



NEC Bridge Festival

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Bulletin Number 2

Editors: Eric Kokish, Richard Colker

Hackett Holds Slim Lead in 2006 NEC Cup

With three strong wins under their belt, the Paul Hackett Team (Paul Hackett, John Armstrong, Andrew McIntosh, Jack Mizel), with 70 VPs, holds a slim 3-IMP lead over second-place Italy (Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Massimo Ortensi), with 67 IMPs. In third place, just 1 VP behind the Italians, are the defending Israelis (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile) with 66 VPs. In fourth through seventh places are two of the three USA teams (Kasle and Mori) with 63 and 62 VPs, respectively, followed by South America with 61 VPs and OzOne-Neill with 59 VPs. And if that isn't crowded enough for you, four more teams are within 5 VPs of the Aussies. The complete rankings are shown below while individual results of the first three matches may be found on page 4.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day One (Three Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Paul Hackett	70	12/15	USA/Mahaffey	51	27/29	Kimura@Yokohama	39
2	Italy	67	16	Fairy Tale	50	30/31	KinKi	34
3	ISRAEL	66	17	TAJIMA	49	30/31	HYLII (Korea)	34
4	USA/Kasle	63	18/19	MERRY QUEENS	48	32/34	Sun Flowers	32
5	USA/Mori	62	18/19	SARA	48	32/34	LBH	32
6	South America	61	20	OzOne-Del'Monte	47	32/34	Magnolia	32
7	OzOne-Neill	59	21	BIRD	46	35	XYZ	31
8/9	YOI	56	22/24	GIRASOL	45	36	ESPERANZA	30
8/9	WBF Women (Fr.)	56	22/24	PS-Jack	45	37	Japan Youth	29
10	JAPAN YAMADA	55	22/24	Makko	45	38	Sweet Briar	26
11	FISK	54	25	Happy Koro	44	39	CACTI (Korea)	22
12/15	SLAM DUNK	51	26	Estrellas	41	40	Charade	21
12/15	MY-Bridge	51	27/29	NAITO	39	41	Solaris	20
12/15	HANA	51	27/29	SKOTII	39	42	Kuznun Karas	11

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 11th 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

NEC Cup 2006: 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 At the end of the Swiss, ties will be broken by IMP quotient. If more than two teams are involved, WBF 2005 Conditions of Contest procedures will apply.
- In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.
- 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 2005 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 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.
- 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.
- Smoking No player may leave the Annex Hall during play without permission due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online broadcast.

Team Rosters: 11th NEC Cup

#	Name	Members
1	Israel:	Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile
2	South America:	Frankie Frontaura, Alejandro Bianchedi, Pablo Lambardi, Diego Brenner
3	FISK:	John Carruthers, P. O. Sundelin, Philippe Cronier, Subhash Gupta
4	USA/Kasle:	Gaylor Kasle, Garey Hayden, John Onstott, John Sutherlin
5	OzOne-Del'Monte:	Ishmael Del'Monte, Robert Fruewirth, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans
6	WBF Women (France):	B�n�dicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard
7	Italy:	Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Massimo Ortensi
8	Paul Hackett:	Paul Hackett, John Armstrong, Andrew McIntosh, Jack Mizel
9	USA/Mori:	Larry Mori, Venkatrao Koneru, Paul Lewis, Linda Lewis
10	USA/Mahaffey:	Jim Mahaffey, Barnet Shenkin, Michal Kwiecien, Jacek Pszczola, Mark Lair, Gary Cohler
11	OzOne-Neill:	Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill, Kieran Dyke, David Wiltshire
12	CACTI(Korea):	Ilsu Chung, Jungyoon Park, Kyunghae Sung, Youngjoon Lee
13	HYLII(Korea):	Han Sunhee, Yoo Kyunwong, Lee Hyunja, Im Hyun
14	YOI:	Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Yasuhiro Shimizu
15	TAJIMA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Mitsue Tajima, Kyoko Shimamura, Hideki Takano, Hiroshi Kaku, Masaaki Takayama
16	JAPAN YAMADA:	Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Makoto Hirata, Takahiko Hirata, Kazuhiko Yamada, Hiroya Abe
17	Happy Koro:	Nobuko Setoguchi, Hiroko Ota, Qian Beili, Tadashi Jomura, Midori Sakamoto, Natsuko Nishida
18	HANA:	Takashi Maeda, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Seiya Shimizu, Takeshi Hanayama, Sei Nagasaka
19	Estrellas:	Yoko Nenohi, Hiroko Sekiyama, Kyoko Toyofuku, Kumiko Matsuo, Toshiko Kaho, Makiko Sato
20	ESPERANZA:	Haruko Koshi, Mieko Nakanishi, Yoko Oosako, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Misuzu Ichihashi
21	GIRASOL:	Sachiko Yamamura, Taeko Kawamura, Kimi Makita, Keiko Matsuzaki, Fumiko Kiriayama
22	SLAM DUNK:	Kenji Miyakuni, Keisuke Akama, Ryoga Tanaka, Tomoyuki Harada
23	Kimura@Yokohama:	Osami Kimura, Hiroko Kobayashi, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Kinzaburo Nishino, Mamiko Odaira, Akio Yamasuge
24	NAITO:	Yoko Maruyama, Sakiko Naito, Ayako Amano, Miho Sekizawa, Haruyo Iiyama, Megumi Takasaka
25	SKOTII:	Tsuneo Sakurai, Kenichi Izaki, Kunio Ueda, Atsushi Kikuchi, Takehiko Tada
26	PS-Jack:	Masakatsu Sugino, Ryoji Fujiwara, Teruo Miyazaki, Akiko Miwa, Masako Otsuka, Fumiko Nanjo
27	Sweet Brier:	Toyohiko Ozawa, Terumi Kubo, Kazuko Kawashima, Kazuko Takahashi, Yumiko Oda, Yuichi Masamura
28	MERRY QUEENS:	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Toyoko Nakakawaji, Toshiko Hiramori, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi
29	Makko:	Yukiko Umezu, Makiko Hayashi, Michio Goto, Mark LaForge, Etsuko Naito, Atsuyo Miyake
30	BIRD:	Emiko Tamura, Yasuko Kosaka, Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Yoko Saito, Harue Iemori, Ikuko Arai
31	XYZ:	Chieko Ichikawa, Junko Den, Kuniko Saito, Atsuko Kurita, Kei Nemoto, Kazuhisa Kojima
32	Fairly Tale:	Takeshi Higashiguchi, Ryo Okuno, Kazunori Sasaki, Zhang Shudi, Masaki Yoshida, Fu Zhong
33	Sun Flowers:	Takako Nakatani, Masaru Naniwada, Sachiko Ueda, Hisako Kondo, Betty Tajiri, Etsuko Hasegawa
34	LBH:	Natsuko Asaka, Hideko Shindo, Kiyoko Fushida, Miyako Miyazaki, Sachiko Ueno, Kumiko Umehara
35	Magnolia:	Yasuyo Iida, Mariko Matsukawa, Misae Kato, Shoko Somemiya, Tomoko Sakai, Reiko Fukumaru
36	SARA:	Kumiko Sasahira, Zhao Jinlong, Jiang Yi, Liu Zheng, Ruri Ote, Shugo Tanaka
37	MY-Bridge:	Masafumi Yoshizawa, Noriko Yoshizawa, Yoko Fukuyama, Aiko Nabeshima, Iwao Oishi, Takashi Sumita
38	Japan Charade:	Shunichi Haga, Akiko Kawabata, Sumiko Sugino, Kazuo Takano, Misako Fukazawa
39	Solaris:	Naomi Terauchi, Akiko Miura, Fumiyo Matsukawa, Reiko Kawakatsu, Fumiko Kubo, Yuko Yoneyama
40	KinKi:	Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka, Sonoko Namba, Chizuo Sugiura, Noriko Takami
41	Japan Youth:	Hiroki Yokoi, Motoaki Shiga, Satoshi Imai, Hiroaki Miura, Yuichi Ikemoto, Ken Inagaki
42	Kuznun Karas:	Yoko Mitsuhashi, Sachiko Kunitomo, Michiko Furumoto, Keiko Inoue, Yuko Kimura, Hiromi Inomoto

Good luck again today, everyone!

Tuesday's Match Results

Match 1

ISRAEL (62)	18 - 12	XYZ (48)
SOUTH AMERICA (119)	25 - 0	KINKII (23)
FISK (61)	20 - 10	SKOTII (39)
USA/Kasle (97)	25 - 2	SOLARIS (27)
OzOne-Del'Monte (56)	19 - 11	MAKKO (35)
FRANCE (32)	15 - 15	SARA (34)
ITALY (104)	25 - 2	PS-JACK (32)
HACKETT (71)	24 - 6	MAGNOLIA (25)
USA/Mori (69)	24 - 6	KIMURA@Yokohama (24)
USA/Mahaffey (95)	25 - 0	JAPAN YOUTH (10)
OzOne-Neill (100)	25 - 0	BIRD (10)
KOREA CACTI (24)	4 - 25	SLAM DUNK (82)
KOREA HYLII (63)	17 - 13	NAITO (54)
YOI (75)	25 - 2	LBH (8)
TAJIMA (68)	25 - 3	SUN FLOWERS (6)
YAMADA (91)	25 - 2	SWEET BRIER (20)
HAPPY KORO (40)	12 - 18	MY-BRIDGE (53)
HANA (112)	25 - 0	KUZUNUN KARAS (0)
ESTRELLAS (68)	25 - 4	MERRY QUEENS (13)
ESPERANZA (61)	19 - 11	CHARADE (40)
GIRASOL (35)	10 - 20	FAIRY TALE (61)

Match 2

YAMADA (35)	7 - 23	ITALY (72)
SOUTH AMERICA (98)	25 - 1	HANA (21)
USA/Kasle (65)	22 - 8	YOI (30)
SLAM DUNK (55)	19 - 11	TAJIMA (36)
HACKETT (54)	21 - 9	ESTRELLAS (26)
FAIRY TALE (27)	6 - 24	USA/Mori (72)
FISK (68)	17 - 13	OzOne-Del'Monte (57)
ISRAEL (121)	25 - 5	ESPERANZA (5)
MY-BRIDGE (65)	21 - 9	KOREA HYLII (37)
SARA (44)	11 - 19	NAITO (64)
HAPPY KORO (27)	7 - 23	FRANCE (67)
XYZ (60)	17 - 13	MAKKO (50)
SKOTII (86)	25 - 3	CHARADE (23)
KIMURA@Yokohama (43)	10 - 20	GIRASOL (69)
MAGNOLIA (29)	11 - 19	MERRY QUEENS (50)
OzOne-Neill (22)	9 - 21	BIRD (53)
SUN FLOWERS (59)	14 - 16	KOREA CACTI (62)
SOLARIS (31)	6 - 24	LBH (76)
SWEET BRIER (30)	6 - 24	PS-JACK (72)
BIRD (85)	25 - 5	JAPAN YOUTH (33)
KINKI (79)	25 - 5	KUZUNUN KARAS (31)

Match 3

OzOne-Neill (77)	25 - 4	SKOII (23)
ITALY (64)	19 - 11	SOUTH AMERICA (43)
USA/Mori (40)	14 - 16	USA/Kasle (44)
USA/Mahaffey (13)	5 - 25	HACKETT (65)
SLAM DUNK (20)	7 - 23	ISRAEL (58)
FRANCE (31)	18 - 12	MY-BRIDGE (15)
TAJIMA (42)	13 - 17	FISK (53)
ESTRELLAS (25)	7 - 23	YOI (62)
NAITO (30)	7 - 23	YAMADA (68)
GIRASOL (48)	15 - 15	QzOne-Del'Monte (46)
XYZ (19)	2 - 25	HANA (91)
KOREA HYLII (23)	8 - 22	SARA (57)
LBH (18)	6 - 24	FAIRY TALE (62)
PS-JACK (18)	19 - 21	BIRD (30)
MAKKO (62)	21 - 9	KINKI (32)
MERRY QUEENS (80)	25 - 2	KOREA CACTI (13)
ESPERANZA (18)	11 - 25	HAPPY KORO (48)
SUN FLOWERS (34)	15 - 15	MAGNOLIA (36)
CHARADE (15)	7 - 23	KIMURA@Yokohama (52)
SOLARIS (34)	12 - 18	SWEET BRIER (49)
JAPAN YOUTH (66)	24 - 6	KUZUNUN KARAS (22)

Fifty Years After the Law of Total Tricks

by Zar Petkov

This year marks 50 years since the French bridge player Jean-Rene Vernes introduced the Law of Total Tricks, usually referred to as “The Law.” The exhaustive research on this matter, based on a database of 5,000,000 boards played in every possible contract in both directions, can be downloaded from www.ZarPoints.com. Now we will briefly summarize the findings, especially the ones related to Double-Fits.

The Law states that when HCP power is split evenly (basically around 19-21 HCP for each side), the number of TOTAL TRICKS on the table for you and your opponents in TRUMP contracts is equal to the total number of trumps that you and your opponents hold, each in their best trump fit. From your partnership’s perspective, The Law states that the number of tricks you can take on offense in a trump contract is equal to the combined number of trumps your partnership holds. With nine trumps you can take nine tricks, with ten trumps you can take ten tricks, etc. Here are the most important findings of the above-mentioned research from an at-the-table-usage point of view.

- 1) When the HCP power is split evenly (19-21 HCP) your HIGHEST TRICKS-CHANCE is 37% (taking nine tricks if you have ten trumps or fewer, ten tricks if you have more than ten trumps).
- 2) The Law of *a-Priori* Total Tricks: the most probable number of Total Tricks at the table prior to any bidding is seventeen. That is why you have to balance if the opponents try to steal the contract at the one or two level.
- 3) If we have a two-level contract, the

opponents have a two-level contract 80% of the time; if we have a three-level contract, the opponents have a three-level contract 40% of the time; if we have a four-level contract, the opponents have a four-level contract 10% of the time.

- 4) If we have ten tricks, the chances of the opponents having a two-level or higher contract is 50%, of them having a one-level contract is 70%. That’s why you have to sacrifice at the four-level if you have the spade suit at favorable vulnerability—your general chance is 70%.
- 5) If we have twelve tricks, the chances of the opponents having seven tricks or more is 35%, while of them having eight tricks or more is 20%.
- 6) The Law of Double-Fit Total Tricks: the most probable total number of tricks is $N + 1$, where N is the number of cards in the Double Fit.

Let’s see what the Law of Double Fit means. As you already know from Zar Points (discussed in last year’s Zar articles), when you have N cards in two suits the opponents have the exact same number of cards (N) in the other two suits. The Law states that if you have seventeen cards in two suits, say a nine-card fit and an eight-card fit, chances are that the total number of tricks on the table is eighteen, while if you have eighteen cards in two suits, chances are that there are nineteen tricks on the table—the combined number of tricks for you and your opponents, each playing in their best fit.

Keep the six points above in mind the next time you want to balance or sacrifice.



Fear of water



“Wanna come up to my dojo for a bit of full-contact bridge after the game?”

Round One: FISK vs SKOTII

by Eric Kokish

Yo, mama, what's a FISK?

Well, Oscar, it's a cute acronym reflecting France, India, Sweden, and Kanada, conceived by the team bearing that name in the 2006 NEC Cup. Yes, my child, Canada is not spelled with a K, but us K people consider it an honor and a privilege to have as many words as possible start with a K, the easier to tell them apart from softer words like "certainly," "ceremonial," and "certifiable." And besides, "fisk" in Swedish, means "fish"...

To get the show on the road, our first-round match features the aforementioned FISK (**Philippe Cronier-Subhash Gupta, PO Sundelin-John "JC" Carruthers**, in the order of nationality implied by the team name) vs the venerable Japanese seniors SKOTII (**Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kunio Ueda, Takehiko Tada, Kenichi Izaki**)

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q10854		
Vul: None	♥ Q754		
	♦ K10		
	♣ 92		
	West		East
	♠ AK3		♠ 762
	♥ 62		♥ 109
	♦ Q85		♦ J97
	♣ KJ1084		♣ AQ753
			South
			♠ J9
			♥ AKJ83
			♦ A6432
			♣ 6
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	2♥	3♣	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

It was easier to make 4♥ than to bid it, but both Carruthers-Sundelin and Sakurai-Kikuchi got the job done to flatten the board at +420. Gupta's takeout double was the normal action, but Ueda's old school style dictated that he overcall instead because he lacked a fourth spade. Neither East seemed to take much interest in competing, and they were right, as E/W can be held to seven tricks in clubs.

Board 2 was a difficult one for the E/W pairs...

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J106		
Vul: N/S	♥ 9852		
	♦ 8		
	♣ Q10765		
	West		East
	♠ K432		♠ AQ
	♥ Q		♥ KJ1073
	♦ Q1096		♦ K7432
	♣ K943		♣ A
			South
			♠ 9875
			♥ A64
			♦ AJ5
			♣ J82
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	Dbl
All Pass			

With so much strength in the black suits, the best contract for E/W is 3NT, which does not require any diamond winners to succeed. Over

the fairly wide-ranging 3♦, it's tempting to do what Tada did, but 3♠, typically three-card support, might have caught 3NT from Ueda. East could always retreat to 5♦ if West raised 3♠ to four. In 5♦, Tada won the club lead and led a trump to the queen: -50. That was a minus position for SKOTII, but...in the other room, Cronier also gave up on 3NT, and tried for slam on the way to 5♦ (ace-fifth of diamonds and the short ♥Q would be enough, and West could have much more). When Gupta jumped to 5♦, Cronier placed him with strong trumps (rather than "fast arrival") and took a shot at slam. Against 6♦ doubled, Kikuchi led the ♥A and switched to the ♠9. Cronier won and led the ♦K from hand, and later finessed against the ♦J to get out for one down, -100. FISK was lucky to lose only 2 IMPs on the deal, a positive omen for the match: SKOTII, 2-0.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A3		
Vul: E/W	♥ 973		
	♦ KJ94		
	♣ AQ102		
	West		East
	♠ KJ108		♠ Q952
	♥ J84		♥ AQ105
	♦ Q8762		♦ 5
	♣ 6		♣ K543
		South	
		♠ 764	
		♥ K62	
		♦ A103	
		♣ J987	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
Pass	1NT	All Pass	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
2♠	3♣	All Pass	1NT

Carruthers, trading on the vulnerability, opened

a 15-17 notrump in third seat and shut everyone out. He got a club lead, won cheaply, and conceded a club, Ueda discarding a diamond. Tada duly switched to spades, but Carruthers was in no trouble with spades four-four. He won the second spade, ran clubs, and misguessed diamonds, but had to score the ♥K for his seventh trick, +90.

Sakurai's 1♦ allowed Cronier to enter the auction easily and Gupta's 2♠ nudged Sakurai into 3♣, a fair contract that required some play. He ducked the spade lead, won the spade continuation, and went to the ♦A to pass the ♣J where the nine would have left him more flexibility. Cronier ducked the first club, and when Gupta showed out on the second, declarer took the ace to lead a heart to the king. He was able to pass the ♦10 successfully, but Cronier ruffed and cashed the ♣K and two high hearts for one down, -50. 4 IMPs to FISK, ahead 4-2.

The next deal brought a much larger swing . . .

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ QJ96		
Vul: Both	♥ J32		
	♦ 962		
	♣ 1065		
	West		East
	♠ K		♠ A8432
	♥ A975		♥ 8
	♦ K		♦ QJ1084
	♣ AKQJ982		♣ 74
		South	
		♠ 1075	
		♥ KQ1064	
		♦ A753	
		♣ 3	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

If Gupta's 3♣ was non-forcing, as it would be in

standard methods, it was a bit heavy, but Cronier had just enough to take a shot at 3NT, where he took his nine top tricks on a heart lead: +600. Ueda's strange-looking 4♠ bid landed his side in an unlikely contract that might have made had clubs divided evenly. As it went, Tada could scramble only nine tricks by ruffing hearts in hand, and so went one down, -100. FISK gained 12 IMPs from nowhere and led 16-2.



Kunio Ueda

SKOTII struck back immediately, although in a manner unbecoming their level of expertise...

Bd: 5	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 108754		
Vul: N/S	♥ J982		
	♦ J83		
	♣ 2		
West		East	
♠ AQ		♠ K93	
♥ AQ1063		♥ K4	
♦ 9754		♦ AQ1062	
♣ 98		♣ K103	
	South		
	♠ J62		
	♥ 75		
	♦ K		
	♣ AQJ7654		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers Tada</i>		<i>Sundelin</i>
	Pass	1NT	Dbl(1)
3♥(2)	All Pass		
(1) Clubs or diamonds			
(2) Apparently not discussed			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) Transfer			

"Ah, yes, 3♥ was forcing; I see that now," thought Tada, as he watched Ueda chalk up +200 for his impressive eleven tricks (club to the jack, spade switch, drop the ♦K, discard a club on the third spade, and so on). Cronier, in the normal contract of 3NT after abnormal silence by Kikuchi (who could have shown an unspecified one-suiter via an artificial 2♣ overcall), got the lead of the ♣Q. He took his king, unblocked spades, came to the ♥K, cashed the ♠K, and tried to split out the hearts. When south discarded a club on the third heart, Cronier, a renowned bridge writer and teacher, thought he had arrived at a position suitable for a future column/lesson. If South had started with 3=2=2=6 shape (how could he have *seven* clubs to the ace-queen-jack and not bid over 1NT?), Philippe could exit in clubs and score the ♦AQ at the end, regardless of which opponent held the ♦K. Nice idea, but Kikuchi showed his cards, conceding the last trick to the ♦A. Cronier was one down, -50, and SKOTII gained 6 IMPs, 8-16. In terms of aggravation, I'm sure that Philippe would have preferred to go down two by taking the losing diamond finesse.



Phillipe Cronier



Atsushi Kikuchi

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ J3
 ♥ KQ10862
 ♦ AQ3
 ♣ 73

West	East
♠ AQ654	♠ 87
♥ 95	♥ A3
♦ K95	♦ 102
♣ KQ2	♣ A1098654

South
 ♠ K1092
 ♥ J74
 ♦ J8764
 ♣ J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♣	3♥
4♣	4♥	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♣	3♥
Dbl(1)	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	Dbl	All Pass

(1) Extra values

Tada, in 5♣, got the thoughtful lead of the ♥J from Sundelin. He took the ace, led a spade to the queen, and cashed the ♣K before playing ♠A, spade ruff. Although he could return to the ♣Q to ruff another spade to establish dummy's long card, that wretched ♣2 was not a late entry to dummy to cash it. However, when Tada exited with a heart, Carruthers had to win, and he could either give dummy the ♦K or concede a ruff-and-discard, bringing the ♣2 into play after all. That was a lovely +600 for Tada. Had Sundelin led a low heart, Tada would have had to play differently, playing three rounds of spades before playing *either* of dummy's trump honors. On the lie of the cards it would have been fine to cash the ♣A first, but there are many layouts where that would not be a success.



Takehiko Tada



Tsuneo Sakurai

Gupta and Cronier are a new partnership, and it's not clear whether Gupta was confident about the relative lengths of his partner's black suits, but when he passed 3♠, they were quite a long way from reaching 5♣. When Sakurai reopened with 4♥, E/W were not likely to change their minds and bid game, so Cronier's double simply saved some time. He led the ♠8 to Gupta's queen, and best defense would have been to kill the spade discards, East crossing in clubs if necessary. However, West cashed the ♣K and switched to a diamond. Sakurai ducked to dummy's jack and could knock out the trump ace for one down, -100. SKOTII gained 11 IMPs to take the lead, 19-16.

SKOTII's lead did not survive the next deal...

Bd: 7
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 98762
 ♥ AJ8
 ♦ 7
 ♣ KJ85

West	East
♠ Q105	♠ A4
♥ K72	♥ Q
♦ 985	♦ AQJ106432
♣ Q1073	♣ 62

South
 ♠ KJ3
 ♥ 1096543
 ♦ K
 ♣ A94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♥	3♦	All Pass

Against Cronier's quiet 3♦, Kikuchi's lead of the ♥10 was permitted to run to the queen. Cronier exited with the ♠4, Kikuchi rising with the king to play a second heart. Cronier ruffed, cashed the ♦A, felling the king, and could unblock spades and enter dummy in trumps to discard a club on the ♠Q for a delightful +170.

While a fourth-seat three-bid is commonly treated as a constructive action, Tada took a good thing a bit too far with a hand that expected to make 3♦ more often than not. Carruthers showed no fear in reopening facing a passed partner, and caught Sundelin with a hand that could realistically think of game. Against 4♥, Ueda led the ♦8 to Tada's ace. East switched to ace and another spade, but Sundelin got it right by rising with the ♠K to lead a trump to the jack and queen, keeping West off play. Tada would have done best to exit passively, but he switched to the ♣6. PO sat up in his seat, and played the nine, queen, king. He returned to the ♣A, ran the ♥10, finessed the ♣8 successfully, drew the last trump, and discarded the ♠J on the ♣J for an even more delightful +620. That was 13 IMPs to FISK, 29-13.

Bd: 9	North		
Dir: North	♠ Q5		
Vul: E/W	♥ K9		
	♦ Q1098763		
	♣ KJ		
	West	East	
	♠ AJ109762	♠ 43	
	♥ 63	♥ AJ10875	
	♦ A	♦ KJ54	
	♣ 1054	♣ 3	
	South		
	♠ K8		
	♥ Q42		
	♦ 2		
	♣ AQ98762		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	5♦	Dbl	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣
2♠	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Sundelin was doubling 4♠ for penalties (and the defense surely would have found a way to beat it), but Carruthers, deeming the auction non-forcing on his side, expected Sundelin to have transferable values, and removed to 5♦. Ouch! 5♦ doubled was due to go four down on a club lead or early switch, but Tada cashed the ♥A and switched to a spade, so Carruthers could drive out the trump honors for three down, -500. Not much of a triumph, that.



P.O. Sundelin

Meanwhile, Kikuchi, in 3NT, got the lead of the ♥6, nine, ten...deuce. Cronier did well to switch to a spade and Gupta put in the nine. Kikuchi had a spade winner but could no longer build a heart trick, and he had to concede defeat after cashing his club tricks. One down, -50, and 10 IMPs to SKOTII, trailing now by 2, 29-31.

Bd: 10 North
 Dir: East ♠ Q1043
 Vul: Both ♥ K10
 ♦ AKQJ8
 ♣ K5

West East
 ♠ 52 ♠ AK98
 ♥ Q972 ♥ AJ43
 ♦ 1095 ♦ 3
 ♣ 10984 ♣ AJ63

South
 ♠ J76
 ♥ 865
 ♦ 7642
 ♣ Q72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
		1♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	1♦
2♣	2NT	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
		1♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Sakurai, in 1NT, made three (♠K, low spade, more spades; East kept hearts, so declarer later had time for a club and the ♥K); +150. The cards were lying very well for Tada in 3♣, but he went down on two rounds of diamonds on a line best left unrevealed; -100. SKOTII gained 2 IMPs and tied the match at 31 at the halfway mark.

FISK untied the match in a big way on the next deal...

[see top of next column]

In the Closed Room, where East was on lead against 5♣, Cronier started with the ♦K and continued with the ♦Q, which was permitted to hold, Gupta following eight-deuce. He switched to a heart and Gupta's ace set the contract, -50. In the Open Room, where West was on lead against 5♣ doubled, Ueda started with the ♥A. Although Tada followed with the deuce, Ueda

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ Q1075
 Vul: None ♥ K4
 ♦ 73
 ♣ AQ876

West East
 ♠ J9 ♠ 8643
 ♥ AQ1063 ♥ 9752
 ♦ A862 ♦ KQJ54
 ♣ J2 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ AK2
 ♥ J8
 ♦ 109
 ♣ K109543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
			1♣
1♥	Dbl	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
			Pass
1♥	2♣	4♥	5♣
All Pass			

continued hearts, and now a diamond went on dummy's fourth spade for +550. 12 IMPs to FISK, ahead now 43-31.

Bd: 12 North
 Dir: West ♠ J8
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK76
 ♦ AJ653
 ♣ 84

West East
 ♠ AQ9732 ♠ 104
 ♥ Q1095 ♥ J843
 ♦ 9 ♦ K72
 ♣ KQ ♣ J932

South
 ♠ K65
 ♥ 2
 ♦ Q1084
 ♣ A10765

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
1♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

North faces a common bidding problem over West's 1♠ opening. Neither a 2♦ overcall on a weak suit nor a takeout double with microscopic club support are attractive, but passing is dangerous too. The consensus expert choice these days would be double, whether or not the partnership favors Equal Level Conversion of clubs to diamonds, but it's easy to see that this could work poorly. In this match, neither North doubled, but Sakurai's aggressive 2♦ worked far better than Carruthers' conservative pass. 1♠ made on the nose for +80 and 3♦ did likewise for +110, so SKOTII gained 5 IMPs, 36-43.

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A8742		
Vul: Both	♥ ---		
	♦ Q108		
	♣ AKJ96		
West	East		
♠ J53	♠ K109		
♥ K10642	♥ Q853		
♦ 76532	♦ AKJ		
♣ ---	♣ Q42		
	South		
	♠ Q6		
	♥ AJ97		
	♦ 94		
	♣ 108753		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
	1♠	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
	1♠	Dbl	Pass
2♥	3♣	Pass	4♣
4♦	5♣	All Pass	

Tada's 4♥ was a fair contract, and looked pretty good on the lead of the ♠Q, ducked to the king, but Tada ruffed a club in dummy to lead a trump through North, and was suddenly in danger of losing control. Sundelin took the ♥Q with the ace, arranged his spade ruff, and exited with a club to tap dummy. Now Tada could take the diamond finesse and pick up the trumps, but could not use the long diamonds. That club ruff at trick two proved fatal.

Once again, Sakurai bid more than Carruthers, and although Kikuchi gave him plenty of room, Sakurai went on to 5♣ over 4♦, hoping for useful values in spades and diamonds. It was not obvious to E/W that it was their hand for 4♥, and they allowed 5♣ to slip by undoubled. Gupta gave count on the lead of the ♦A, and Cronier, unsure of the best continuation but keen to ensure the defeat of the contract, cashed the ♦K. Dummy had a spade discard coming and Sakurai was out for down one, -100. For those two one-trick sets, FISK gained 5 IMPs, 48-36.

Bd: 14	North		
Dlr: East	♠ QJ32		
Vul: None	♥ 64		
	♦ 73		
	♣ AQ987		
West	East		
♠ 1074	♠ A986		
♥ 75	♥ Q1092		
♦ AJ1042	♦ 96		
♣ J65	♣ K102		
	South		
	♠ K5		
	♥ AKJ83		
	♦ KQ85		
	♣ 43		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♦	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Ueda-san retrieved his “no fear” T-shirt from the back of his closet and sallied fifth with a non-jump two-level overcall that would frighten even the most hairy-chested juniors. His opponents picked him off most efficiently with a negative double and penalty pass, but dummy wasn’t so bad, and Ueda escaped for two down on a heart lead to the ten and jack, ♥A, ♥8. He discarded a spade as Carruthers scored the ♦3, won the spade return, and led the ♦9 to the king and ace. The ♠10 lost to the king, and the ♥K forced declarer, who led the ♣J, covered by the queen and king. Ueda ruffed a spade and led a second club towards dummy’s ten, and finished with four trumps, a spade, and a club for –300.

Kikuchi took eight tricks in 2♥ for +110, but FISK gained another 5 IMPs to lead by 17, 53-36.

Going into the final deal, FISK led by 15, 54-39.



Subhash Gupta



John “JC” Carruthers

Bd: 20	North	
Dlr: West	♠ AQ95	
Vul: Both	♥ 7632	
	♦ J4	
	♣ Q86	
	West	East
	♠ 10742	♠ KJ3
	♥ AKQJ4	♥ 10
	♦ 105	♦ KQ7632
	♣ 102	♣ A73
	South	
	♠ 86	
	♥ 985	
	♦ A98	
	♣ KJ954	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Ueda</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Gupta’s disciplined initial pass and mildly conservative decision to pass 2♦ worked well, as Cronier chalked up an easy +110. Ueda’s 1♥ worked less well when he caught Tada with a full opening bid and every reason to drive to game. 4♠ was not the obvious choice, but it was as good as 3NT although not as promising as 4♥. Tada finished two down for –200 and FISK tacked on 7 IMPs to win the match 61-39, 20-10 in VP.

Six Good Reasons Why JC (Above) is Smiling

(answers on page 24)

1. How do you catch a unique rabbit?
2. How do you catch a tame rabbit?
3. How do crazy people go through the forest?
4. How do you get holy water?
5. What do eskimos get from sitting on the ice too long?
6. What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?

Round Two: Italy vs Yamada

by Eric Kokish

With so many teams scoring 25 VP in Round One, there had to be some big matches at the top of the table in Round Two. We decided to cover the rebuilding Lavazza Italian team (**Maria Teresa Lavazza, Massimo Ortensi, Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro-Agustin Madala**) against the always-dangerous Yamada team from the home country (**Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Makoto Hirata, Takahiko Hirata, Kazuhiko Yamada, Hiroya Abe**).

The first swing came on the second deal...

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: East	♠ Q10542		
Vul: N/S	♥ 95		
	♦ 985		
	♣ J73		
	West	East	
	♠ 98	♠ K7	
	♥ 1087632	♥ AK	
	♦ 107	♦ KJ64	
	♣ A82	♣ K10954	
	South		
	♠ AJ63		
	♥ QJ4		
	♦ AQ32		
	♣ Q6		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
		1♣	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>T Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

(1) Hearts

Akihiko Yamada's decision to pass 1NT worked poorly when Duboin led the ♥7 (attitude) to the king and Bocchi switched to a club to the ace.

Bocchi ducked the club return and so kept Abe out of dummy for the spade finesse. He played ♠A, spade and Bocchi cashed out for one down, -100.

Ferraro's decision to enter the live auction with a hand full of defensive values is by no means obvious, but it worked well for him. Against 2♠, Hirata cashed his high hearts, getting a suit preference signal on the second. Three rounds of clubs followed, Madala ruffing the last with the ♠J to play ♠A, spade. Although he lost to the onside ♠K, he had time to discard a diamond on the ♥Q, come to hand in trumps, and take the diamond finesse for +110. 5 IMPs to Italy, ahead 5-0.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K		
Vul: E/W	♥ A973		
	♦ J4		
	♣ AKQ954		
	West	East	
	♠ AQJ105	♠ 9	
	♥ 85	♥ KQJ64	
	♦ KQ985	♦ A107632	
	♣ 8	♣ 10	
	South		
	♠ 876432		
	♥ 102		
	♦ ---		
	♣ J7632		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
			2♠

Pass	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♦	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>T Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			Pass
1♠	2♣	2♥	5♣
5♦	6♣	6♦	All Pass

If the South hand is an acceptable weak two-bid, North might not want to raise it to four so quickly. Akihiko-san clearly expected Abe to hold something closer to a textbook example, and his double of 5♦ simply gave Duboin an extra 150 points, +650.

While all the bids in the Closed Room are comprehensible, the final contract was flawed. Madala's confident bidding made it difficult for Hirata not to bid 6♦ with his unshown six-card suit. North cashed the ♥A, then the ♣A, and Kaz was one down, -100. Italy gained 13 IMPs and led 18-0.

Board 3 was an unusual push in the key match between OzOne-Neill and Mahaffey:

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Lair	Dyke	Cohler	Wiltshire
			3♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Klinger	Pszczola	Neill	Kwiecien
			Pass
1♥(1)	Dbl	1♠(2)	Pass
2♣(3)	3♣	4♦(4)	5♣
5♥(5)	Pass	6♦	7♣
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) Spades; (2) Relay; (3) Diamonds
 (4) RKCB-♦; (5) Two key cards plus the ♦Q

The confident bidding of Klinger-Neill convinced Kwiecien to save at 7♣, down 300. Meanwhile, in the other chamber, Wiltshire's typical preempt at this vulnerability managed to slip past everyone (are you paying attention, Abe-san? 2♠ indeed!). 3♠ was down six for the same -300. Gotta love that.



"Doron please, I'd rather do it myself!"

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ A74
Vul: Both	♥ 862
	♦ A73
	♣ J876
West	East
♠ KJ3	♠ 9652
♥ A10	♥ KQJ3
♦ KJ6542	♦ Q109
♣ A2	♣ 103
	South
	♠ Q108
	♥ 9754
	♦ 8
	♣ KQ954

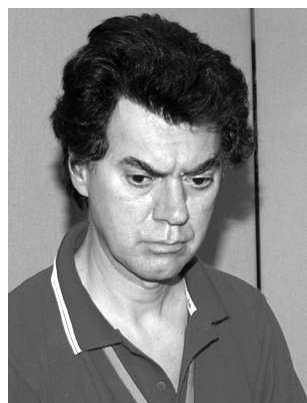
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Duboin	A Yamada	Bocchi	Abe
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
K.Yamada	Madala	Hirata	Ferraro
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dbl
2♦	All Pass		

Duboin guessed the spades right to get out for two down in 3NT after Akihiko found the essential club lead: -200. In 2♦, Kaz made four, +130. Yamada gained 8 IMPs, 8-13.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ 109
Vul: E/W	♥ J964
	♦ AJ42
	♣ J102
West	East
♠ Q75	♠ ---
♥ KQ7	♥ 10852
♦ 83	♦ KQ1095
♣ K9653	♣ AQ84
	South
	♠ AKJ86432
	♥ A3
	♦ 76
	♣ 7

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
		1♦	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		1♦	1♠
1NT	Pass	2♣	3♠
4♣	4♠	All Pass	

4♠, doubled or not, was unlucky to fail. 5♣ would have made for E/W. Bocchi might well have removed Duboin's double and to a degree was lucky that West's values were somewhat defensive, else both 4♠ and 5♣ might have been making. It's not easy to see who should do more in the Closed Room, and this might be a good candidate for *The Bridge World's* "You Be the Judge" feature. Italy gained 2 IMPs, 20-11.



Giorgio Duboin



Norberto Bocchi

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q32
Vul: None	♥ KQ93
	♦ J10
	♣ K985
West	East
♠ K10	♠ J875
♥ A1087	♥ 62
♦ 987654	♦ AKQ2
♣ 7	♣ 1043
	South
	♠ A964
	♥ J54
	♦ 3
	♣ AQJ62

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Dbl*	2♦	Pass	2♠
3♣	Dbl	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	Dbl(1)	3♦	Pass
4♦	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) Hearts			

This deal yielded only a 2-IMP swing, but it was exciting at both tables, at least to these tired eyes. I'm at a loss to understand why Abe did not double 1♦, but maybe it's going to appear in his forthcoming memoirs. Bocchi guessed spades for +130.

Against 4♥ the defense started with two rounds of diamonds. Ferraro ruffed and led the ♥J, which Kaz did not duck. Instead, he won and played a second trump, presenting declarer with a chance to make his contract by putting in the nine. But how could Ferraro do that? He played the ♥K, cashed the ♥Q, and started clubs. Kaz ruffed the fourth round and forced out dummy's last trump with a diamond, and Ferraro had only nine winners for -50. Italy, 27-11.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ A10872
Vul: None	♥ Q7
	♦ Q973
	♣ Q2
West	East
♠ KJ943	♠ 6
♥ A10654	♥ J9832
♦ 862	♦ 105
♣ ---	♣ A10643
	South
	♠ Q5
	♥ K
	♦ AKJ4
	♣ KJ9875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
			1♣
2♦(1)	2♠	4♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

(1) Hearts and spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			1♣
2♣(1)	Dbl*	4♥	Dbl
All Pass			

(1) Hearts and spades

There were several questionable actions on this one—2♠ the most notable—but both final contracts are understandable. Both went one down, so Italy gained 5 IMPs, and led 32-11.

Yamada got back in the match on the next deal.

Bd: 12
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ Q9652
 ♥ A8542
 ♦ 73
 ♣ 9

West	East
♠ AJ3	♠ K108
♥ 10	♥ Q93
♦ AQ52	♦ KJ94
♣ AK1085	♣ Q73

South
 ♠ 74
 ♥ KJ76
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ J642

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠(1)	Pass
2♠(2)	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) No four-card major

(2) Artificial game force

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass		

Kaz and Hirata conducted a beautiful natural auction to the top spot. Bocchi-Duboin did not, and we'll try to find out what went wrong. Certainly, Bocchi would not have bid 3NT had he known of Duboin's heart shortage. 6♦ made in comfort for +920 but 3NT went one down on a heart lead and continuation, -50. Yamada gained 14 IMPs to close to 7 IMPs at 25-32.

Unfortunately for the home side, the heavy traffic the rest of the way was all in Italy's direction. Yamada's only significant gain was a 5-IMP pickup for Kaz-Hirata staying out of a normal game that failed at the other table on a poor lie of the cards, but Italy recorded four big gains totaling 40 IMPs.

These were the four late deals that favored the Italian team...

Bd: 14
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ A9863
 ♥ 64
 ♦ 7
 ♣ AQJ52

West	East
♠ 4	♠ J72
♥ K875	♥ A932
♦ KJ106542	♦ AQ3
♣ 3	♣ 874

South
 ♠ KQ105
 ♥ QJ10
 ♦ 98
 ♣ K1096

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
		Pass	1♣
3♦	3♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		Pass	Pass
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both 6♠ and 4♠ produced 10 tricks; 11 IMPs to Italy, 43-25. Playing a loose natural style, some would treat a pass by South over 5♦ as non-forcing, but it's far from clear what South should do in either environment, having opened a two-control 11-count. I am unsympathetic to what befell Akihiko-Abe for just that reason, but North did have a very good hand opposite a partner who did not want to double 5♦ for penalty.

Bd: 15	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AQ106		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQJ86		
	♦ 96		
	♣ K2		
West		East	
♠ K3		♠ 972	
♥ 94		♥ A2	
♦ 1082		♦ KQJ73	
♣ AQ8753		♣ J109	
	South		
	♠ J854		
	♥ 10753		
	♦ A54		
	♣ 64		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
2NT(1)	Pass	3♣(2)	All Pass
(1) Overcall in a minor; (2) Pass-or-correct			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	2♦	2♥
3♦	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Only 10 of 42 N/S pairs reached this thin game that required both the ♣A onside and no spade loser, so the Yamada team was a bit unlucky to have 4♥ bid against them. But selling out to 3♣ to go -130 was a very soft result in the Open Room, so not all of the 13 IMPs lost on Board 15 could be attributed to ill fortune. Italy, 56-25.



Akihiko Yamada



Hiroya Abe

Bd: 19	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K7		
Vul: E/W	♥ 93		
	♦ A1075		
	♣ KJ1052		
West		East	
♠ J9852		♠ 103	
♥ AK107		♥ J864	
♦ Q6		♦ K9842	
♣ A7		♣ Q3	
	South		
	♠ AQ64		
	♥ Q52		
	♦ J3		
	♣ 9864		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥			

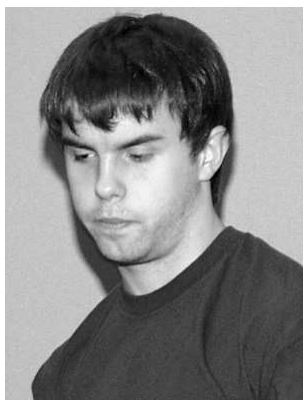
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			Pass
1♠	2♣	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Duboin's 2♥ made three on a trump lead when the defense never played a second round: +140. Ferraro's 2NT was treated to a high heart, then a low one. He scooped in the queen and led a club to the king, and a second club split out the suit: +150. 7 IMPs to Italy, 63-35.



Guido Ferraro



Agustin Madala

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ QJ4
 Vul: Both ♥ 106
 ♦ J852
 ♣ AK102

West

♠ 10
 ♥ A975432
 ♦ 1073
 ♣ 93

East

♠ A982
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ A6
 ♣ J7654

South

♠ K7653
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ KQ94
 ♣ Q8

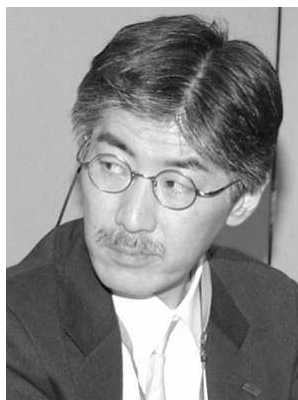
Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>A Yamada</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Abe</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>K. Yamada</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
(1) Artificial inquiry			

Bocchi-Duboin did well to reach 4♥ on a combined 17-count while their counterparts remained silent throughout. Once Yamada did not lead trumps before relinquishing the lead, Duboin could arrange a diamond ruff and use a spade ruff to enter hand to finish drawing trumps: +620. Although Ferraro-Madala were off four top tricks in 4♠, it was difficult to stay out of game once North opened the bidding. Kaz led a club, but was able to ruff the third club, and so Ferraro finished two down just the same for -200. Italy gained 9 IMPs to close out the match on the long end of a 72-35 score, 23-7 in VP.



Kazuhiko Yamada



Makoto Hirata



"But Massimo, I was minimo."



"I really hope she's kidding."



"Gosh, I love my whiskey sours."

Meet the OzOne-Neill Team



Ron Klinger, 64, and wife, Suzie, live in Sydney, Australia and have a 28 year old son, Ari. Ron writes both daily and weekly bridge columns and is a regular contributor to Australian Bridge and Bridge Plus (UK). He usually writes one or two bridge books a year (to date 49 of his

books have been published—that we know of) and conducts bridge holidays, classes (mainly interstate and international seminars) and book sales.

Ron started playing with Bruce Neill about three years ago and in that short time they've won several Australian national titles, including four Open and three Senior titles between December 2004 and December 2005. They also played for Australia in the 2004 Open Olympiad and the 2005 Pacific-Asian Open teams, and in the 2005 Seniors Bowl they had their best finish (sixth on datums).

They play Bruce's forcing-club system, which includes transfer openings and lots of relays. When they are both in Sydney they try to have a 1-hour practice session four times a week. When Ron is out of town they try to do the same thing via sessions on BBO.

Ron enjoys walking and swimming on a daily basis when he's in Sydney, and says his health is fine "so far," though he admits his lifestyle tends to be hectic. He and Suzie love movies, books, and tend to spend weekend evenings with their family.



Bruce Neill says he has a deep love for problem solving in general and bridge in particular. He's been in love with bridge since high school. "I'm not a results merchant; I'm more interested in 'doing it right' than winning per se, but I believe that one

follows the other."

Bruce was able to stop working for a living a few years ago to spend time on bridge and travel. His interests include spending time with his wife and dog (in that order we hope) and he is very enthusiastic about tennis ("enthusiasm, but little talent").

To relax at bridge events Bruce likes to get away from the postmortems and perhaps have a quiet walk or meal—with his wife if she's there. He confesses that he's "not very social, but it keeps me fresh for the bridge." He also likes to get to the table 15 minutes before the start of a session, and clear his mind of other things.

Of his partnership with Ron Klinger Bruce says, "Ron and I have done a lot of work on system over the last couple of years and are getting the benefit as a result." From his perspective he says they currently have only one problem area: defensive signals. He finds their methods complicated enough to overload him on occasion (there's a lot of that going around, Bruce), but says "this is showing signs of happening less often, thank heavens!" He adds, "it has taken us a while to reach common ground on the subtleties of interpretation; again we are now pretty much on the same page."

Of his partner Bruce says, "Ron's strengths at bridge are legion. A particular partnership benefit is that we have a common approach to systems."



David Wiltshire, 28, was born in Adelaide, Australia where he lived until about two years ago. He graduated college with majors in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, after which he met someone who taught him how to play bridge. ("Thank God I had already completed my

degree or I may not have once I found bridge.")

David started work as a computer programmer

for Motorola—based in Adelaide—but gave that up two years ago to move to Sydney—the bridge capital of Australia, home to many of the country’s top players. “I do just about nothing that isn’t related to bridge: I play professionally, I direct and I play rubber bridge. If I do get away from bridge I might be on my computer, but that might mean I’m playing poker. I do like music and play guitar and piano; however, I don’t have a piano with me in Sydney, and I’m not very good at either...so it’s something I generally try and keep to myself.” (Good luck with that now, David!)

David has been playing bridge for about eight years, which makes him about the least experienced player on the OzOne squad (save for the two young kids, the brothers Adam and Nabil Edgtton). “Even Tony Nunn, who is actually younger than me, has a LOT more experience,” says David. “Indeed, I hadn’t even won a national event in Australia when I was selected for OzOne (I have now—but only just. After a 64-board final we were tied; I find it a hollow victory. I want to beat my opponents.)”

For the past two years David had been playing with Andrew Peake, also from Sydney, but “when the OzOne project came along I approached Kieran [Dyke] with the idea of forming a partnership. Kieran is a bridge professional and pretty much didn’t have a

regular expert partner—and this would be his chance. He did have other options (including players that would be rated as better than me) but he decided to form a partnership with me based on [our] potential to improve. As a partnership Kieran and I are very inexperienced, well behind any of the other pairs... Kieran and I are starting from scratch.”



Kieran Dyke is an excellent player who has never represented Australia overseas. David believes this is mostly because he is usually playing professionally. “His bidding judgment is quite excellent, he’s very aggressive... Kieran has a very good

understanding of complex and esoteric card play positions, and can pull them off at the table. On more mundane hands he usually goes very much by ‘feel’—he is a fast player and makes plays that put the opponents under pressure.”

Kieran and David expect to progress quickly as a partnership, especially as they get a chance to discuss their system more and develop more specific understandings.

[On subsequent pages are several reports culled from Ron Klinger’s Sydney Morning Herald bridge columns featuring hands played by the OzOne players.]

JCBL Smoking Policy

NEC Cup:

Once play in a qualifying-round match or a knockout-round session has started, smoking is prohibited (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom) until ALL tables in the match or session have finished.

Other events:

Once a session has started, and until all tables have finished, smoking is prohibited at ALL times other than a single designated smoking break, to be announced by the Director.

Smoking area:

Please do not smoke in the area immediately outside the playing room (to avoid second-hand smoke entering the room). Players may smoke outside the building or in smoking areas with ashtrays well away from the playing room.

Penalties for violations may be assessed by the Director.

Neill finds the lead

by Ron Klinger (Sydney Morning Herald 12/19/05)

Try this problem.

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

What would you lead as West from: ♠J72 ♥J82
♦K7542 ♣94?

Felicity Beale and Diana Smart found the best spot on this deal from the 2005 Venice Cup in their Round 7 match against Portugal:

Bd: 7	North (<i>Beale</i>)		
Dlr: South	♠ KQ9		
Vul: Both	♥ Q975		
	♦ J98		
	♣ J102		
West		East	
♠ J72		♠ 10543	
♥ J82		♥ 104	
♦ K7542		♦ Q6	
♣ 94		♣ AK876	
	South (<i>Smart</i>)		
	♠ A86		
	♥ AK63		
	♦ A103		
	♣ Q53		

West	North	East	South
			1♥(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) 12-14 HCP			

Opening Lead: ♦2

First the four-four fit was found, then 2NT invited game. 3NT accepted and showed a flat hand.

Smart had no difficulty leaving it in 3NT. Declarer finished with ten tricks for +630.

At the other table South played in 4♥ and also received a diamond lead. Ten tricks were now easy for +620 and no swing.

In the Bermuda Bowl match between Australia and Brazil both N/Ss played in 3NT and made nine tricks on the ♦4 lead. No swing.

When the Australian Seniors played against Italy this was the result at one table.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sbarigia</i>	<i>Haughie</i>	<i>Mosca</i>	<i>Nagy</i>
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♦2

Nagy captured East's ♦Q, played two rounds of hearts and then led a club. The result was ten tricks for +630. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Neill</i>	<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Masucci</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Neill found the ♣9 lead and received the club ruff for one down and 12 Imps to Australia. Clearly there is a case for South bidding 3NT over 3♥.

Here are the results on this deal in the various events. In the Bermuda Bowl: 19 in 3NT, 1 in 2♥, 2 in 4♥ (both failing); in the Venice Cup: 13 in 3NT, 9 in 4♥ (8 failing); in the Seniors Bowl: 13 in 3NT, 1 in 1♣, 8 in 4♥ (all failing).

The Wiltshire Duck

by Ron Klinger (Sydney Morning Herald 12/12/05)

One of the most promising pairs on the current scene in Australia is Kieran Dyke-David Wiltshire. In the Grand National Open Teams they topped the datum list (best performance in the qualifying rounds).

The team of Andrew Peake, David Wiltshire, Sue Ingham, Terry Brown and Murray Green finished on top of the Swiss section in the qualifying stages of the NSW State Teams Championship. On this deal Wiltshire found a neat way to make his game:

Dir: East	North (<i>Andrew Peake</i>)		
Vul: N/S	♠ 96432		
	♥ ---		
	♦ K983		
	♣ K1042		
West		East	
♠ J5		♠ K108	
♥ K82		♥ 654	
♦ AQ		♦ J542	
♣ QJ9865		♣ A73	
	South (<i>David Wiltshire</i>)		
	♠ AQ7		
	♥ AQJ10973		
	♦ 1076		
	♣ ---		
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
2♣	Pass	Pass	3♥(!)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♣Q

Peake passed 2♣ in the hope that South would reopen with a takeout double, which North would leave in for penalties. As it often works out badly to play for penalties at a low level when one defender is void in the trump suit, Wiltshire rejected a takeout double for his rebid. With only 13 HCP himself he knew partner would have some values, as the opponents had stopped at 2♣. With a powerful trump suit and just five losers, he jumped to 3♥, far more encouraging than a mere 2♥ rebid.

Trusting partner implicitly, Peake raised to 4♥ despite the heart void. One of my theories is that if partner needs void support for game in his trump suit he can bid it himself. On that basis North might have opted for 3NT over 3♥, but Wiltshire would have reverted to 4♥ anyway.

Wiltshire ducked the ♣Q lead in dummy and ruffed in hand. He continued with the ♥A, followed by the ♥Q, pitching a spade and a club from dummy.

West captured the ♥Q and could not afford to play another club, as that would set up a club winner in dummy. To try to dislodge dummy's entry West shifted to the ♦A, then the ♦Q. Wiltshire did something good on the second diamond: he let West's ♦Q hold the trick.

West now switched to the ♠5, three, king, ace. Wiltshire drew the missing trumps and cashed another heart. This was now the position:

	North		
	♠ 9		
	♥ ---		
	♦ K9		
	♣ K10		
West		East	
♠ J		♠ 108	
♥ ---		♥ ---	
♦ ---		♦ J5	
♣ J986		♣ A	
	South		
	♠ Q7		
	♥ 97		
	♦ 10		
	♣ ---		

When Wiltshire played his second last trump, discarding the ♣10 from dummy, East was finished. To throw the ♣A or a diamond would give dummy an extra trick and so East let go a spade. That did not help, as it allowed declarer to score an extra spade trick.

After West held the trick with the ♦Q (South's duck of that trick was vital), suppose that West

had exited with his third trump. Wiltshire would still succeed along the same lines. In the ending he would have ♠AQ7 and when East lets a

spade go, finessing the ♠Q gives declarer three spade tricks.

Preliminary Bout

by Ron Klinger (Sydney Morning Herald 12/1/05)

Try this problem:

West	North	East	South
	1♥(1)	2♥	2♠(2)
4♥	5♣(3)	5♥	5♠
Dbf	AllPass		
(1) 4+ spades, 10-17 points, unbalanced hand			
(2) 6-9 points, spade support			
(3) Second suit, could be canape			

What would you lead as West from: ♠QJ
♥A1084 ♦Q106 ♣A983?

Before the 2005 World Championships began the Australian Seniors teams had a practice match against Denmark. This was one of the deals:

Dir: North	North (<i>Bruce Neill</i>)
Vul: None	♠ K863
	♥ ---
	♦ A54
	♣ KQ10765
West (<i>Jens Auken</i> <i>Steen Moller</i>)	East (<i>Kirsten</i>)
♠ QJ	♠ 105
♥ A1084	♥ KQ97632

♦ Q106	♦ KJ98
♣ A983	♣ ---
South (<i>Ron Klinger</i>)	
♠ A9742	
♥ J5	
♦ 732	
♣ J42	

After the auction given Auken found one lead to defeat 5♠: a diamond. Even ♣A and a club ruff is not good enough, but a highly unlikely low club would also work. East ruffs and returns a diamond. Denmark +100.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Haughie</i>		<i>Nagy</i>	
	1♣	4♥	All Pass

Spades were not led and so Zoli Nagy scored 11 tricks for +450. It was a curious decision by North not to compete when 4♥ came back to him. Modernists would find a takeout double automatic.

Answers to "Six Good Reasons Why JC is Smiling" (page 13)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Unique up on it. | 4. You boil the hell out of it. |
| 2. Tame way, unique up on it. | 5. Polaroids. |
| 3. They take the psycho path. | 6. A stick. |

A Little Light Reading

by Ron Klinger (Sydney Morning Herald 12/1/05)

Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ AQ97
♥ 73
♦ KJ92
♣ 764

South
♠ K8653
♥ 82
♦ A54
♣ KQ10

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♦(1)	2♥(2)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦(3)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

(1) Transfer to hearts

(2) Strong spade raise

(3) Game try, values in diamonds

Opening Lead: ♥K

East overtakes with the ♥A and shifts to the ♣3, king, two, four. You draw trumps in two rounds and exit with a heart. West wins cheaply and plays the ♣J to East's ace and you win the next club, West discarding a heart. How would you continue?

With 18 HCP missing, West has turned up with six already. That leaves 12 for East's opening bid. As the normal diamond finesse will fail, cross to dummy in trumps and lead the ♦J. If East plays low you run it. If East covers, you capture the ♦Q and finesse the ♦9.

In the pre-tournament practice match between the Seniors teams from Denmark and Australia this play meant only an overtrick since both sides played a spade partial. East held: ♠J4 ♥AJ6 ♦Q73 ♣A9853.

A Little Knowledge...

Andrew McIntosh (Team Hackett) showed us this hand he played in his first-round match against Magnolia. Andrew was South.

Bd: 5
Dir: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 108754
♥ J982
♦ J83
♣ 2

West	East
♠ AQ	♠ K93
♥ AQ1063	♥ K4
♦ 9754	♦ AQ1062
♣ 98	♣ K103

South
♠ J62
♥ 75
♦ K
♣ AQJ7654

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	<i>Andrew</i> 2♣
2♥	Pass	2NT(1)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Shows a strong notrump

South led the ♣Q, and Andrew paused to take

stock. South clearly held the high clubs and as the ♦K was the only other outstanding high card of any significance, South was also marked with it for his 2♣ overcall. With eight top tricks (three spades, three hearts, and a trick in each minor), all would be fine if hearts split. But what if North held jack-fourth of hearts and another club to reach South? Some detective work was needed.

Andrew won the ♣K, cashed the ♠AQ, N/S both following up the line, crossed to the ♥K, and cashed the ♠K (diamond from dummy) as South followed with the jack. As N/S were both known to be honest giving count, Andrew read correctly that spades were five-three, with North having five. Next he tried the ♥AQ, and when South showed out his plan took its final form. Andrew reasoned, "South must be down to five clubs and the ♦Kx, so if he threw South in with a club he'd be forced to lead away from his ♦K to give Andrew his game-going trick in the end position. Oops! South cashed out for one down; -50.

Luckily for Andrew, 3NT also failed at the other table; his team won the match 24-6 in VPs.

Tempting Tempo

by Rich Colker

Marcin Lesniewski recently brought the following deal to my attention. It occurred in the final session of the Transnational Open Teams at the World Championships last November in Estoril, Portugal. The deal illustrates an important point about Unauthorized Information and how a player who possesses such information should handle these situations.

Sitting South, as dealer, you pick up ♠ — ♥9632 ♦9632 ♣AKQ54. You pass and LHO, your screenmate opens 4♠. The tray goes under the screen and returns shortly with two passes. It's up to you. What you would do?

Lesniewski, who held the hand, thought a double was "automatic." On the other hand, he noted that it took a minute or more for the tray to return from the other side of the screen. Inferring that it had been his partner who had hesitated, he reasoned that it must be because North either had values with nothing convenient to bid or a hand that was close to a penalty double of 4♠; in either case his double became more attractive, less likely to lose. So he passed.

The full deal turned out to be:

Dlr: South	♠ A10	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q1085	
	♦ KQ75	
	♣ J62	
♠ QJ9865432	♠ K7	
♥ 7	♥ AKJ4	
♦ 84	♦ AJ10	
♣ 9	♣ 10873	
	♠ —	
	♥ 9632	
	♦ 9632	
	♣ AKQ54	

Can you figure out which player, North or East, was responsible for the hesitation? While the North hand may justify a double of 1♠ (some might even double 2♠!), it clearly falls short of a double of 4♠. On the other hand, East might have been tempted to act over 4♠ with his hand. After all, if West has as little as ♠AQxxxxx ♥Qx

♦xx ♣x for his 4♠ bid, 6♠ is cold. In fact, reverse the two red-suit holdings and slam still only requires guessing which red-suit finesse to take.

As the above suggests, North had no trouble passing 4♠ in tempo while East was the one who thought for a while before passing. Had South balanced with his "automatic" double the final contract would have been 4♠ doubled or redoubled making five, -990 or -1480, respectively, or five of a minor doubled by N/S, -1100. So South's pass worked out well when his side ended up minus only 650.

Lesniewski later decided to see what other top experts would have done when 4♠ came back around to them. One thought it was automatic to double while another thought a double looked sensible but far from automatic. A third thought a double was about a 60% action. Given this diversity of opinion, had South been correct that North was the one responsible for the hesitation, a Director or Appeals Committee would likely have adjusted the score if South had doubled and it had worked out well for his side. (In that case South would have been right to pass since a hesitation by North clearly makes doubling a more attractive action.)

Was it really so clear at the table that North was the one who had hesitated? I think not. To see why, consider the situation where East rather than South is the dealer. On the N-E side of the screen East passes and the tray comes through to the S-W side of the screen. South passes, West opens 4♠, and the tray disappears back under the screen and returns a minute later with two passes on it. Now it is likely that North, the unpassed hand, was responsible for the delay. In fact, on this auction he is marked with at least opening bid strength and likely more. (South has 9 HCP. East, who is a passed hand, probably has on average about 4-6 HCP. And West will probably have, on average, about 8-10 HCP for his 4♠ opening. This leaves North with a hand in the strong notrump range). Now it makes sense for South to pass out of ethical considerations, as Lesniewski actually did, since now it is very likely that it was North who had hesitated and any further action by South comes with serious

ethical jeopardy.

But in the actual auction there is no indication who was responsible for the delay on the N-E side of the screen. If East was the one doing the thinking South had better not act; any bid he makes will likely be met with a double and result in a sizeable penalty. If North was the one doing the thinking and South's double works out well, N/S will have their score adjusted by a Director or Appeal Committee, neither of whom will have much sympathy for the belief that a reopening double is "automatic."

So what can we learn from this situation? First, South was right—up to a point. If it was clear that North had hesitated, South must avoid any action (i.e. double) that the hesitation makes more attractive. (We should applaud South's ethics, even if we question his judgment about the auction.)

Second, even when a player has Unauthorized

Information from his partner, he may still take an action that is clear-cut from the Authorized Information present, including his own hand and the previous auction (note, though, that South's balancing double was not so clear-cut here); and he may do so even if his planned action is made more attractive by the Unauthorized Information. In other words, contrary to a belief held by many, just because partner hesitates does not mean you are automatically barred from the auction.

And third, make sure there is no doubt about who caused the Unauthorized Information and what actions it favors. Take, for example, the situation where partner's hesitation suggests he wants to penalty double the suit just bid on his right. In that case you might well be permitted to rebid your own suit, even if you would be barred from making a balancing double (because the Unauthorized Information does not make your bid more attractive—you could easily go minus by declaring rather than go plus by defending.

When NOT to Follow Partner's Signal

Barnet Shenkin came rushing into the Bulletin office (aka The Secretariat) to tell us about his partner Jim Mahaffey's defense of this hand in the first qualifying session of the 2006 NEC Cup.

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q5		
Vul: E/W	♥ K9		
	♦ Q1098763		
	♣ KJ		
West		East	
♠ AJ109762		♠ 43	
♥ 63		♥ AJ10875	
♦ A		♦ KJ54	
♣ 1054		♣ 3	
	South		
	♠ K8		
	♥ Q42		
	♦ 2		
	♣ AQ98762		

Shenkin (North) and Mahaffey (South) defended the "slightly" ambitious contract of 4♥. South led the ♦2 to dummy's ace as North played the ♦3 to suggest a club shift. Declarer played a heart to the nine, jack and queen and South now found

the ♠8 shift despite North's club signal. Declarer tried the ♠J but after some thought North (this is Barnet we're talking about) played the queen, which held, and after more thought (remember, Barnet) returned the ♠5 to the king and ace. With dummy now dead declarer had to lose at least four tricks—one in each suit—and when he failed to endplay North he was two down; -100.

Note: the defense must prevent declarer from setting up dummy's spades for diamond pitches. Also, if N/S cash a high club before playing on spades, North's queen and not South's king must be used to force the ace on the first round of the suit or declarer can make his contract by winning dummy's ace and playing: club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff, ♥A, draw trumps, spade, endplaying North. Also, if South plays a low club at trick 3 to North he must then play the ♠Q immediately to stop declarer from making his contract via the above line. If South cashes the ♣A at trick 3 he must then shift to his low spade immediately and N/S must play a second spade before trumps are drawn.

11th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

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

