



# NEC Bridge Festival

Friday, February 10, 2006

Bulletin Number 4

Editors: Eric Kokish, Richard Colker

## Israel Wins Swiss Qualifying Stage

With two narrow wins, the Israeli team (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile) went into the quarter-finals in the top qualifying spot with 159 VPs, 6 VPs ahead of second-place Italy (Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Massimo Ortensi) with 153 VPs. In third place, with 149 VPs, was YOI (Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Yasuhiro Shimizu), followed by the WBF (French) Women (Bénédicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard) and OzOne-Neill (Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill, Kieran Dyke, David Wiltshire), tied for fourth/fifth with 144 VPs. Tied for sixth/seventh place were USA/Kasle and OzOne-Del'Monte with 142 VPs and sneaking in just under the wire in the final qualifying spot was TAJIMA. The complete rankings are shown below while individual results of the final two qualifying matches and the half-time quarterfinal scores are on p 4.

### NEC Cup Qualifying: Final Standings (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	ISRAEL	159	15/16	Estrellas	128	29	HYLII (Korea)	109
2	Italy	153	15/16	SLAM DUNK	128	30	XYZ	107
3	YOI	149	17	SARA	127	31/32	Magnolia	105
4/5	WBF Women (Fr.)	144	18	USA/Mori	126	31/32	MY-Bridge	105
4/5	OzOne-Neill	144	19	Fairy Tale	123	33	Kimura@Yokohama	104
6/7	USA/Kasle	142	20/22	BIRD	116	34	CACTI (Korea)	103
6/7	OzOne-Del'Monte	142	20/22	SKOTII	116	35	PS-Jack	102
8	TAJIMA	138	20/22	GIRASOL	116	36/37	KinKi	101
9	FISK	137	23	Happy Koro	115	36/37	LBH	101
10	USA/Mahaffey	136	24	MERRY QUEENS	114	38	Japan Youth	99
11/12	Paul Hackett	132	25	Makko	113	39	Sun Flowers	98
11/12	JAPAN YAMADA	132	26	ESPERANZA	112	40	Sweet Briar	95
13	HANA	131	27	Charade	111	41	Solaris	70
14	South America	129	28	NAITO	110	42	Kuznun Karas	54

### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 11<sup>th</sup> 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):	Bénédicte 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!**

## Thursday's Match Results

### Match 7

FRANCE (24)	13 - 17	ISRAEL (34)
YOI (21)	8 - 22	ITALY (57)
OzOne-Del'Monte (64)	21 - 9	USA/Kasle (34)
USA/Mahaffey (42)	12 - 18	FSK (58) *
HACKETT (78)	22 - 8	SOUTH AMERICA (45)
TAJIMA (61)	14 - 16	ESTRELLAS (65)
OzOne-Neill (90)	25 - 4	USA/Mori (35)
HANA (62)	21 - 9	SKOTII (31)
HAPPY KORO (21)	2 - 25	SLAM DUNK (93)
MAGNOLIA (26)	9 - 21	YAMADA (57)
SARA (35)	13 - 17	FAIRY TALE (44)
GIRASOL (34)	14 - 16	NAITO (41)
PS-JACK (47)	5 - 25	ESPERANZA (99)
MY-BRIDGE (56)	13 - 17	MAKKO (65)
SWEET BRIER (31)	4 - 25	BIRD (86)
KINKI (52)	10 - 20	MERRY QUEENS (75)
XYZ (59)	22 - 8	KIMURA@Yokohama (26)
SUN FLOWERS (41)	12 - 18	CHARADE (56)
KOREA CACTI (59)	15 - 15	JAPAN YOUTH (60)
KUZUNUN KARAS (42)	13 - 17	LBH (52)
SOLARIS (24)	1 - 25	KOREA HYLII (97)

\* 1VP Penalty to both teams (slow play)

### Match 8

ISRAEL (41)	19 - 11	OzOne-Del'Monte (23)
FRANCE (38)	12 - 18	ITALY (51)
HACKETT (25)	8 - 22	YOI (59)
FSK (32)	12 - 18	USA/Kasle (48)
SLAM DUNK (26)	8 - 22	OzOne-Neill (59)
HANA (42)	14 - 16	USA/Mahaffey (47)
ESTRELLAS (28)	11 - 19	YAMADA (46)
ESPERANZA (10)	3 - 25	TAJIMA (74)
SKOTII (44)	11 - 19	SOUTH AMERICA (63)
FAIRY TALE (58)	18 - 12	BIRD (45)
NAITO (18)	7 - 23	USA/Mori (57)
MAGNOLIA (15)	4 - 25	SARA (71)
MAKKO (39)	14 - 16	GIRASOL (44)
HAPPY KORO (50)	17 - 13	XYZ (38)
MY-BRIDGE (28)	12 - 18	MERRY QUEENS (41)
CHARADE (59)	19 - 11	PS-JACK (39)
KOREA HYLII (55)	18 - 12	KINKI (39)
JAPAN YOUTH (50)	15 - 15	LBH (48)
KOREA CACTI (50)	18 - 12	SWEET BRIER (35)
SOLARIS (26)	10 - 20	KIMURA@Yokohama(48)
KUZUNUN KARAS (49)	15 - 15	SUN FLOWERS (51)

## Quarterfinal Standings at the Half (20 Boards)

Team	Carryover	IMPs
<b>Israel</b>	.5	<b>66</b>
<b>JAPAN-TAJIMA</b>		28
<b>USA/Kasle</b>	.5	<b>61</b>
<b>OzOne-Del'Monte</b>		21
<b>JAPAN-YOI</b>	.5	<b>71</b>
<b>WBF Women (Fr.)</b>		15
<b>Italy</b>	.5	<b>95</b>
<b>OzOne-Neill</b>		31

## Misfit: The Opposite of Double-Fit

by Zar Petkov

We all have some idea about what a misfit is. Let's have a glimpse at a couple of boards:

Board 1		Board 2	
♠ xxxxxx	♠ ---	♠ xxxxx	♠ ---
♥ xxx	♥ xxxx	♥ x	♥ xxxxxx
♦ xxx	♦ xxxx	♦ xxx	♦ xxxx
♣ x	♣ xxxxx	♣ xxxx	♣ xxx

Which of these two pairs of hands has a worse misfit? And by how much is the first misfit worse than the second—IF it is worse? Any clues?

Zar Points make a formal definition of misfit and use it in a convenient at-the-table way. We define Total Zar Misfit Points as the sum of the differences of the suit-lengths of the two partners. In Board 1 above the misfit points are  $(6-0) + (4-3) + (4-3) + (5 - 1) = 12$ . For Board 2 the misfit points are  $(5-0) + (6-1) + (4-3) + (4-3) = 12$ . So it turns out they are the same.

Now let's have a look at the first board from the historic Culbertson-Lenz Match of the Century, played in the early 1930s, and we'll demonstrate the use of Zar Misfit Points:

♠ ---	♠ J1096543
♥ KJ982	♥ ---
♦ K1092	♦ 843
♣ KJ86	♣ AQ5

These two hands have 18 HCP in a total misfit, but look what the "experts" say:

- Zar Points: 10 tricks! 54 points! 3NT since there is no fit (good luck, boy).

- LTC: 11 tricks! 4NT since there is no fit (one level down).

- Lawrence: 12 tricks! 5NT since there is no fit (one level down).

Oh-la-la; can you believe it? It looks like all these methods are garbage—Zar Points included! This board actually made me come up with Zar Misfit Points. If you have a fit, you add the Zar Misfit Points to the total. If you don't have a fit, as in the Match of the Century deal above, you deduct the misfit points. (See [www.ZarPoints.com](http://www.ZarPoints.com) for details.)

So in this deal we have  $(7-0) + (5-0) + (4-3) + (4-3) = 14$  misfit points. When we deduct them from the 54 Zar Points resulting from adding West's and East's Zar Points we get  $54 - 14 = 40$ , which is good only for the one level (52 is needed for the four level, 42 for the two level). And we have seven tricks either in notrump or in clubs. At the table we would calculate only the misfit in the suits known from the bidding (here the majors), and approximate the total value in a simple way (which is described in the books on the website).

## Alert! Register for Weekend Events

Those planning to play in the Yokohama Swiss Teams and/or the the Asuka Cup (Open Pairs) this weekend should register for those events in advance:

For the Yokohama Swiss Teams (Saturday, February 11)

Register by 8:00 pm Friday, February 10

For the Asuka Cup Open Pairs (Sunday, February 12)

Register by 8:00 pm Saturday, February 11

# THE NAKATANI INTERVIEW

by Sue Grenside, chick reporter



SG: *When did you first become interested in bridge?*

TN: I went to High School in Spokane, Washington. When I was 18 years old, I saw students playing bridge during lunch break. I became very interested and learned to play. In my fourth year at University I joined the school bridge club, and was there for four more years. During that period, there were many more students playing bridge than there are today, and it was a lot of fun. Yamada-san and many of today's better Japanese players were involved at that time.

SG: *How long have you been involved with JCBL?*

TN: I have always been involved with bridge in some organizational capacity. I've been with JCBL for 33 years and became General Secretary after the Bermuda Bowl in Yokohama in 1991. We all worked very hard to make that tournament a success. The man I replaced, Tetsuji Hikawa, was a wonderful man; he left some big shoes for me to fill.

SG: *How was the NEC Festival started?*

TN: Dr Ouchi was Vice President of NEC Corporation and a tournament was named after him to thank him for his support. The Ouchi Cup is now the name of the Swiss Teams at the NEC Festival. Dr Ouchi thought NEC should contribute in a meaningful way to social and leisure activity in Japan, and when NEC terminated its sponsorship of the World Bridge Federation, this festival was a natural fit for NEC and JCBL. NEC wanted to support bridge and we were delighted to make that possible.

SG: *Do any particular years stand out for you in the history of the NEC Festival?*

TN: As this is an open event with no gender or age limitations, we were delighted when the Chinese women won in 2004, showing the world that women's teams could compete with the men. That was a very impressive performance.

SG: *What are your best memories in bridge?*

TN: I played in the 2003 Senior Bowl with Dr Naniwada of NEC and we did very well. I remember bidding and making two difficult grand slams in clubs in that event.

I believe it is a privilege to have so many great players and interesting personalities visit our country and provide our Japanese players with the opportunity to meet the world's best.

SG: *Everyone knows you as an organizer and official, but some of us (well, maybe not your wife) know that you're a pretty good player too. How many times have you represented Japan in World or PABF events?*

TN: I represented Japan once in the PABF, once in the Olympiad, and once in the Senior Bowl. I participated in every Zone VI Championship in some capacity, usually as an organizer.

SG: *Now that you have retired (okay, semi-retired) from the position of General Secretary. Will you still be involved with bridge?*

TN: Yes, I will. You can't get rid of me so easily. I will continue to be involved with international relations for JCBL and with the NEC Festival, and will help as much as I can with the PABF. I will still be involved with JCBL and expect to be kept busy.

SG: *How long have you known the Bulletin Editors?*

TN: Does anyone really know the Bulletin Editors? I first met Eric Kokish in Hawaii during the first ACBL Nationals there around 1980. JCBL was about to organize the first Epson Intercity tournament, the forerunner to the NEC Festival, and a Bulletin Editor was needed. I had met Alan Truscott earlier and he introduced me to Eric and recommended him. We've been friends ever since, and for many years Eric and Beverly played in our tournaments and also produced the Bulletins. When the Epson tournament died, we always hoped to hold a first-class tournament again in Japan, and our success with the World Championships in Yokohama helped us to attract the support of NEC, and it was natural to invite Eric back, as he had been visiting Japan regularly for coaching and teaching, and had always contributed to our monthly Bulletin. In 1997, when Beverly could not come to Japan, Eric brought Richard Colker, who probably knows more about the Laws, regulations and the Appeals process than anyone in the world. Although they won the tournament the first year they did the Bulletins, it soon became apparent that it was too difficult to do both, and they've been concentrating exclusively on the Bulletin for the past several years. Although Kokish-san is very keen, I am sad to report that his Japanese vocabulary is still very limited. As for Richard...he is better off just using hand gestures.

SG: *When did you first meet Richard Grenside?*

TN: I first met Richard at the Zone VI Championships about 20 years ago, and later invited him to Direct the NEC Festival in 1997, the second year we held the event.

SG: *We're proud of our tournaments in Australia, but we'd like you to visit and play in one of them some day and perhaps share your experience and experiences with us. Good luck, Tadayoshi, and thanks very much for everything.*



# Mind Sports “Come Together” in Japan

## Mind Sports Introductory Corner (lessons):

**Announcing the first collaborative work of three mind sports associations in Japan; all participants in IMSA. (A bigger and better event can be planned and held at next year's NEC Cup. This is just a trial.)**

**Games: Chess, Bridge and Go**

**Dates: Feb. 9, 10, 11, 2006 (Holidays)**

**Time: 10:00 - 16:00 (depending on visitors, may be longer)**

**Place: Yokohama Exhibition Center Annex, Room 205**

**Chess**

- 1. Introductory lessons - First Step to Play Chess (for newcomers)**
- 2. Play with professional player (for people who know how to play)**
- 3. Computer Chess corner (demonstrating the latest PC software)**

**The Secretary General of the Japan Chess Association (Ms. Miyoko Watai) and three pros will be here each day.**

**Bridge**

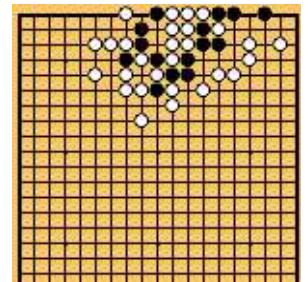
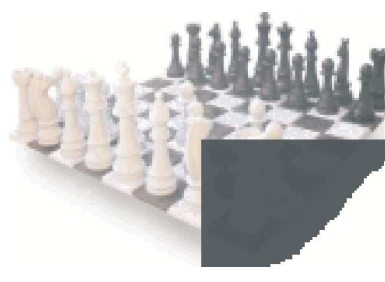
- 1. Introductory lessons (Mini Bridge)**
- 2. Enjoy Bridge corner: instructor-supervised game-style lessons**
- 3. Computer Bridge corner**
- 4. Tour - NEC Cup (instructors take newcomers to the competition rooms to show the atmosphere of high-level bridge games)**

**Go**

**Introduction of Computer software**

**The Secretary General of the International Go Federation (IGF) and IMSA Japan, Ms. Yuki Shigeno, will be present all day on the 11th and at the Closing Ceremony on the 12th.**

**Bridge players who have time are invited to accept the challenge of other mind sports and prepare for the coming Intellympiad Games!**





## Round Six: Hackett vs USA/Kasle

by Eric Kokish

With both teams doing well, avoiding a heavy loss was an important objective with only two matches remaining. Hackett (**Paul Hackett-John Armstrong, Jack Mizel-Andrew "Tosh" McIntosh**) favors a light, four-card major style, while Kasle (**Gaylor Kasle-John Sutherlin, Garey Hayden-John Onstott**) would try to win the match with a more conservative five-card major approach.

Fasten your seat belts, kids, this is going to be a bumpy ride...

Bd: 1	North		
Dir: North	♠ KJ4		
Vul: None	♥ 53		
	♦ AJ984		
	♣ K76		
West		East	
♠ 1085		♠ AQ97	
♥ AQ942		♥ K76	
♦ 53		♦ KQ107	
♣ 1085		♣ A9	
	South		
	♠ 632		
	♥ J108		
	♦ 62		
	♣ QJ432		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
	1♦	1NT	Pass
2♦(♥)	Pass	2♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
	1♦	Dbl	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Bd: 5	North		
Dir: North	♠ KQJ5		
Vul: N/S	♥ A874		
	♦ KQ76		
	♣ K		
West		East	
♠ 1094		♠ 7632	
♥ K93		♥ J65	
♦ J10982		♦ ---	
♣ Q10		♣ J98643	
	South		
	♠ A8		
	♥ Q102		
	♦ A543		
	♣ A752		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♣(FG)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♣(FG)
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

6♦ is a lovely contract, cold with trumps no worse than four-one. We can imagine Sutherlin's pain in having to write -100 on his scorecard, although he could hope his counterparts would do likewise. But no; Hackett-Armstrong, after locating their diamond fit, focused on notrump. Although 6NT is vastly inferior to 6♦, an early heart to the ten and the three-three heart break led to N/S +1440 and a mere 17 IMPs to Hackett, 17-6. Not a highlight deal for justice and virtue. While I did not detect any remorse in the Hackett camp for this deal, the fact that I would be offended by this result if I were +1440 might be a more serious personal character flaw than

Tosh made six, Onstott only five, but Kasle was on the board first with a 6-IMP gain. Nice effort by Onstott-Hayden on a deceptively difficult deal bid to game by only 10 E/W pairs.

I care to believe.

Bd: 6	North			
Dlr: East	♠ J432			
Vul: E/W	♥ 862			
	♦ QJ10			
	♣ J74			
	West	East		
	♠ AK9	♠ 1065		
	♥ AKJ53	♥ 107		
	♦ K	♦ 987543		
	♣ AK83	♣ 52		
		South		
		♠ Q87		
		♥ Q94		
		♦ A62		
		♣ Q1096		
	Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>	
		Pass	Pass	
2♣	Pass	2♦(wait)	Pass	
2♥	Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	
3NT	All Pass			
(1) Second negative				
	Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	
		Pass	Pass	
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	
2♥	Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
(1) Second negative				

Mizel's best chance to make 3NT came at trick one, when Sutherlin led the ♦Q. Kasle played the ace, however, and switched to a club, and after conceding a heart, declarer had only eight tricks for -100.

Onstott's 4♥ was much more promising, despite the good start for the defense of the ♦Q to the ace and a low-trump switch. Declarer ducked to the ten, took a club ruff, came to hand with the ♠A, and drew trumps: +620. Whether this was random luck or excellent bidding is a matter of perception, but the bottom line was 12 IMPs to Kasle, ahead 18-17.

Bd: 7	North			
Dlr: South	♠ K7			
Vul: Both	♥ A2			
	♦ K6			
	♣ AK98632			
	West	East		
	♠ Q8653	♠ 10		
	♥ Q954	♥ KJ1076		
	♦ QJ5	♦ A8742		
	♣ 7	♣ J5		
		South		
		♠ AJ942		
		♥ 83		
		♦ 1093		
		♣ Q104		
	Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>	
			Pass	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		
	Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	
			Pass	
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠	
2♠(♥)	3NT	4♥	All Pass	

Sutherlin's excellent third-seat "not so gambling" 3NT bid created a useful one-bid auction, and he took the 11 obvious tricks on a diamond lead; +630. Hackett's 1♣ allowed Hayden to enter the auction cheaply, and both he and Onstott judged well indeed to go on to 4♥ over 3NT. Curiously, both North and South agreed that Armstrong's pass over 4♥ was not forcing, so South really should have bid 4NT instead. In order to defeat 4♥, Hackett had to cover the first diamond honor from dummy, and this he did, so Hayden had to concede one down, but his -100 combined very well with his teammates' result for an 11-IMP gain. Onstott led by 12 now, 29-17. The next deal was even better for the Americans...



"The operation was a success, now where do we send the body?"

Bd: 8	North		
Dir: West	♠ Q54		
Vul: None	♥ K93		
	♦ 1064		
	♣ Q1084		
	West		East
	♠ KJ86		♠ 10932
	♥ A875		♥ Q6
	♦ 852		♦ KQ9
	♣ K5		♣ 7632
	South		
	♠ A7		
	♥ J1042		
	♦ AJ73		
	♣ AJ9		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Dbl
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Unless Mizel was supposed to pass as dealer rather than open a weak notrump, it's difficult to find fault with any of the E/W actions in the Open Room, but it all worked very badly for Hackett's troops.

The defense led clubs. Declarer won the second club and led a diamond to the king, which held. A spade finesse lost to the queen, and Sutherlin cashed clubs, Mizel discarding two hearts, Kasle the ♥2. A diamond went to the queen and ace, and a heart went to the king. The defense had time to clear hearts now, and declarer took only a club, a diamond and a heart for four down, -800.

In the Closed Room, Armstrong's second double was questionable, and it led to a misunderstanding about the meaning of 2NT, which Paul intended as natural. 3♦ finished two

down, -100, and Kasle tacked on 14 IMPs to lead 43-17.

Bd: 9	North		
Dir: North	♠ K53		
Vul: E/W	♥ 1094		
	♦ A96		
	♣ Q875		
	West		East
	♠ Q9862		♠ AJ74
	♥ KQ83		♥ 762
	♦ KQJ2		♦ 10743
	♣ ---		♣ 93
	South		
	♠ 10		
	♥ AJ5		
	♦ 85		
	♣ AKJ10642		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
	Pass	Pass	3NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Hackett-Armstrong open or overcall 3NT on every hand. Here, 3NT spawned an unusual scenario in which it appears that all four players were guessing with the four actions following the opening bid. Although E/W would probably make 4♠ and South would make 3NT, the auction screeched to a halt at 4♣, which went one down on a diamond lead: -50.

I love this auction because there are so many different concepts to consider.

Tosh led a spade against Sutherlin's 3NT: +430. 10 IMPs to Kasle, on a 47-IMP run, 53-17.

Bd: 11	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 752		
Vul: None	♥ K864		
	♦ 975		
	♣ K83		
	West		East
	♠ K93		♠ AJ8
	♥ AQ		♥ 103
	♦ KQJ8		♦ 432
	♣ AQ107		♣ J9542
	South		
	♠ Q1064		
	♥ J9752		
	♦ A106		
	♣ 6		
Open and Closed Rooms			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Mizel got a low heart lead from Sutherlin, and loaded his only basket with suspect-looking eggs by leading a spade to the jack at trick two. That lost to the queen and hearts were cleared before clubs were established, and Mizel finished two down, -100.

In the other room, Hackett found the promising lead of a low spade, and Onstott played low from dummy, taking the ten with the king to start on diamonds. Hackett gave the wrong diamond count, so when Armstrong took the second diamond, he played a third rather than switch to hearts. Onstott, delighted, won and knocked out the ♣K for +430 and another 11 IMPs, 64-17.

At double dummy, the only lead to defeat 3NT is a diamond, allowing South to win and switch to hearts. After the heart lead, declarer can get home by clearing clubs or by crossing to the ♠A to lose the club finesse. South eventually comes under pressure in three suits and must part with his long heart, allowing declarer to knock out the ♦A if he reads the position correctly. After a spade lead, declarer can get home legitimately by driving out the ♣K and spurning the finesse when North continues spades, not so easy to

foresee.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 98		
Vul: N/S	♥ 76		
	♦ AQJ943		
	♣ 863		
	West		East
	♠ KQJ10		♠ A42
	♥ AQ		♥ KJ10543
	♦ K108		♦ 52
	♣ AK105		♣ 92
	South		
	♠ 7653		
	♥ 982		
	♦ 76		
	♣ QJ74		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
2NT	Pass	4♣(1)	Pass
4♦	Dbl	Pass	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
(1) Hearts, slam interest			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

With 6♥ or 6NT cold from the West side, stopping in 4♥ was not so wonderful for the E/W pairs but the board was flat at +480. About half the field bid slam, all but four pairs from the West side. Only one of those Easts was defeated, so it was not always so attractive for North to mention his diamonds at unfavorable vulnerability.



"All right, now where's the real card?"

Bd: 13	North			
Dlr: North	♠ QJ74			
Vul: Both	♥ AQ2			
	♦ A98			
	♣ AJ2			
	West		East	
	♠ K32		♠ 1095	
	♥ 853		♥ KJ64	
	♦ KJ654		♦ 3	
	♣ K6		♣ 98743	
	South			
	♠ A86			
	♥ 1097			
	♦ Q1072			
	♣ Q105			
	Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>	
	1♣	Pass	1♦	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				
	Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	
	1♠	Pass	1NT	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

Against Sutherlin, Tosh led the ♠10, curiously ducked by Mizel. That didn't cost as Tosh did not hold the ♠Q, but it gave declarer a second *fast* spade trick. Sutherlin played ♦A, ♦9 to the jack, Tosh discarding the ♠9. Mizel switched accurately to hearts, but his choice of card – the five – was hard for Tosh to read when he won the jack. He continued hearts, but now Sutherlin had two hearts, two spades, and (in a moment) two diamonds, and he used the ♠A to cash the ♦Q and take the club finesse for +600.

Armstrong, declaring from the other side, got a favorable diamond lead from Onstott. He overtook dummy's eight with the ten and led a low spade to the queen, off to a good start. Uncertain about how best to continue, Armstrong gave up on the club finesse, leading low to the ten and king. The ♥8 was ducked to the jack and Hayden exited safely with a club to

dummy's ace. Armstrong cleared spades now, but Onstott could lead a second heart through dummy. Armstrong elected to win, cash spades, cross to the ♣Q, and lead a diamond, but Onstott played the jack, and had a heart left after winning the ♦K; one down, –100. Declarer's line would have worked had Onstott been dealt 3=2=5=3 shape, and his heart plays suggested that might well have been the case. Kasle gained another 12 IMPs and run off 70 IMPs without reply to lead 76-17.

Bd: 15	North			
Dlr: South	♠ ---			
Vul: N/S	♥ J732			
	♦ Q10864			
	♣ KQ109			
	West		East	
	♠ 8		♠ QJ109742	
	♥ AQ95		♥ K108	
	♦ A752		♦ J	
	♣ 6543		♣ 72	
	South			
	♠ AK653			
	♥ 64			
	♦ K93			
	♣ AJ8			
	Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>	
			1♠	
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				
	Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>	
			1NT	
Pass	2♣	2♠	Dbf	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

Sutherlin went down in 3NT without much fuss after the lead of the ♠Q to dummy's ace; he led the ♦K, and continued the suit when the jack appeared, but when Mizel won the ♦A, he switched to a low heart and the defense cashed four tricks in that suit, –100.

Onstott led a spade from the West side, which led to more or less the same position when Armstrong crossed to a club to start diamonds. Onstott took his ace on the third round and saw Hayden discard first the ♠4, then the ♥8. That last discard was not so good for the defense as it blocked the run of the heart suit, but Onstott exited with his last diamond in any case, and Armstrong apparently claimed 10 tricks for +630. Hackett gained 12 IMPs to stop the bleeding, 19-76.

dropped tripleton and the ♣A remained in dummy to cash four heart winners.

In the Closed Room, Hayden led the ♦9 to the king and Onstott switched to the ♥J. Hackett won in dummy and cashed a second high heart, Onstott contributing the ten. Declarer drew trumps and claimed, with the ♣A the late entry for the ♥Q9; +980. Had Onstott switched to a low cub, we might still be waiting for a result from that table.

In the Open Room, Tosh found the wonderful lead of the ♣4. Sutherlin gave that a very long look before playing low from dummy, and the rest was easy. He made seven for +1010, and 1 IMP to Kasle, 77-35.

In the match between OzOne-Del'Monte and Fairy Tale, **Ishmael Del'Monte** also led the ♣4 against the inimitable Zhong Fu, star of China's national team. "Fuski" elected to go up with the ace, West contributing the nine. Declarer discarded a diamond and two clubs on the high hearts, but West could ruff the ♥9, and so the deal boiled down to the play of the club suit after trumps were drawn, with declarer holding Q8 opposite dummy's 106. Declarer elected to play for the jack to be doubleton by leading the *queen* from hand, and Ish will have a story for his grandchildren somewhere down the road!

Bd: 17	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AKQJ1073		
Vul: None	♥ ---		
	♦ J		
	♣ Q8753		
West		East	
♠ 942		♠ 6	
♥ J107		♥ 86432	
♦ AK103		♦ 96542	
♣ J92		♣ K4	
	South		
	♠ 85		
	♥ AKQ95		
	♦ Q87		
	♣ A106		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Mizel	Sutherlin	McIntosh	Kasle
	1♠	Pass	2♥(FG)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Onstott	Hackett	Hayden	Armstrong
	1♠	Pass	2♥(FG)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	



Zhong "Fuski" Fu



Ishmael Del'Monte

About half the field bid 6♠, and most of the bold bidders made their contract when the ♥J10

Bd: 18	North		
Dir: East	♠ KJ86		
Vul: N/S	♥ K6532		
	♦ A2		
	♣ A2		
West		East	
♠ AQ		♠ 10953	
♥ 74		♥ AQJ9	
♦ K1064		♦ 75	
♣ KQ1093		♣ J65	
	South		
	♠ 742		
	♥ 108		
	♦ QJ983		
	♣ 874		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Mizel</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Kasle</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Dbl	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Onstott</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
		Pass	Pass
1NT	2♣(1)	Pass	2♦(2)
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Hearts and another suit			
(2) Pass-or-correct			

Please correct me if I'm wrong, but would anyone describe the bidding of Sutherlin and Onstott on this deal as anything but wildly optimistic. Sutherlin was extremely lucky not to be doubled in 2♥ by Tosh, but he was -300 nonetheless, not exactly a triumph.

Onstott's 3NT, despite an obvious lack of resources, has plenty of play, and, in fact, is cold against any defense. Declarer finessed the ♥J at trick one and started clubs. North won and continued hearts, declarer finessing again to cash the ♥A (discarding a diamond) before running clubs. Hackett discarded as well as he could: ♠J, ♠6, heart, but Onstott could make his contract now by playing ♠A, ♠Q to collect the ♦K in the end. Instead, he exited with the ♦K, and Hackett could win, cash his heart, and exit in diamonds to set the contract, -50. That was 8 IMPs to Hackett, 43-77, and a partscore swing on Board 19 brought in another 5 IMPs to make it respectable. It ended with Kasle winning the slugfest 77-49, 21-9 in VP. Kasle ended the day fourth, Hackett tied ninth/tenth with two Swiss matches to play.



"Fascinating. According to this, three teams played in this two-way match."

## Images of Our Game



"We wish you a Merry Christmas..."



"I think 2000 Yen on Dogmeat is the best bet in the 5<sup>th</sup> race."



"If we turn here we end up in Chernobyl."

## Round Seven: Israel vs France

by Eric Kokish

In winning France's first Women's title in Estoril, the Venice Cup champs turned in one of the most consistent performances in the history of bridge, averaging over 20 VP per match in the round robin, rolling over their quarterfinal and semifinal opponents, and pulling away to win comfortably over old nemesis Germany in the final while playing their front four throughout.

**Benedicte Cronier-Sylvie Willard, Catherine d'Ovidio-Daniele Gaviard** have been consistent in the NEC too, of course, and in Round Seven they faced the equally consistent NEC-lovers, Israel: **the Brothers Yadlin (Doron and Israel, now known affectionately as "Izzy"), Michael "don't talk to me when I'm dieting" Barel-Migry "meatballs" Campanile**. This figured to be a close match, but I've said that before and regretted it, although not in the last 24 hours. Having dined Italian with the Israelis on Tuesday and Korean with the French on Wednesday, it's fair to say I was rooting for a dignified draw on Thursday.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With the ♠K onside, 3NT produces nine or 10 tricks on a diamond lead (let's forget about the suit being blocked), depending on when you take the spade finesse, but 5♣ is a superior contract, as it will make 75% of the time—when either the ♠K or the ♥A is onside. Although I much prefer d'Ovidio's gentle 2♣ to Barel's 2♥ reverse-cum-fourth-suit 3♦, both sequences seem to focus on catching South with both a diamond guard and the ♣K. While that could be enough, the North hand is so suit-oriented that there is much to be said for aiming towards 5♣ instead. Had South been more involved in an opinion about strain than about stoppers, she would certainly have voted for clubs. Gaviard took the spade finesse early enough to enjoy dummy's jack; Campanile did not, so France gained an IMP, 1-0.

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AQ		
Vul: None	♥ K765		
	♦ 4		
	♣ AQ9872		
	West	East	
	♠ K5	♠ 109742	
	♥ AJ2	♥ Q983	
	♦ 876532	♦ KQJ	
	♣ J4	♣ 5	
	South		
	♠ J863		
	♥ 104		
	♦ A109		
	♣ K1063		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: East	♠ A		
Vul: N/S	♥ 10764		
	♦ J5		
	♣ AJ9875		
	West	East	
	♠ KJ107642	♠ 53	
	♥ A8	♥ QJ95	
	♦ AK103	♦ 864	
	♣ ---	♣ KQ32	
	South		
	♠ Q98		
	♥ K32		
	♦ Q972		
	♣ 1064		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

D'Ovidio led the ♥6 against Doron's 4♠. The queen won and a trump went to the nine, jack, and ace. D'Ovidio tried to cash the ♣A, but Doron ruffed and had to decide whether to cash the ♠K. He did, and got the bad news, conceded a trump, and won the heart continuation to play two more trumps before leading three rounds of diamonds. Gaviard had two tricks there and Doron was one down, -50.

Against Willard, Barel led the ♣A, ruffed. Declarer played ace-king and a third diamond, her best play. North discarded the ♥4, discouraging, and Campanile won the ♦9 to continue with the ♦Q. Barel elected to ruff with the ace, but it did not matter. Endplayed, he exited with a heart to the queen, king, and ace. Willard could use the ♥J to take a trump finesse, but had to lose to the ♠Q for +420. 10 IMPs to France, ahead 11-0.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 94		
Vul: E/W	♥ QJ8		
	♦ KQ952		
	♣ Q83		
	West	East	
	♠ J6	♠ AKQ8	
	♥ A95	♥ 63	
	♦ J7643	♦ A108	
	♣ 975	♣ A1042	
	South		
	♠ 107532		
	♥ K10742		
	♦ ---		
	♣ KJ6		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣(1)
2♦	Dbl	All Pass	
(1) Hearts and spades			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1NT	2♣(1)
Pass	2♥	All Pass	
(1) Hearts and spades			

Against Barel's 2♥, Cronier led the ♥3, hoping to protect her spade tricks. Willard played the ace and returned the five to declarer's queen. A low club went to the jack and a spade toward the closed hand went to the nine and queen. Cronier played ♣A, club, and Barel won in dummy to continue spades. Willard won the jack and led a third trump, and Barel lost two more spades and the ♦A to go one down, -50.

Doron, in 2♦ doubled, received the lead of the ♥Q, which he ducked. He took the ♥J continuation with the ace to lead a trump to dummy's eight before playing three rounds of spades to discard a club. D'Ovidio ruffed and switched to the ♣Q, but Doron took dummy's ace and discarded his remaining club on a high spade as d'Ovidio ruffed with the ♦9. She had a trump trick coming, but Doron could ruff a heart in dummy for an overtrick; +380. Israel gained 8 IMPs, 8-11.

France was back in business on the next deal...

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J96532		
Vul: Both	♥ J5		
	♦ KQ3		
	♣ 86		
	West	East	
	♠ 104	♠ AQ8	
	♥ 94	♥ AK763	
	♦ 97654	♦ J8	
	♣ 10743	♣ Q92	
	South		
	♠ K7		
	♥ Q1082		
	♦ A102		
	♣ AKJ5		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	1NT
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both Izzy's 1NT and Campanile's 4♠ were too high (sort of). Izzy was lucky to come to five tricks, but that was -200, a good result only if N/S could bid and make 3NT. Campanile-Barel did get to game, but 4♠ had no chance. In trying to create a position where the opponents' spade honors would telescope to one trick, Migry shortened dummy once too often, so East took the last three tricks with two high trumps and the thirteenth heart, -200. France gained 9 IMPs and led 20-8.

Bd: 5		North	
Dir: North		♠ K	
Vul: N/S		♥ A9843	
		♦ KJ3	
		♣ K1054	
West		East	
♠ 63		♠ QJ10854	
♥ Q1062		♥ 75	
♦ 2		♦ 765	
♣ AQ9872		♣ J6	
		South	
		♠ A972	
		♥ KJ	
		♦ AQ10984	
		♣ 3	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
	1♥	2♠	3♦
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♦(FG)
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

6♦ is well worth bidding, and more than half the N/S pairs got there. The Yadrins really gave their opponents a hard ride and it's difficult to find fault with any of the N/S actions. Gaviard took 10 tricks for +630. The French style of weak jump overcalls is a bit more conservative than the mainstream approach, so Cronier's opponents were able to exchange two more natural bids at a lower level, although 2♥ didn't mean much. Campanile had a difficult bid over 4♦ and opted for a nonforcing 4♥ rather than a slam-try 4♠. Although Barel could have continued with 4♠, he was not really thinking of slam over the choice-of-games 4♥, so he simply gave preference. Campanile gave her last bid a lot of thought, but settled for 5♦, +620. Both N/S pairs were delighted to avoid a big loss on this one.

Bd: 6		North	
Dir: East		♠ Q	
Vul: E/W		♥ A1062	
		♦ A1052	
		♣ Q862	
West		East	
♠ J		♠ AK2	
♥ KJ54		♥ Q73	
♦ KJ3		♦ Q98764	
♣ A9743		♣ 10	
		South	
		♠ 109876543	
		♥ 98	
		♦ ---	
		♣ KJ5	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
		1♦	4♠
DbI All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		1♦	4♠
DbI All Pass			

4♠ worked well enough for the South players, as E/W could hardly do anything differently, and the result was one down, -100, but as E/W could not make 5♦, doubling 4♠ was their par result.

Bd: 7		North	
Dir: South		♠ A42	
Vul: Both		♥ J	
		♦ AJ1094	
		♣ 8752	
West		East	
♠ 10863		♠ Q5	
♥ Q4		♥ AK10632	
♦ 852		♦ K7	
♣ AK104		♣ Q93	
		South	
		♠ KJ97	
		♥ 9875	
		♦ Q63	
		♣ J6	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♥	All Pass
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Both 4♥ and 3NT are excellent for E/W, and perhaps West should do more. Doron could expect a decent hand from Izzy as he had not opened a weak two-bid facing a passed partner, and Willard saw Cronier try for game opposite at most two-card heart support. Both declarers took 11 tricks for an undistinguished push.

Bd: 8		North	
Dir: West		♠ 75	
Vul: None		♥ J95	
		♦ K97	
		♣ KJ1063	
West		East	
♠ QJ43		♠ K86	
♥ A106		♥ K4	
♦ 108652		♦ AQ3	
♣ Q		♣ A9875	
		South	
		♠ A1092	
		♥ Q8732	
		♦ J4	
		♣ 42	

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♣	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both declarers took nine tricks in 3NT on a club lead, crossing to a spade to clear diamonds. 3♣ redoubled would have been touch and go, but Willard would surely have made 2♣ redoubled had the partnership been able to arrange playing there. No swing at E/W +400.

Bd: 11		North	
Dir: South		♠ A63	
Vul: None		♥ Q82	
		♦ 104	
		♣ K10754	
West		East	
♠ Q94		♠ K7	
♥ AJ653		♥ K9	
♦ A8762		♦ 953	
♣ ---		♣ Q98632	
		South	
		♠ J10852	
		♥ 1074	
		♦ KQJ	
		♣ AJ	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
2♠(1)	Dbl	2NT(2)	1♠
3♦	3♠	All Pass	Pass
(1) Hearts and a minor			
(2) Which minor?			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
2♥	2♠	Pass	1♠
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass

Against Gaviard's 3♠, Doron led the ♦A, saw the

discouraging nine, and switched to ♠A, ♥3. Izzy won the ♥K and returned the ♣9. Doron ruffed, gave East a heart ruff, and got another club ruff. A fourth heart ensured that the defense would get another trick; -150.

Against Willard's 3♥, Barel led a club, deuce, jack. Declarer ruffed and played on diamonds, but lost control and could not draw trumps, so went -50. Israel gained 5 IMPs, 13-21.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q986		
Vul: N/S	♥ KJ98		
	♦ 76		
	♣ AK2		
		West	East
		♠ 10	♠ KJ5
		♥ 3	♥ A6542
		♦ KQ10942	♦ A53
		♣ 109765	♣ J8
			South
			♠ A7432
			♥ Q107
			♦ J8
			♣ Q43
		Open Room	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
2NT(1)	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	3♠
All Pass			
(1) 3-9 HCP, both minors			
	Closed Room		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♦	2♠	3♦	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

Gaviard would have held her trump losers to one in 3♠ had she gained the lead in time, but Doron led his singleton heart and got a ruff, and the defense had a trump and two diamonds coming for one down, -100. In 4♦, Willard lost only two clubs and a spade, so France gained an IMP for +130, 22-13.

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K9862		
Vul: Both	♥ KJ984		
	♦ 65		
	♣ 6		
		West	East
		♠ Q3	♠ AJ
		♥ 2	♥ AQ10
		♦ AKQ32	♦ 10987
		♣ AKJ43	♣ Q1085
			South
			♠ 10754
			♥ 7653
			♦ J4
			♣ 972
		Open Room	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣(1)	3♣(2)	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
7♣	All Pass		
(1) F1, support			
(2) Hearts and spades			
	Closed Room		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Only 12 of 42 E/W pairs reached 7♣ or 7♦ on a deal that was more difficult than it might seem. Izzy's 1♣ opening worked well because Doron could find out about the ♣Q more easily, but Willard-Cronier needed to do some guessing when Cronier never supported clubs. Perhaps 6♣ over 5NT would have done the trick. Israel gained 13 IMPs for +2140 vs -1390, and took the lead, 26-22.

**When all else fails...PANIC!**

Bd: 14		North	
Dir: East		♠ 52	
Vul: None		♥ AKQ973	
		♦ 63	
		♣ QJ9	
West		East	
♠ Q10976		♠ A83	
♥ J		♥ 1065	
♦ AJ105		♦ KQ42	
♣ 1032		♣ K87	
		South	
		♠ KJ4	
		♥ 842	
		♦ 987	
		♣ A654	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	Dbl(3♠)	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
3♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Against Doron's 3♠, d'Ovidio led the ♥A, got a count card, and switched to the ♣Q, which held, Gaviard following with the six. If Doron had only five spades, there was no need to continue clubs, but d'Ovidio could not be sure of the position and so continued with the ♣J. Doron covered, then got the trumps right for +140. In 3♥, Barel was treated to three rounds of diamonds. He ruffed and drew trumps, Willard parting with her last diamond on the third round. Now Barel played the ♣Q, ducked, and the ♣J, covered. He took the ace and played a third club, and Willard had to break spades after winning the ♣10; +140. A nice team result for Israel, those 7 IMPs extending the lead to 33-22.

**Words of wisdom: Never play bridge with someone crazier than you.**

Bd: 15		North	
Dir: South		♠ J6	
Vul: N/S		♥ K73	
		♦ Q532	
		♣ AKQ10	
West		East	
♠ Q10543		♠ A9	
♥ A1096		♥ QJ84	
♦ K10		♦ J76	
♣ 73		♣ J654	
		South	
		♠ K872	
		♥ 52	
		♦ A984	
		♣ 982	
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥	All Pass
(1) Hearts and spades			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♥	All Pass
(1) Hearts and spades			

2♥ went down at both tables after a trump lead, ducked, two high clubs, and a second trump, when both declarers played ♠A, ♠9, passing it to the jack. A third trump left declarer with another spade to lose. Izzy got the diamonds wrong to go two down, so France gained 2 IMPs, 24-33.

Bd: 18		North	
Dir: East		♠ KQ43	
Vul: N/S		♥ 1073	
		♦ Q1094	
		♣ Q5	
West		East	
♠ ---		♠ 87	
♥ QJ8542		♥ K	
♦ J6		♦ AK853	
♣ K8432		♣ AJ1097	
		South	
		♠ AJ109652	
		♥ A96	
		♦ 72	
		♣ 6	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
		1♦	1♠
Dbl*	2♠	3♣	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		1♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	5♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♥(♠)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦(1)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Hearts or spades

5♣ doubled was cold for six, +650; no swing. The N/S pairs will have a definite view about the double and leaving it in, but the net effect of the double was to offer North the choice between -650 and -800 (assuming perfect defense).

The last board of the tight match was a great one for the N/S pairs, both of whom arranged to play 4♠ from the North side. Both Easts led the ♥A, which ended the defense. No swing at N/S +620.

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ 73		
Vul: Both	♥ QJ32		
	♦ Q85		
	♣ A843		
		West	East
		♠ 52	♠ 109
		♥ 1094	♥ AK6
		♦ 732	♦ AJ109
		♣ K10965	♣ QJ72
			South
			♠ AKQJ864
			♥ 875
			♦ K64
			♣ ---

Barel's 2♠ pass-or-correct response suggested a hand suitable for play in at least 3♥, so perhaps Bene should have led a trump, but that's easier to suggest with all the cards in view. Izzy had less to guide him at his table.

Israel won the well-played match 34-24, and solidified their claim on the Swiss. The Yadlins had been particularly effective for Israel.

<p><b>Q: Why do little boys whine?</b></p> <p><b>A: They're practicing to be men.</b></p>
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## 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 his table has finished all the boards for that segment.

### 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.

## Round Eight: HANA vs Mahaffey

by Rich Colker

The final featured qualifying match saw HANA (**Takashi Maeda, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Seiya Shimizu, Takeshi Hanayama, Sei Nagasaka**), currently tied for twelfth place with 117 VPs, take on Mahaffey (**Jim Mahaffey, Barnet Shenkin, Michal Kwiecien, Jacek Pszczola, Mark Lair, Gary Cohler**), who was tied for tenth place with 120 VPs. Both teams were easily in the hunt to qualify (eighth place was 124 VPs) so it was every man for himself.

For the first four boards not a single IMP was scored. Then the swings started coming—in double digits.

dummy, probably to take a trump finesse. But when Pepsi rose with the ♣A to avoid a possible throw-in later, the mystery in that suit was over and ten tricks came rolling home; +620.

Shimizu's decision to stay out of the auction worked out well for his side in an unusual way. While 5♦ looks to be a good save against a making 4♥, there is no guarantee that declarer will make it by guessing clubs correctly. But by allowing N/S free reign they discovered their double fit and bid aggressively to a slam which had no play on the lie of the cards. Against 6♣ Shimizu led a heart looking to give Kobayashi a ruff. Then, when Cohler played a trump toward dummy at trick three, he rose with the ace and played a second heart for his partner to ruff for one down; -100. 12 IMPs to HANA.

Bd: 5	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AQ98		
Vul: N/S	♥ AKJ4		
	♦ ---		
	♣ K9765		
West		East	
♠ J10732		♠ 64	
♥ 2		♥ Q1083	
♦ QJ843		♦ K10752	
♣ J4		♣ A3	
	South		
	♠ K5		
	♥ 9765		
	♦ A96		
	♣ Q1082		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
	1♣	1♦	1♥
4♦	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Lair</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Nagasaka had a bit in reserve for his 4♥ bid (a 5♦ cue-bid is definitely aggressive but not out of the question) but came up smelling like a rose when trumps broke badly. Hanayama ruffed the ♦Q lead, cashed the ♥A, and led a club toward

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 632		
Vul: E/W	♥ 4		
	♦ J1073		
	♣ 106543		
West		East	
♠ AQ10		♠ KJ54	
♥ 9632		♥ KQJ5	
♦ Q6		♦ A852	
♣ KQ98		♣ 7	
	South		
	♠ 987		
	♥ A1087		
	♦ K94		
	♣ AJ2		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
		1♦	Dbl
Rdbl	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Lair</i>
		1♦	Dbl
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The eternal question: game in a four-four major-suit fit or game in notrump? Kwiecien took the low road by redoubling rather than bidding his nine-fourth and when Pepsi bid the suit anyway he ignored him and jumped to 3NT. His reward for leaning toward Coke was that 3NT had nine relatively easy tricks while 4♥ was touch-and-go; +600.

In the other room, Kobayashi took the high road by bidding his ugly major. When Shimizu raised, he double clutched and tried 3NT, but it was too late: ♥KQJx was just too tempting and Shimizu converted to 4♥. Played from the West side, 4♥ fails on a diamond lead. But Cohler was not up to that and tried the ♠2. Kobayashi won his queen and led a heart to the king, ducked, then the ♥Q. Lair won his ace and tried a second spade. Kobayashi won the ace, played a third spade to the jack, then played a club. Lair did well to duck and Kobayashi put up the queen, then ruffed a club to dummy. Now he was at the crossroads. He erred by playing the last spade and Lair ruffed and exited with a heart, leaving declarer a trick short; one down, -100, and 12 IMPs to Mahaffey, tied now at 12 all.

Getting back to the crossroads, the hand can be made by cashing the ♥J *before* playing the last spade. If South ruffs, declarer pitches a club from hand and South can cash the ♣A but is then endplayed in diamonds. If South refuses to ruff the last spade, declarer pitches a diamond from hand and then ruffs a diamond for his tenth trick. Of course 4♥ is cold from the East side.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ Q642
Vul: Both	♥ 96
	♦ J432
	♣ 974
West	East
♠ AJ3	♠ K985
♥ J853	♥ A2
♦ Q106	♦ 87
♣ KQ8	♣ A6532
	South
	♠ 107
	♥ KQ1074
	♦ AK95
	♣ J10

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
			1♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Lair</i>
			1♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Against Pepsi's 3NT Hanayama led fourth from his longest and strongest. Pepsi rose with the ♥J and ran his clubs, took the losing spade finesse, and now had ten tricks: five clubs, three spades, and two hearts for +630.

Against Kobayashi's 3NT Cohler led the ♥9 to the ace and Kobayashi also ran his clubs, then took the losing spade finesse. Cohler returned the ♦2, at which point the play record ends, saying only that declarer claimed down two, -200. Our guess is that Lair won the ♦A, led back a small one, and declarer misguessed to lose six tricks. In any case -200 was 13 more IMPs to Mahaffey, leading 25-12.

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q6		
Vul: None	♥ 106		
	♦ J1085		
	♣ QJ1094		
West	East		
♠ 874	♠ A103		
♥ J9874	♥ 5		
♦ Q97	♦ A62		
♣ A2	♣ K87653		
	South		
	♠ KJ952		
	♥ AKQ32		
	♦ K43		
	♣		
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♠
All Pass			



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Lair</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I subscribe to the philosophy that one might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. Applied here, if you're going to go down, it might as well be in game as in a partscore. So Gary Cohler wins the chutzpah award but both tables failed by one trick. No swing...now back to the vine.

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 74		
Vul: E/W	♥ 9743		
	♦ A54		
	♣ AJ96		
		West	East
		♠ 1092	♠ 65
		♥ AQ102	♥ KJ
		♦ 1072	♦ QJ986
		♣ 842	♣ KQ107
			South
			♠ AKQJ83
			♥ 865
			♦ K3
			♣ 53
		Open Room	
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
		<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>
			<i>Pszczola</i>
			<i>Hanayama</i>
		Pass	Pass
		1♠	2♥
		2♠	3♥
		3♥	4♥
		4♥	
		4♥	
		All Pass	
		Closed Room	
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
		<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cohler</i>
			<i>Shimizu</i>
			<i>Lair</i>
		Pass	Pass
		Pass	Pass
		1♠	2♥
		2♠	2NT
		2NT	
		3NT	
		All Pass	

Stoppers are for children, and Nagasaka's 1NT is the value bid and earns the editors' approval. Hanayama's 3♠, on the other hand, seems a bit misdirected (3NT is our choice) and this time he was duly punished. 4♠ went one down, -50, while there were nine top tricks in 3NT, +400. 10 IMPs to Mahaffey, who upped his lead to 23 at

35-12.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ QJ		
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ842		
	♦ J1062		
	♣ 5		
		West	East
		♠ K8763	♠ 1042
		♥ 9	♥ J75
		♦ A3	♦ Q87
		♣ KJ1082	♣ A976
			South
			♠ A95
			♥ 1063
			♦ K954
			♣ Q43
		Open Room	
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
		<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>
			<i>Pszczola</i>
			<i>Hanayama</i>
		Pass	Pass
		1♠	2♥
		2♠	3♥
		3♥	4♥
		4♥	
		All Pass	
		Closed Room	
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
		<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cohler</i>
			<i>Shimizu</i>
			<i>Lair</i>
		Pass	Pass
		Pass	Pass
		1♠	2♥
		2♠	2NT
		2NT	
		3NT	
		All Pass	

Here South had to guess what positive action to take over 2♠ at both tables. Hanayama chose to raise his partner's major, Lair aimed at notrump with his flat distribution. This time the major-suit game was the right one as Kobayashi's ♣J lead hit gold and the defense took the first six tricks at 3NT, -200, while 4♥ came home with ease for +620. 13 IMPs to HANA, down 10 at 25-35.



"Hey, don't ignore me when I'm arguing with you."

Bd: 16	North			
Dir: West	♠ AK2			
Vul: E/W	♥ 6			
	♦ KJ98743			
	♣ 97			
	West		East	
	♠ J9753		♠ Q10	
	♥ 52		♥ KQJ1093	
	♦ A5		♦ 1062	
	♣ K1086		♣ 43	
		South		
		♠ 864		
		♥ A874		
		♦ Q		
		♣ AQJ52		
	Open Room			
	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Nagasaka</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Hanayama</i>
	Pass	1♦	2♥	3♣
	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
	Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
	Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Lair</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	2♣
Dbl	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Doubles like Kwiecien's may work out well on occasion, but frankly they're not my cup of tea. Here it cost 4 IMPs when 5♦ was unassailable: -550 in the Open Room vs +400 in the Closed Room. 4 IMPs to HANA, trailing now by only 3 at 34-37.

Mahaffey picked up 2 more IMPs over the last four boards and won the match 47-42, 16-14 in VPs. Both teams will get to play tomorrow—in the Yokohama Swiss.

## A Switch in Time

In our Round Five coverage of the match between Israel and Italy in yesterday's bulletin, we briefly described the result on Board 20, on which Israel Yadlin found a nice defense against North's 3NT contract. Izzy filled us in on the details of his thinking, and we thought we'd share them with you. This was the layout.

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ QJ92		
Vul: Both	♥ QJ96		
	♦ K9843		
	♣ ---		
	West		East
	♠ K84		♠ 107653
	♥ 10875		♥ K42
	♦ 10		♦ A6
	♣ A10964		♣ Q83
		South	
		♠ A	
		♥ A3	
		♦ QJ752	
		♣ KJ752	

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Izzy led the ♠7 to dummy's ace, as Doron and declarer followed low. When declarer played a low diamond off dummy to the ten and queen, Izzy reasoned that declarer would likely hold the ♦K, ♥QJ, and ♠K (based on Doron's ♠4 at trick one), so the only significant card Doron could hold was the ♣A. Thus, a club switch must be right. North must be 4=4=5=0 or 4=4=4=1 on the auction; if the latter, his club might be the nine or ten, in which case he had to play the ♣Q to smother declarer's spot. Backing his judgment, Izzy played the ♣Q, setting up four club tricks for the defense to go with their spade and diamond tricks. Now 3NT failed by two tricks; -200.

At the other table Migry Campanile, goddess of the pasteboards, played in 5♦ and came home with 11 tricks for +600. 13 IMPs to Israel.

# Highlights of the 2005 World Championship Finals

by Eric Kokish

Each day we'll publish a couple of hands from the World Championship finals (Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup) in Estoril last year. Enjoy!

Bd: 1	♠ 109		
Dlr: North	♥ KJ1082		
Vul: None	♦ QJ9		
	♣ KQ10		
	♠ AKQJ52	♠ 3	
	♥ 9	♥ AQ763	
	♦ ---	♦ 108743	
	♣ 876542	♣ A 3	
	♠ 8764		
	♥ 54		
	♦ AK652		
	♣ J9		
Bermuda Bowl			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
	1♥	Pass	1NT
2♥(1)	Pass	2NT(2)	Pass
4♠(3)	All Pass		
(1) Spades and a minor			
(2) Inquiry, stronger than "pass-or-correct" 3♣			
(3) 6+♠, not strong (else 3♥/3NT/4♣/4♦/4♥)			
Venice Cup			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Schraverus</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♠	All Pass		

Hamman-Soloway rarely respond in a poor four-card spade suit to a 1♥ opening, as they open 2♦ with a limited opening bid containing four spades and five or six hearts. Soloway's 1NT response gave Duboin less reason to fear a bad spade break than Rodwell, who had to contend with a natural 1♠ response by Versace, so stopping short of 4♠ was not a real issue in the Closed Room. Where Rodwell could not show his two-suiter wholesale and boldly took a direct shot at 4♠, Duboin had the option of trying to describe the nature of his peculiar hand, and exercised it. However, when Bocchi inquired about the minor, Duboin preferred to conceal its identity in the interest of reaching the game he thought would be best, essentially giving up on 6♣ opposite ♣AKxx, or perhaps the ♥A and four clubs good enough to play for one loser. 4♠, while depicting a very strong six- or seven-card suit, did not suggest a high-card hand, so Bocchi was not tempted to move forward. At both tables, North led the ♣K, declarer playing ace and a second club. South won and played a trump. Declarer drew trumps and conceded a club for +450, no swing. USA, 20-0.

After the "natural" start at both tables in the Venice Cup final, neither West was inclined to commit to game in spades, and hoped to show clubs later. Although East had a potentially useful hand, and 2NT was a possibility, the vulnerability made it less attractive to advance positively, and 2♠ was passed out at both tables. D'Ovidio led a trump, Schraverus the ♣K, but nothing mattered after either lead and both declarers took the same 11 tricks for +200, no swing. France, 16-0.

Can 4♠ be made on the ♦Q lead? Declarer ruffs and plays ♣A, club, South winning to lead a low diamond (a trump clearly won't work). Declarer discards a club as North wins the ♦J, and covers the ♦9 with the ten, ruffing South's ace. Now he can draw trumps, discarding hearts, finesse the ♥Q, cash the ace, and exit with the ♦8. South, down (perforce) to ♦K6, must give dummy one of the last two tricks. If North plays the ♣K when in with the ♦J, South can neither over-ruff nor discard with profit. Alternatively, declarer can take the heart finesse at trick two (a favorite,

given the auction and the lead), cash the ♠A, and play ace and a club. If tapped, declarer ruffs in hand and ruffs the third round of clubs in dummy. If South over-ruffs, declarer can ruff the diamond return and pull trumps; if South discards, the club ruff is declarer's tenth trick. So, yes, 4♠ is cold.

The second deal brought two opening-lead issues into play, one more subtle than the other.

Bd: 2	♠ 10842		
Dir: East	♥ AK108		
Vul: N/S	♦ 1053		
	♣ Q8		
	♠ K6	♠ Q975	
	♥ Q7532	♥ 94	
	♦ J	♦ AKQ942	
	♣ AK1073	♣ J	
	♠ AJ3		
	♥ J6		
	♦ 876		
	♣ 96542		
Bermuda Bowl			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
		1♦(1)	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣(2)	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) Precision, 2+♦			
(2) 4SF			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
		1♦(1)	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣(2)	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) Unbalanced			
(2) 4SF			
Venice Cup			
Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
		1♠(1)	Pass
2♦(2)	Pass	3♦(3)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) 4+♠, limited			
(2) 5+♥, INV+			
(3) NAT, FG, denies good heart support, possible canapé			

Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Schraverus</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣(1)	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
(1) 5+H/5+C, FG			

At all four tables, East showed length in the pointed suits, West heart length and values and/or club length. All four North players led a spade.

As Auken might have had five spades, d'Ovidio's choice-of-suits decision was more difficult than her counterparts'. Her partnership agreement is to lead fourth best, even from weak holdings, and as the eight might be an important card and the four potentially confusing, she settled for the deuce, the true count card. When von Arnim called for the five, Gaviard had to weigh her chances of defeating the contract when d'Ovidio had the ♠K (playing the ♠J, she would need two tricks outside spades) against the chances for a set by winning the ace and finding d'Ovidio with four tricks outside spades (or the ♠K and three tricks elsewhere). With nothing to go on, playing the jack seems to require less from partner, but in cases like this, partnership experience and tendencies are more important than most other factors. The crucial issue for South is whether this particular North would lead low from king (ten)-fourth in dummy's suit, rather than the king, or (more likely) another suit. If partnership history or discussion suggests that North would be more inclined to lead from a neutral holding on this type of auction that evidence should be relied upon to solve South's third-hand problem. Gaviard put in the jack. Von Arnim won the king, overtook the ♦J, ran that suit, and played clubs from the top, dropping North's queen. Gaviard kept a club guard, so von Arnim had to settle for 10 tricks; +430.

Alberti-Schraverus lead second-highest from weak holdings, including ten-fourth, so the eight was the systemic spade for Schraverus, the internal issues in the suit notwithstanding. When Willard called for dummy's nine, Alberti should not have gone wrong, especially with the seven in dummy. She played the jack, however, and Willard took the same 10 tricks as von Arnim (she could have taken another trick, as Alberti

released a second club after declarer discarded one, but Willard also discarded another club); +430, no swing. France, 16-0.

Hamman-Soloway use judgment when leading from relatively weak holdings, leading second or fourth best according to their perception of the situation. Hamman considered the eight slightly too dangerous in context and led the deuce, which Duboin asked Bocchi to cover with the five. After seven years and five world championships as a partnership, Soloway has a good feel for Hamman's opening-lead style, but this particular auction was not heavily represented in the partnership's data bank. Soloway felt he couldn't rule out king-fourth or king-third when Hamman might have led a higher card with both a weak holding in spades and a particularly strong one in hearts (or clubs); he played the jack. Duboin finished with the "usual" 10 tricks, Soloway releasing a second

club only after Duboin did; +430.

Lauria-Versace believe in attitude leads against notrump contracts, and, like their teammates, prefer a passive opening-lead style when only four-card suits are involved. Lauria might have led the ♠8, but also considered that too likely to cost a trick, and so settled on the ♠4. Rodwell called for the seven, trying to look like a man with the ten. As Lauria would have led the deuce from a five-card suit headed by the king, and would not normally lead (low) from king-fourth in dummy's suit on this type of auction, Versace had a strong sense that the ♠J was not going to defeat the contract. He played the ace, and switched to the ♥J, and the defense took four heart tricks to set the contract; -50. 10 IMPs to Italy, 10-20. Whether that falls under the heading of exceptional defense or exceptional partnership is somewhat subjective; I'd prefer to think of it as the latter.

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

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue	
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 <sup>rd</sup> Playoff (1)	F206	
	12:30-14:50	NEC Cup Final (2) & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup		F201-204
Sunday (Feb. 12)	18:00-20:30	Closing Ceremony	F205-206	

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

## 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 his table has finished all the boards for that segment.

### 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.