		♠ J9852	
		♥ J95	
		♦ J1062	
		♣ 9	
	Open Room		
	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Israel</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♣
	2♠	Pass	2NT
	3♣	Pass	3NT
			<b>South</b>
			<i>Zmudzinski</i>
			Pass
			Pass
			All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♥(2)	Pass	2NT(3)	Pass
3♣(4)	Pass	3NT(5)	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	All Pass
(1) FG, nat. or bal. with support; (2) Four ♠; (3) Confirms 5+♣; (4) 4=5=1=3; (5) Tray remained in the N/E side of the screen for about a minute			

Campanile led a spade against 6♣, the ten winning. Had she held the ♣A, she would have been in a position to give Barel a spade ruff, but on this lie, declarer could draw trumps and claim, +1370.

On the lead of the ♦J, Israel (who really owed his partner a further move towards slam) took 12 tricks in 3NT, +690. 12 IMPs to R/P to close out the session., in which they outscored their opponents 31-26. Halfway through the final, Israel led by 12 IMPs, 72-60.

As there had been a significant break in tempo preceding the emergence of the tray with East's 3NT card on it, and West had bid again with a limited, albeit maximum, hand, the Director was summoned. He allowed the score to stand. Israel appealed, alleging that East's hesitation suggested a further move by West. The Appeals Committee made no adjustment, based in part on the fact that East's two-step approach to 3NT, when known to hold at least two stoppers in diamonds, suggested extra values in the partnership style.



Beauty and the Beast



"I bet that penguin could fly if I drop-kicked him!"



"I am so proud of myself."

## NEC Cup Final: Russia/Poland versus Israel

### Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

Bd: 33		North	
Dir: North		♠ 9	
Vul: None		♥ AKJ106	
		♦ QJ8	
		♣ Q642	
West		East	
♠ A632		♠ 754	
♥ Q87		♥ 4	
♦ 752		♦ A9643	
♣ A98		♣ KJ105	
		South	
		♠ KQJ108	
		♥ 9532	
		♦ K10	
		♣ 73	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
	1♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	1♥	Pass	3♦(1)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(1) Mixed raise			

Both Easts led the ♠5, their systemic spot card from three small. May they and their partners live long and happy lives nonetheless. West wins the ace. Okay, bridge fans, take it from here. Given that East is known to be short in hearts, you are spared the anxiety that comes from wondering whether he also has a singleton spade. Do you cash the ♣A, or do you underlead it. Zmudzinski did the former, Doron Yadlin the other. Both of them survived, the Poles despite the best effort of Barel, who followed to the ♣A with the six in an attempt to make Balicki's lowest club look like a discouraging high one. After two club winners, East cashed the ♦A and exited safely. Gromov, who saw Israel's ♠4 and Doron's eight-nine of clubs, played East for 3=1=5=4 and picked up

the trump queen for one down. Barel played trumps from the top for two down, -100 2 IMPs to R/P, 62-72.

Bd: 34		North	
Dir: East		♠ K52	
Vul: N/S		♥ 1097	
		♦ A7	
		♣ AK1053	
West		East	
♠ AQ964		♠ J8	
♥ AJ83		♥ KQ64	
♦ J		♦ 1064	
♣ 982		♣ Q764	
		South	
		♠ 1073	
		♥ 52	
		♦ KQ98532	
		♣ J	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	Dbl	All Pass
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
2♥	2♠	Dbl	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

Had Israel not doubled 1NT, Dubinin might have bid three. The ♠J went to the ace and Doron switched to a low heart. After four heart tricks, Gromov had the rest, his bold 1NT overcall producing +380.

Against Zmudzinski's 3♥ in the Closed Room, Barel led three rounds of clubs, gained the lead with the ♦A, and played a second diamond. Zmudzinski lost to the ♠K for one down, -50. 8 IMPs to R/P, 70-72.

Bd: 35	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 863		
Vul: E/W	♥ K86		
	♦ Q72		
	♣ K642		
West	East		
♠ KQ107	♠ J942		
♥ QJ3	♥ 7542		
♦ AK10	♦ J943		
♣ 985	♣ 10		
	South		
	♠ A5		
	♥ A109		
	♦ 865		
	♣ AQJ73		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♣(1)
All Pass			3NT
(1) Precision, F1, 16+ if balanced in this position			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinsk</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
All Pass			1NT

Israel found the spade lead, relieving all pressure on West, and Gromov had only eight tricks, -50. Zmudzinski led the ♠K from the other side: +120. 5 IMPs to Israel, 77-70.

Bd: 36	North		
Dlr: West	♠ K753		
Vul: Both	♥ 63		
	♦ AK10		
	♣ QJ72		
West	East		
♠ J8	♠ 104		
♥ K2	♥ AQJ974		
♦ J8532	♦ 9		
♣ 9843	♣ AK105		
	South		
	♠ AQ962		
	♥ 1085		
	♦ Q764		
	♣ 6		

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
Pass	1NT	2♣(1)	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
(1) Unspecified one-suiter			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠(1)
Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Gromov's 1NT in this position was 12+-15. No one could be sure how the hands were fitting, but Dubinin raised himself to four just in case someone could make a game. There was no losing line in 4♠ and the defense made it easy: +620. Poor East never really had a chance to show what he had, Gromov's 3♠ working well in that regard too.

I suspect that Zmudzinski bid 4♥ because he thought Balicki had the diamond length suggested by his double of 2♠, but maybe there's more to the auction than we know. In any case, Barel/Campanile were not going to reach this game, so Zmudzinski's bold 4♥ gave them a chance to double to save 6 IMPs. When they did not, Balicki was -200, and R/P gained 9 IMPs, taking the lead, 79-77.

Bd: 38	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J9		
Vul: E/W	♥ K87		
	♦ A987542		
	♣ A		
West	East		
♠ AK743	♠ Q108		
♥ 106	♥ J952		
♦ 6	♦ QJ103		
♣ Q10632	♣ J4		
	South		
	♠ 652		
	♥ AQ43		
	♦ K		
	♣ K9875		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		Pass	2♣(1)
Pass	2♦(2)	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠(2)	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
(1) 6+♣, or 5♣/4M, 11-15; (2) Inquiry			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	1♣
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦(1)
2♠	All Pass		
(1) Diamonds and a major			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥(1)	Pass	2♠	All Pass
(1) Spades			

Once South opens the bidding, it's tough for N/S to stat out of game. Gromov/Dubin did well, in a way, to find a game that contract that offered some legitimate chances until the bad breaks revealed themselves. After three rounds of spades, Dubin ruffed in dummy, unblocked the ♦K, crossed to the ♥K, and ruffed a diamond, setting himself up to claim with three-three hearts and three-two diamonds. Alas, Doron over-ruffed and returned a club and Dubin soon ran out of gas, finishing two down, -100.

Barel was very strong for his non-forcing 3♦, but his judgment was vindicated when that proved all he could make, +110. 5 IMPs to Israel, back in front, 82-79.

Bd: 40	North		
Dir: West	♠ KQJ4		
Vul: None	♥ 1097		
	♦ J6		
	♣ J1064		
	West	East	
	♠ A109632	♠ 875	
	♥ 8654	♥ AQ	
	♦ 10	♦ AKQ4	
	♣ 92	♣ Q753	
	South		
	♠ ---		
	♥ KJ32		
	♦ 987532		
	♣ AK8		

Dubin's 2♦ convinced Gromov that it was safe to lead a diamond. It wasn't. Doron threw his clubs on high diamonds as Gromov ruffed with one of his trump tricks. He exited with the ♠K, but Doron took the ace and took a losing heart finesse. Had Dubin played a diamond, Gromov would have been able to over-ruff and play a trump, but Dubin tried to cash a club. Doron ruffed, crossed to the ♥A, ruffed himself in and took a safe heart ruff. He could not be prevented from leading his remaining heart towards a trump in dummy and so made three, +90.

With 2♠ played from the other side, Campanile cashed the ♣AK, and switched to the ♦9. The defenders got a heart and three trumps for one down, -50. Another 5 IMPs to Israel, 87-79.

But R/P reclaimed the lead on the next deal...

Bd: 41	North		
Dir: North	♠ A53		
Vul: E/W	♥ J1095		
	♦ J7542		
	♣ Q		
	West	East	
	♠ 10874	♠ KQJ962	
	♥ 63	♥ 872	
	♦ K98	♦ 63	
	♣ K1072	♣ J8	
	South		
	♠ ---		
	♥ AKQ4		
	♦ AQ10		
	♣ A96543		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
	Pass	2♦(1)	Dbl
2♥(2)	Pass	2♠	3♣
3♠	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠ or 20-22 bal.; (2) Pass with hearts, correct to 2♠ with spades			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski Barel</i>		<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	2♦(1)	Dbl
2♥(2)	Pass	2♠	3♣
3♠	3NT	All Pass	
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠; (2) Pass with hearts, correct to 2♠ with spades			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski Barel</i>		<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		2♣(1)	2♦
Dbl	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♣	All Pass		
(1) 6+♣, or 5♣/4M, 11-15			

In 5♣, Balicki took two trump finesses: -100. In 2♠ doubled, finesses would have been lovely for Gromov, but all his losers were "on top"—and there were plenty of them. He went three down, -800, and Israel gained a cool 14 IMPs to move back into the lead, 101-90.

Following the advice of Satchel Paige, Israel did not look back...

3NT had to go down on a spade lead, but Dubin's decision to pull to 4♥ to finish describing his hand worked beautifully, although it didn't get him to slam. He lost only to the ♦K and R/P gained 11 IMPs to reclaim the lead, 90-87.

Bd: 42	North		
Dlr: East	♠ A108653		
Vul: Both	♥ 954		
	♦ 10		
	♣ 654		
		West	East
		♠ 2	♠ KQJ7
		♥ AKQ72	♥ 106
		♦ A8643	♦ J
		♣ 32	♣ AQ10987
			South
			♠ 94
			♥ J83
			♦ KQ9752
			♣ KJ
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		1♣	1♦
1♥	1♠	2♣	2♦
Dbl	2♠	Dbl	All Pass

Bd: 43	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K9		
Vul: None	♥ J1062		
	♦ 953		
	♣ A842		
		West	East
		♠ AQJ4	♠ 10763
		♥ K	♥ A9754
		♦ AKQJ86	♦ 1074
		♣ KJ	♣ 10
			South
			♠ 852
			♥ Q83
			♦ 2
			♣ Q97653
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
		2♦(1)	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
3♠	Pass		
5♠	All Pass		
(1) Waiting			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	
		Pass	Pass
1♣(1)	Pass	1♦(2)	Pass
2♦(3)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass
(1) Polish, F1; (2) Usually 0-7			

Difficult hands for E/W to bid, but I'm not sure

either auction is at all convincing.

Against 5♠, Gromov cashed the ♣A and switched to a diamond. When he won the ♠K, he gave Dubinin a diamond ruff: -50.

Against Balicki's 6♦, Campanile led the ♣6 to the ace. Balicki ruffed the club continuation in hand to lead a spade to the jack and king. One down, -50. No swing.

Bd: 44	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J1064		
Vul: N/S	♥ 52		
	♦ KQ106		
	♣ Q73		
West		East	
♠ K32		♠ 97	
♥ AJ1074		♥ Q983	
♦ 8		♦ A954	
♣ 9864		♣ AJ2	
		South	
		♠ AQ85	
		♥ K6	
		♦ J732	
		♣ K105	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) 5+♥/4+m, weak			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	
Pass	Pass	1♣(1)	Pass
1♥(2)	Pass	2♥	All Pass
(1) Polish, F1; (2) 4+♥, 8+HCP			

4♥ was not a good contract, but it was cold, with the major-suit finesses right, +420. Zmudzinski did not take the heart finesse: +140. 7 IMPs to Israel, 108-90.



The Four Musketeers

Bd: 45	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AQJ82		
Vul: Both	♥ K9		
	♦ Q5		
	♣ AJ83		
West		East	
♠ 6		♠ K97543	
♥ A102		♥ Q753	
♦ KJ10974		♦ A2	
♣ 1092		♣ Q	
		South	
		♠ 10	
		♥ J864	
		♦ 863	
		♣ K7654	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubinin</i>
	1♣(1)	1♠	Dbf
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
2♦	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	All Pass	
(1) Precision, strong, artificial			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♦	3♣	All Pass	

Balicki led the singleton ♣Q against 3♣, and Barel made four, +130.

Against Gromov's 5♣, Israel led ♦A, diamond, a third diamond promoted a certain trump trick, and when Gromov ruffed with the jack the defense had a second trump winner. The ♥A was a second undertrick, -200. 8 IMPs to Israel, 116-90.



"We'll always have Yokohama."



Bd: 47	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 102		
Vul: N/S	♥ AJ964		
	♦ K		
	♣ AJ864		
	West	East	
	♠ Q65	♠ J7	
	♥ 832	♥ KQ1075	
	♦ Q7542	♦ A83	
	♣ 53	♣ K107	
	South		
	♠ AK9843		
	♥ ---		
	♦ J1096		
	♣ Q92		
Open and Closed Rooms			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dubin</i>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both West players led the ♦4, fourth best leads, against 4♠. East took the king with the ace and returned the ♠7. Declarer took the ace, and passed the ♦J, Doron following with the seven, Zmudzinski with the deuce. On the third round of diamonds Doron (sheepishly, we'd bet) followed with the ♦7. Dubinin elected to let the ten run, but when West covered the fourth diamond, he ruffed in dummy and was over-ruffed with the jack. Israel returned the ♥K. Dubinin ruffed, got the bad news on the ♠K, and lost the club finesse for -100.

Campanile did better by ruffing the third diamond in dummy and cashing the ♥A to discard her last diamond. She ruffed a heart to hand, cashed the ♠K, and took the losing club finesse, but had lost only one spade, one diamond, and the ♣K, for +620. 12 IMPs to Israel.

R/P gained an overtrick IMP on the last deal of the set, but Israel had outscored R/P 56-31 over these 16 deals, and with 16 boards left to play in the 2005 NEC Cup, led mighty Russia/Poland by 37 IMPs, 128-91.



"One for my baby and..."



...one more for the road."



"This is her number. tell her Mr. Big sent you."



"Five espressos, one of those special donuts, please."

# Israel at the NEC

by Matthew Granovetter (bridgetoday.com)

Dir: West		North (Barel)	
Vul: N/S		♠ 10973	
		♥ K95	
		♦ KJ8743	
		♣ ---	
West		East	
♠ Q2		♠ J854	
♥ 83		♥ Q1064	
♦ A		♦ 62	
♣ J10986542		♣ Q73	
		South (Campanile)	
		♠ AK6	
		♥ AJ72	
		♦ Q1095	
		♣ AK	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

In the auction, Campanile opened 2NT on the South hand, in fourth chair, and Barel responded with “puppet Stayman.” The 3♦ rebid said, “I have at least one four-card major.” The 3♥ bid showed four spades. Campanile now bid 3NT, but jumped to slam when Barel next showed a long diamond suit. West led the ♣J.

Campanile discarded a spade from dummy and then led a trump to West’s ace. West continued clubs at trick three, and this time Campanile threw a heart from dummy. Her plan was to play the ♥K, ♥A and ruff a heart. If the queen fell in three rounds, her ♥J would be high, and she could discard a second spade from dummy on that card.

But after drawing East’s other trump and playing three rounds of hearts, the queen did not appear and it looked like there would be a spade loser for down one. There was one faint hope, a “squeeze.” Campanile played all but one trump from dummy, coming down to four cards in each hand (three spades and a trump in dummy, three spades and the ♥J in her hand). When the last trump from dummy was led, East was in trouble. He had to keep the ♥Q and, therefore, had to come down to the ♠J8. Campanile now threw her ♥J, the card she had tried so hard to set up, and won the last three tricks with the ♠AK6.

At the other table, where the Yadlin brothers were E/W, West opened the bidding with a 3♣ preempt and eventually bought the contract at 5♣ doubled, down four. Their score of -800, however, was a good sacrifice against the +1370 scored by Campanile and Barel, a pick-up of 570 points for the Israelis.

The opening lead was the ♣J.

Last year, a team from Israel reached the final of the NEC Team Championships in Yokohama, Japan. Doron and Israel Yadlin (who are brothers), Michael Barel and Migry Zur Campanile, lost the final match to a team from China, but defeated several strong teams on their way to second place, earning \$6,000 in prize money. This week’s hand is from Israel’s victory in the semifinals against a team made up of pairs from Poland and Russia.



“He laughs now, but I have a terrible surprise for him.”



“If that penguin is in your suitcase it’s divorce time.”



Kum Baya

## Meet the Yeh Brothers Team: Chinese Taipei



Patrick Huang

**Patrick Huang** (PC), 61, is a retired financial executive. He was born into a bridge-playing family and was taught to play bridge at the age of seven, partnering his brother, Frank. The brothers first represented Taiwan, as it was then officially known, in the PABF (previously the Far East Bridge Federation) Zonal Championship in 1958 when Frank was 18 and Patrick only 15. In his more than 50-year bridge career, Patrick played in eight Bermuda Bowls, six World Team Olympiads and two other World Championships. He twice finished second in the Bermuda Bowl and reached the semi-finals twice in the Team Olympiads. Since 1958 Patrick has played in more than 20 PABF Championships, winning the Open Teams 10 times and the Open Pairs six times, most recently in 2004. Patrick's wife, Grace, learned to play bridge after their marriage, and played for Taiwan's ladies team in the 1978 PABF championships. His son, Jerry, was a Zonal Junior Champion in 1992 and represented Zone 6 in a World Junior Championship in Denmark. His brother, Frank, another World Life Master in the family, was his partner and teammate in many PABF and World Championships. Patrick was Mr. CC Wei's original associate in the development of the Precision System in the late 1960s and helped to promote the system in Taiwan in the 1970s. He is a bridge writer and has served on appeals committees and as a Vugraph commentator at several World Championships. Patrick is semi-retired from competitive bridge and devoting most of his effort to writing (for his NBO's bridge magazine, tournament reports), training of directors, promoting bridge at schools and training Chinese Taipei's youth team. The team he coached since early 2004 went on to win the PABF youth team and finished 5th in in the World University Championship in Istanbul (only 2 VP from the Bronze He says he will probably

also lead a youth team to Australia this coming August, provided that they earn the right to represent Zone 6 in the World Youth Championships.



Chiu Wei-Chun

**Chiu Wei-Chun**, a Youth Team member in 2000, was a PABF Open Team and Bermuda Bowl Team member in 2003.



Yang Hsin-Lung

**Yang Hsin-Lung**, a graduate student, played for the Chinese Taipei Youth Team in 2000, and the Open Team in the 2003 PABF Championships and Bermuda Bowl.



Chen Chi-Hua

**Chen Chi-Hua**, a bridge administrator at Kaohsiung Bridge Center, was the Open Team Champion in the 2004 PABF Congress and also played in the 2004 NEC Cup and 2003 World Transnational Teams.



Lai Ye-Wen

**Lai Ye-Wen**, a computer specialist from Kaohsiung, played in the 2004 NEC Cup and 2003 World Transnational Teams.



Wang Chien-Kuo

**Wang Chien-Kuo**, a medical doctor, played in 2003 World transnational teams.

## Meet the China Ladies



Zhu Xiao Yin

**Zhu Xiao Yin** is one of the team's best known players. For a long time she ranked as the best lady player in China and, in partnership with Su Ming, she was for years the anchor pair of their national team. After taking a long break to raise a family she is now back to reclaim her top ranking. She teaches high-school Mathematics.

been playing occasionally with Zhu, but her regular partner is Huang Yan, another very well known face on the Chinese bridge circuit. She is happily married.



Yan Ru

**Yan Ru** loves the game so much that she teaches and plays full time. She has occasionally played on the Chinese national team. She is also a brilliant cook, so if you are looking for the latest in Chinese cuisine, she is the person you want to get in touch with.



Dong Yong Ling

**Dong Yong Ling** manages her own company which deals with the prevention of accidents, a very useful field if you can extend it to bidding and avoid paying those nasty 800s. She has



Wang Yan Hong

**Wang Yan Hong** is an accountant in a financial firm in Beijing. She has been very successful

lately winning many national championships and is busy developing her partnership with Yan Ru.



Ling Gu

**Ling Gu** is a company employee from Guangzhou, China. A WBF Life Master, she finished third in the 1991 Venice Cup, fourth in the 1995 Venice Cup, second in the 1996 Olympic Teams, and second in the 1997 Venice Cup. She won the PABF Women's Teams in 1986, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, and 1998 and has represented China in thirteen World Championships.



Zhang Ya Lan

**Zhang Ya Lan** is a company employee from Guangzhou, China. A WBF Life Master, she was third in the 1991 Venice Cup, fourth in the 1995 Venice Cup, second in the 1996 Olympic Teams, second in the 1997 Venice Cup and won the PABF Women's Teams in 1986, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, and 1998. She has represented China in twelve World Championships.

### 10<sup>th</sup> NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday (Feb. 13)	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup	F201-204
	18:00-20:30	Closing Ceremony	F205-206

### Limousine Buses to Narita Airport

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