



NEC Bridge Festival

Saturday, February 11, 2006
Bulletin Number 5

Editors: Eric Kokish, Richard Colker

Israel Meets YOI in the NEC Cup Final

The higher qualifying team breezed through each of the quarter-final matches, the closest displaying a 33-IMP margin of victory. Everything did not, however, adhere to form in the semi-finals. While Israel, the defenders and higher-qualifying team, prevailed over a strong USA/Kasle contingent, YOI, the home-town favorites but the lower-qualifying team, showed the heavily-favored Italian juggernaut the way to the Yokohama Swiss. YOI won both halves of the match, and finished with a 43-IMP win. Thanks to all the quarter- and semi-finalists for four exciting sessions of bridge, and good luck to the two finalists today, Israel and YOI, in their 64-board quest for the 2006 NEC Cup. Quarter- and semi-finalist team rosters can be found on page 18.

Quarterfinal Results

Team	Carry	1-20	21-40	Final
Israel	.5	66	41	107
JAPAN-TAJIMA		28	46	74
USA/Kasle	.5	61	65	126
OzOne-Del'Monte		21	48	69
JAPAN-YOI	.5	71	26	97
WBF Women (France)		15	15	30
Italy	.5	95	31	126
OzOne-Neill		31	21	52

Semifinal Results

Team	Carry	1-20	21-40	Final
Israel	.5	41	62	103
USA/Kasle		29	48	77
JAPAN-YOI		56	74	130
Italy	.5	48	39	87

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.

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

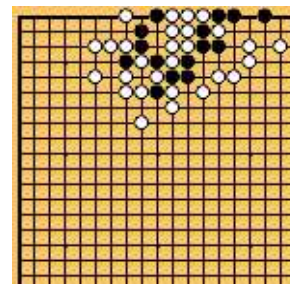
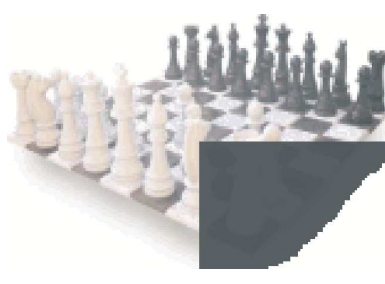
- 1. Introductory lessons (Mini Bridge)**
- 2. Enjoy Bridge corner: instructor-supervised game-style lessons**
- 3. Computer Bridge corner**
- 4. Tour - NEC Cup (instructors take newcomers to the competition rooms to show the atmosphere of high-level bridge games)**

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!



The Quarter-finals (First Half): Italy vs OzOne-Neill

by Eric Kokish

With four interesting matches in the quarter-finals, we decided to follow Italy (**Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Massimo Ortensi**) vs OzOne-Neill (**Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill, Kieran Dyke, David Wiltshire**) for the first 20 boards.

followed with the five (odd cards encourage), and Bocchi switched to a club. Dyke needed the whole heart suit to make 5♦ and that's what he got; +400.

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 96		
Vul: None	♥ AJ7		
	♦ KQ863		
	♣ AJ2		
	West		East
	♠ J8543		♠ AQ1072
	♥ Q93		♥ 1085
	♦ 92		♦ 4
	♣ Q103		♣ K975
		South	
		♠ K	
		♥ K642	
		♦ AJ1075	
		♣ 864	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
	1NT	2♠(1)	Dbl*
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

(1) Spades and a minor

Neill could have overcalled in spades to show at least five of those and a secondary minor, but considered that too rich. The ♠K held for Madala at trick one, +400. Bocchi, playing the same methods as his counterparts, was not as shy, and his intervention served to push Dyke to 5♦, a dreadful contract despite the 10-card fit. Better to have taken the money against 4♠ doubled (probably 500). On the lead of the ♠A, Duboin

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 4		
Vul: Both	♥ 96		
	♦ Q8763		
	♣ KQ863		
	West		East
	♠ AKQ1062		♠ 953
	♥ J105		♥ KQ742
	♦ 94		♦ 102
	♣ A10		♣ 972
		South	
		♠ J87	
		♥ A83	
		♦ AKJ5	
		♣ J54	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♥(1)	Pass	2♥(2)	Pass
2♠	All Pass		
(1) 4+♠, 10-17 HCP			
(2) 0-7 HCP, 3+♠; or 11-13 HCP, 4+♠, unspecified splinter			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Both declarers took the ♣K with the ace, drew trumps, and led a heart. Klinger led the five to the six, king, and ace. Ferraro cashed the ♦K and the ♣J, but there was a mixup over the club count, and Ferraro played a third club; +170. Duboin led the ♥J, so Wiltshire knew enough to duck twice, and the defenders got their four tricks; +140. 1 IMP to OzOne-Neill, ahead 2-0.

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 108732		
Vul: E/W	♥ 53		
	♦ 642		
	♣ J105		
West		East	
♠ QJ		♠ A965	
♥ AKQ9		♥ J8	
♦ J873		♦ AKQ105	
♣ 962		♣ Q7	
	South		
	♠ K4		
	♥ 107642		
	♦ 9		
	♣ AK843		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		1♥(1)	2♠(2)
Dbl*	3♣	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
(1) 4+♠, 10-17 HCP; (2) Hearts and clubs			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
		1♦	1♥
1♠(1)	Pass	2♥	Dbl(2)
Rdbl(3)	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Fewer than four spades, values			
(2) Don't lead hearts; (3) ♥A			

3NT needed to avoid having the clubs run against it, and Wiltshire's low club lead ensured that this would not happen. He blanked the ♠A in the endgame, but Bocchi dropped it: +690. 5♦ needed the spade finesse or no club lead. Ouch! Minus 100, 13 IMPs to Italy, 15-2.

Bd: 7	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K53		
Vul: Both	♥ 653		
	♦ KJ76		
	♣ Q96		
West		East	
♠ AJ10964		♠ 872	
♥ J		♥ 104	
♦ Q		♦ A10543	
♣ AKJ87		♣ 542	
	South		
	♠ Q		
	♥ AKQ9872		
	♦ 982		
	♣ 103		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			3♥
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
			1♥
2♥(1)	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
(1) Spades and clubs			

4♠ was cold, and doubling it did not make it less so. 5 IMPs to Italy for +790 vs -620. Although many would consider 3♥ too conservative, it is an accurate reflection of South's relative offensive and defensive potential and would stop North from doubling 4♠ with the two black tricklets. Italy led 20-1.

In the match between USA/Kasle and OzOne-Del'Monte, John Onstott opened 4♥ with the South hand, which prompted Garey Hayden to go on to 5♥, which slipped past Tony Nunn and Sartaj Hans undoubled. Three down, -300, but 8 IMPs to Kasle when John Sutherlin bought 4♠, +620, on the same sequence as our featured Open Room above.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 92		
Vul: Both	♥ K987653		
	♦ 3		
	♣ 1064		
West		East	
♠ J53		♠ KQ6	
♥ J		♥ Q1042	
♦ Q10972		♦ K85	
♣ AK73		♣ J82	
	South		
	♠ A10874		
	♥ A		
	♦ AJ64		
	♣ Q95		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥(1)	All Pass	
(1) Weak			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	All Pass	2♦

Bocchi led a club against 2♥, which allowed Dyke to play low from dummy and build a club trick for +110. Madala, in 3♥, got a diamond lead and was headed for two down, but Neill let a trick get away and Madala finished -100. 5 IMPs to OzOne-Neill, 7-20.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ AJ9743		
Vul: N/S	♥ AK		
	♦ 1098		
	♣ 72		
West		East	
♠ 652		♠ Q10	
♥ J102		♥ 987543	
♦ J5		♦ AQ3	
♣ AJ1085		♣ K9	
	South		
	♠ K8		
	♥ Q6		
	♦ K7642		
	♣ Q643		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Both declarers dropped the ♠Q, but that was +140 for Dyke and -100 for Madala. Ferraro bid a lot with his modest 10-count, although he knew Madala would have more than 9-12 with a long suit, as they open those hands with 2♠.

Bd: 13	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A854		
Vul: Both	♥ 9		
	♦ 109742		
	♣ A108		
West		East	
♠ Q3		♠ 62	
♥ AJ		♥ K10874	
♦ AKQ5		♦ 863	
♣ KJ542		♣ 963	
	South		
	♠ KJ1097		
	♥ Q6532		
	♦ J		
	♣ Q7		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2NT(♠)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2NT(♠)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

There are some hands too strong to pass with the wrong shape to double and the wrong suit to overcall, and both Wests felt this was one of them. Neither was willing to venture a second call while the auction was still alive and kicking, but Klinger could not resist doubling for penalty once his opponents reached 4♠. He led the ♦A and continued with the king, an unpromising start. Ferraro won and conceded a heart to Klinger, who continued with the ♥A. Ferraro ruffed and passed a diamond equal, discarding a club. Klinger exited with a low club, but Ferraro did not need to run it to his queen. He won the ace, drew trumps, and claimed, using dummy's high diamonds, +790.

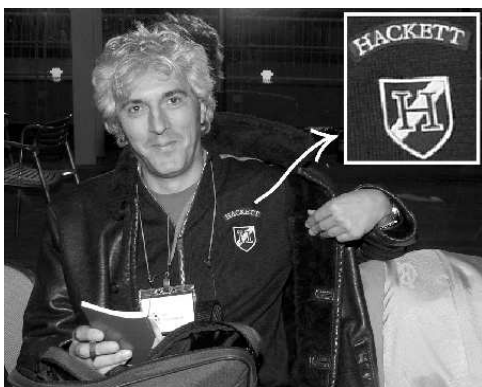
Duboin cashed one high diamond and switched to a trump. Wiltshire won in hand and exited with the ♥Q, hoping to keep East off play when

and when Dyke expressed an opinion about 5♠, Wiltshire decided not to overthink the position. Pity. Dyke led a club, so the defenders' heart trick disappeared. Duboin led a diamond to the ace after drawing trumps, +650. OzOne-Neill was due to lose heavily on the deal when Ferraro went on to 6♣ over 5♠, but Klinger, who suspected he wasn't getting much against 6♣, sensibly took a shot at 6♠. Madala doubled and cashed the ♥A, then switched to a club. Klinger discarded a diamond, drew three rounds of trumps ending in dummy, hoping Ferraro would throw a heart, but that didn't happen. He took the ruffing finesse against the ♥K, but had to concede defeat when the ♦K did not drop and the ♥4 was not high, -100. Italy gained another 13 IMPs, and led 56-14.

In the match between USA-Kasle and OzOne-Del'Monte, this was the auction in the Open Room...

West	North	East	South
Hans	Hayden	Nunn	Onstott
			Pass
1♠	Pass	3♥(♠)	4♣
4NT	5♣	5♦*	Dbl
6♠	All Pass		

West was on his own here, with his tactical RKCB with a void, and that created a scenario in which Onstott could make a lead-directing double of 5♦. Hayden duly led the ♦8, suit preference in context, and Hans, getting set to claim with the ♦K in South and trumps two-one, the ♥Q going on the ♣A...but South ruffed the ♦A and West was two down while 5♠ made at the other table. 11 IMPs to Kasle. Not a good board for OzOne United!



"I just couldn't Hackett... so I switched to Lavazza!"

But the Australian nightmare was far from over...

Bd: 16	North		
Dlr: West	♠ KJ92		
Vul: E/W	♥ 964		
	♦ Q42		
	♣ 1073		
	West		East
	♠ AQ86		♠ 754
	♥ AQ7		♥ 103
	♦ 873		♦ KJ1065
	♣ K64		♣ AJ9
			South
			♠ 103
			♥ KJ852
			♦ A9
			♣ Q852
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
Klinger	Madala	Neill	Ferraro
1NT	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♦(2)	Pass	2NT(3)	Pass
3♣(4)	Pass	3NT(5)	All Pass
4♠(6)	All Pass		
	(1) Puppet to 2♦		
	(2) Forced		
	(3) Asks for a 5-card M		
	(4) No, but I (may) have a four-card major		
	(5) Intended as natural		
	(6) Interpreted as four-four in the majors		
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
Duboin	Dyke	Bocchi	Wiltshire
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Klinger lost three trumps and a diamond for one down in his accidental 4♠, -100. Duboin made an overtrick in 3NT on a spade lead, +630. Those 12 IMPs to Italy made the score 68-14.

Bd: 18	North		
Dlr: East	♠ J3		
Vul: N/S	♥ 876		
	♦ K8732		
	♣ 1095		
	West		East
	♠ 109872		♠ K6
	♥ KQ43		♥ J10952
	♦ ---		♦ A96
	♣ A832		♣ Q74
			South
			♠ AQ54
			♥ A
			♦ QJ1054
			♣ KJ6

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		Pass	1♦
Dbl	3♦(1)	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass
(1) Weak			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♠	2♣(1)	2♥	3♣
4♥	All Pass		
(1) Diamonds, weak or strong			

With the points split about evenly, only 19 combined trumps, and several wasted assets, it was somewhat unlikely that this deal would stretch to 21 total tricks. But hey, the Law of Total Tricks is not the only answer to life. Even with the ♣Q and ♠K onside, 5♦ doubled could have been defeated on the lead of the ♥K. Ferraro ruffed and led the ♦Q, which held, and the ♦J, which did not. That was an error by East, and his club switch simply shortened the play for declarer; +750. Had Neill ducked the second diamond, Ferraro would have had no answer.

Like Klinger-Neill, Bocchi-Duboin did their share of bidding to reach a very thin 4♥. My instincts tell me that Wiltshire's final pass didn't have much going for it unless he believed 5♦ would be two down with 4♠ making, but neither double nor 5♦ was particularly attractive. He led the ♦Q against 4♥, and Bocchi ruffed in dummy to pass the ♠10, an essential move. Wiltshire won and continued diamonds, and Bocchi discarded a club from dummy, won with the ♦A, and led the ♠K, collecting the ace and jack. Wiltshire shifted belatedly to a club, but Bocchi ran that to the queen and played a trump. Wiltshire won but could not kill all of dummy's entries; +420. Italy gained 15 IMPs and led 83-14 with two deals left in the first half.



"Is that there a club?"
"Darn if I know."

Bd: 19	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 52		
Vul: E/W	♥ J9864		
	♦ K654		
	♣ K5		
	West		East
	♠ AKQ103		♠ J874
	♥ 107		♥ AKQ3
	♦ 98		♦ A73
	♣ A942		♣ 108
	South		
	♠ 96		
	♥ 52		
	♦ QJ102		
	♣ QJ763		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			Pass
1♥(1)	Pass	1♠(2)	Pass
2♦(3)	Pass	2♥(2)	Pass
3♦(4)	Pass	3♥(5)	Pass
3♠(6)	Pass	3NT(7)	Pass
4NT(8)	Pass	6♠	All Pass
(1) 4+♥, 10-17 HCP; (2) Relay			
(3) Clubs, not minimum, 14-17 HCP			
(4) 5=2=2=4; (5) Sets ♠s			
(6) 14-15 HCP; (7) RKCB(♠)			
(8) 3+♠Q			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♦(2)	Pass	2♥(3)	Pass
2♠(4)	Pass	2NT(3)	Pass
3♥(5)	Pass	3♠(6)	Pass
4♣(7)	Pass	4NT(8)	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass
(1) Natural or INV-plus relay			
(2) Any minimum without four hearts			
(3) Game-forcing relay			
(4) 4+ ♣s; (5) 5=2=2=4; (6) Sets ♠s			
(7) Club control, 5+ controls; (8) RKCB(♠)			

6♠ is a good slam that can't be beaten if

declarer draws trumps, but both Ferraro and Dyke did their best by leading a diamond. Neill won and drew two rounds of trumps, and could claim, +1430. Had trumps gone three-one, he would have had to take a fast diamond discard on the third heart and hoped that the hand with the third trump could not gain the lead in clubs.

Duboin won the diamond lead and played one round of trumps, then three high hearts, intending to concede a club and then play a second trump before trying to ruff his clubs. That looks best to me, but it didn't work when the third heart got ruffed, -100. 17 IMPs to OzOne-Neill, 31-83.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥(1)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
(1) Three-card limit raise			

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ AKQJ72		
Vul: Both	♥ J75		
	♦ 9		
	♣ Q64		
		East	
West		♠ 96	
♠ 108		♥ K3	
♥ A104		♦ Q8732	
♦ K1064		♣ 10983	
♣ A752			
	South		
	♠ 543		
	♥ Q9862		
	♦ AJ5		
	♣ KJ		

The set concluded with a deal that made the Italians look particularly awesome. Both Easts led the ♣10 against 4♠, king, ace. Duboin switched to a low heart, which was hardly obvious. That netted Bocchi a third-round ruff for one down, -100.

Klinger switched to a diamond, which could easily have been the best play. Madala took the queen with the ace, ruffed a diamond, drew trumps, crossed to the ♣J, ruffed dummy's last diamond, cashed the ♣Q, and led a heart to the nine and ten. The defenders could not untangle their heart winners and had to yield a ruff and discard; +620. Italy 95, OzOne-Neill 31.

None of the other matches was close either, with Israel's 66-28 lead over Tajima the tightest. YOI was miles ahead of France, 71-15, and Kastle was 40 IMPs ahead of OzOne-Del'Monte, 61-21.

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.

The Quarter-finals (Second Half): USA-Kasle vs OzOne-Del'Monte

by Eric Kokish

None of the four matches was close at the half, but with OzOne-Del'Monte (**Ishmael Del'Monte-Rob Fruewirth, Sartaj Hans-Tony Nunn**) always a potentially dangerous squad, we decided to focus on their struggle against USA/Kasle (**Gaylor Kasle-John Sutherlin, Garey Hayden-John Onstott**), with a 40-IMP deficit to make up. The first deal left the OzOne team with even more sand to dig out of the hole in which they were currently buried...

the match, but as slam would be playable opposite a singleton diamond and five trumps, it was not unreasonable to bid it first and worry later. The psychology of both Easts makes perfect sense to me, but I'm not sure anyone would like to take the guided unexpurgated tour of my mind.

Neither North led a spade, choosing a club lead instead. The declarers won in hand with the ace, discarding the ♠10 from dummy, and led a diamond. Hayden, defending 5♥, played the king, the technical play. Hans won with the ace, drew trumps, and led a low diamond, losing to the ten. Hayden switched to a spade, and Hans finessed successfully, +480.

Fruewirth, defending 6♥, followed to the first diamond with the ten, which Kasle covered with the jack. When the king fell under the ace later, declarer did not need the spade finesse, +980. 11 IMPs to Kasle, 72-21.

Only two of the eight E/W pairs in the quarter-finals attempted 6♥; the other was the Yadlin brothers for Israel against Tajima.

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K32		
Vul: None	♥ 9		
	♦ K10		
	♣ Q1087632		
West		East	
♠ 876		♠ AQ10	
♥ 76543		♥ AKQ108	
♦ 42		♦ AJ975	
♣ A95		♣ ---	
	South		
	♠ J954		
	♥ J2		
	♦ Q863		
	♣ KJ4		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
	3♣	Dbl	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Dbl
5♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
	3♣	Dbl	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Nunn expected slam to be at best on a spade finesse if North led that suit, and could not really underwrite the safety of 5♥, but he had to try for slam. Perhaps Sutherlin bid 6♥ because he thought his opponents would bid it at the state of

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 10943		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q43		
	♦ 108		
	♣ 10976		
West		East	
♠ A82		♠ QJ65	
♥ A76		♥ 8	
♦ AKQ943		♦ J765	
♣ K		♣ AJ54	
	South		
	♠ K7		
	♥ KJ10952		
	♦ 2		
	♣ Q832		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
		Pass	2♥
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kasle	Fruewirth	Sutherlin	Del'Monte
		Pass	2♥
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

With a bit of luck, 7♦ rolls home for E/W, but only one pair (Bocchi-Duboin for Italy against OzOne-Neill) reached six, with the Open Room auction above being the most common scenario. Hans made five, +460. Sutherlin did well to remove 3NT, looking for bigger things, but this auction had not been discussed and Kasle thought 4♥ was a transfer to spades. Kasle won the heart lead and led a spade to the queen and king. On a heart continuation, declarer would ruff and cash the ♠J before turning to diamonds, and would get home easily enough. It was less complicated for him when South switched to a diamond. He won, played ace-queen of trumps, and ran winners, North getting his trump whenever he wanted it, +450. No swing.

Both Norths responded 1♥ to 1♦, very much in the modern style. That South hand looks a lot like a 3♥ bid to me, but it's clear that this is a matter of perception, as our gladiators demonstrated. Both 4♥ and 2NT went one down. No swing.

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 653		
Vul: Both	♥ AJ5		
	♦ KJ8		
	♣ KQ73		
	West		East
	♠ AK1082		♠ Q4
	♥ K1084		♥ 93
	♦ Q74		♦ A932
	♣ 6		♣ J10984
	South		
	♠ J97		
	♥ Q762		
	♦ 1065		
	♣ A52		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hans	Hayden	Nunn	Onstott
1♠	Dbl	1NT	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kasle	Fruewirth	Sutherlin	Del'Monte
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 9762		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q642		
	♦ 3		
	♣ 8743		
	West		East
	♠ J843		♠ Q10
	♥ K8		♥ J105
	♦ KQ874		♦ J65
	♣ A9		♣ QJ652
	South		
	♠ AK5		
	♥ A973		
	♦ A1092		
	♣ K10		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hans	Hayden	Nunn	Onstott
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
All Pass			4♥
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Kasle	Fruewirth	Sutherlin	Del'Monte
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
All Pass			2NT

The Tigers went after 2♥ with a competitive double and leave-in, and picked Onstott off for -200, a nice result for the trailing team. Fruewirth took no action with the balanced North hand and led the ♣K against 2♠ before switching to a trump. Although Kasle took two finesses in hearts, he had to lose a third heart trick, two diamonds and a club for one down, -100. 7imps to OzOne-Del'Monte, 28-72.



"Would you hurry up and play, I'm dying here."

Bd: 5	North		
Dir: North	♠ K854		
Vul: N/S	♥ Q964		
	♦ AJ		
	♣ Q74		
West		East	
♠ QJ9		♠ A632	
♥ J32		♥ K	
♦ 98		♦ K75432	
♣ A10532		♣ J9	
	South		
	♠ 107		
	♥ A10875		
	♦ Q106		
	♣ K86		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
	1♣	1♦	1♥
Pass	2♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dbl	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

2♥ made three, +140, while Sutherlin's off-center 3♠ went only two down, -100. 1 IMP back to Kasle, 73-28.

Bd: 7	North		
Dir: South	♠ 94		
Vul: Both	♥ AQ543		
	♦ K92		
	♣ 1092		
West		East	
♠ AQ73		♠ KJ65	
♥ 98		♥ KJ7	
♦ AQ854		♦ J3	
♣ 65		♣ AKJ3	
	South		
	♠ 1082		
	♥ 1062		
	♦ 1076		
	♣ Q874		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
			Pass
1♦	1♥	Dbl(4♠)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			Pass
1♦	1♥	Dbl	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

With the ♦K wrong, both declarers took 11 tricks, but that was more bad news for Australia, trailing now 13-86, following a 13-IMP loss on this deal. The only other E/W pair to attempt 6♠ was the Yadlin brothers, who confirmed that they've never met a slam they didn't like at least a little.

Bd: 8	North		
Dir: West	♠ AJ10963		
Vul: None	♥ 1085		
	♦ A		
	♣ A107		
West		East	
♠ Q74		♠ K2	
♥ J763		♥ AQ94	
♦ Q9		♦ K532	
♣ J982		♣ KQ5	
	South		
	♠ 85		
	♥ K2		
	♦ J108764		
	♣ 643		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
Pass	1♠	1NT	All Pass

Del'Monte could not compete with a *natural* 2♦, so had to choose between pass and 3♦. When he passed, Fruewirth did too, which would have been fine had Ishmael led a spade, but after the lead of the ♦J to the queen and ace, it was particularly difficult for North to switch to spades, as he placed South with at most one of those. He switched to a low heart instead, ducked to the king, and now a spade switch would not help. Ish continued hearts, and Sutherlin could play on clubs for +120.

Hayden, in 2♠, got a low diamond lead, ducked to the blank ace. He led a heart to the king and a second heart, West following low, and could not be prevented from ruffing a heart in dummy. He lost two spades and two clubs in addition, and so made two for +110 and 6 IMPs to Kasle, ahead 92-28.

Bd: 9	North		
Dir: North	♠ 65		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ87		
	♦ J10863		
	♣ 43		
	West		East
	♠ QJ3		♠ 74
	♥ KJ9643		♥ 5
	♦ AK4		♦ 972
	♣ K		♣ Q987652
		South	
		♠ AK10982	
		♥ 102	
		♦ Q5	
		♣ AJ10	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	3♣	Dbl
All Pass			

2♠ made four on the lead of the ♦K and a low-

heart switch, ducked to the ten, +170. Ish's reopening double would be mandatory for some, wrong for others, and marginal for many. It worked very well here, leading to 3♣ doubled, which had six losers after three rounds of spades to kill the discard for declarer, -500. OzOne-Del'Monte gained 8 IMPs, 36-92.

Bd: 11	North		
Dir: South	♠ AQ72		
Vul: None	♥ A		
	♦ 10964		
	♣ K842		
	West		East
	♠ KJ53		♠ 1098
	♥ Q10963		♥ KJ5
	♦ J2		♦ 873
	♣ Q10		♣ J765
		South	
		♠ 64	
		♥ 8742	
		♦ AKQ5	
		♣ A93	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
1♥	Dbl	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			1♦
2♦(1)	3♥(SPL)	Dbl	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			
(1) Hearts and spades			

It's not impossible to pick up 56 IMPs over 10 deals, but it's essential to have lively deals with opportunities for positive swings, and a fair amount of luck. Board 11 was not what the Aussies were looking for...

When your partner makes two slam tries and you have the three top trump honors and another prime card, it's usually a good idea to

drive to slam. The best thing about 6♦ is that there is only one sure loser. That's balanced by the fact that even with a winning finesse, it's a long way to 12 winners. Ish could have made 6♦ on the lead of the ♥10 by finessing the ♠Q early and arranging to ruff all his hearts in dummy, using a trump, the ♣A, and a spade ruff as entries to his hand, and cashing the ♣K along the way. But he had to deal with Kastle's Michaels Cue Bid and the very real possibility that he was five-five, which meant that he could be squeezed if there were no trump loser. So Ish had to base his play on West being 5=5=2=1, as 5=5=1=2 would leave him with a trump loser. Therefore, he took only two heart ruffs and drew trumps, which was good enough on the actual lie, as he could take the spade finesse and clear clubs, building a trick with dummy's eight; East, out of hearts, would not be able to reach West's heart winner.

But Ish did not think Kastle held two clubs. If declarer took the spade finesse too early, East would play a second spade when in with the third club, killing the major-suit squeeze on West. Accordingly, Ish played the second club to dummy *before* taking the spade finesse, and was taken aback when Kastle followed. When Ish played a third club, Sutherlin could exit with the fourth club. Ish could discard his heart loser but lose the opportunity to finesse in spades, or could ruff his club winner to take the spade finesse, but lose the last trick to East's high spade (West would have to unguard spades to keep the high heart). How revolting! But on the third round of clubs, Kastle discarded his last heart, which made a winner of Ish's ♥8. Ish decided to ruff the fourth club (dummy's winner) to be able to take the finesse, and so was in his hand to cash that heart winner, but alas, he had missed West's discard of the ♥Q. Dummy was left with a losing spade in the end and the beleaguered Ish was one down after all. Arrggghh! 10 IMPs to Kastle, where it would have been 11 to OzOne-Del'Monte for making 6♦. Kastle led 102-36, effectively ending the match.

Bd: 12	North		
Dlr: West	♠ K75		
Vul: N/S	♥ A862		
	♦ 43		
	♣ AKQJ		
	West		East
	♠ 10964		♠ J2
	♥ KQ73		♥ J5
	♦ Q5		♦ AKJ982
	♣ 1083		♣ 765
	South		
	♠ AQ83		
	♥ 1094		
	♦ 1076		
	♣ 942		
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
2♣(1)	2NT	All Pass	
(1) Hearts and spades, weak			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Kastle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
Pass	1NT	2♣(1)	Dbl*
Pass	Pass	2♦	Dbl*
3♦	3♥	All Pass	
(1) Unspecified one-suited hand			

If only Fruewirth had allowed Ish one more double, OzOne would have been +300 rather than -100. Although it appears that Ish was playing his partner for a 19-point notrump with those two doubles, it's fair to remember that he was a man desperate for IMPs. Hayden did better in 2NT once he gained the lead, but before that happened, Nunn had cashed six diamonds, Hans dropping the queen on the lead of the ♦K (asking for reverse count or unblock). Hayden was -100; no swing.



"Ouch, I bet that hurts."

What does a fish say when it hits a concrete wall? Dam!

Bd: 14	North		
Dir: East	♠ Q96		
Vul: None	♥ 7		
	♦ A52		
	♣ A109543		
West		East	
♠ K		♠ 10542	
♥ Q9542		♥ AK6	
♦ KJ1073		♦ 96	
♣ 72		♣ KQ86	
South			
♠ AJ873			
♥ J1083			
♦ Q84			
♣ J			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
		1NT	2♦(1)
Dbl	2♠	Dbl	All Pass
(1) Hearts and spades			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
		1♣	1♠
2♥	3♥(♠)	Dbl	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Ish's 4♠ was a bit too high on a heart lead to the king and a switch to the ♦9. He finished two down, -100, after that start. Had Hans passed over the majors-showing 2♦, he would almost certainly have had a shot at 3♠ or 4♠, as Hayden would have bid a lot more facing a partner who could act directly over a weak notrump. Against 2♠ doubled, Nunn made the normal lead of the ♠2, hoping for big things. Hayden ducked to the king and Hans switched to the ♣7. Hayden did well to duck to the queen, and Nunn reverted to spades, Hans showing out. Hayden won with the ♠9 and played ♣A (heart), ♣10, ruffing out Nunn's king. Now he could draw trumps and use the ♦A to reach his good clubs for nine tricks, +570. 12 IMPs to Kasle, 114-36.

Bd: 16	North		
Dir: West	♠ A		
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ765		
	♦ AQJ4		
	♣ KJ4		
West		East	
♠ KJ852		♠ ---	
♥ Q98		♥ K1042	
♦ 53		♦ 108762	
♣ A106		♣ 8752	
South			
♠ Q1097643			
♥ 3			
♦ K9			
♣ Q93			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦(F1)	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
All Pass			

At first glance it appears that West has three trump tricks and the ♣A against a spade contract, but Ish demonstrated that this was not so after redoubling 4♠ for all the right reasons. Kasle led the ♦5, which declarer won with dummy's queen to cash the ♠A. ♥A, heart ruff, club to the jack, club to the queen and ace, ♥Q, ruffed, club to the king, ♦A, ♦J. Declarer was down to Q1097 of trumps, West KJ85. When Ish ruffed with the ten, Kasle could neither over-ruff nor under-ruff with profit, and the contract was made, +880.

Onstott got the lead of the ♦3 from Hans, whose objective was to paint a false picture of his distribution for declarer. Onstott won with the king, played ♠A, and led the ♣K. Hans took the ace to exit with the ♥Q, continuing his good

work. Onstott won the ace, ruffed a heart, and played two rounds of clubs ending in hand to lead the ♠10. Hans, feeling no pain now, won with the jack, and exited with his remaining diamond. He could be sure of two more trump tricks now by ducking the nine or queen later, and Onstott was one down, -100. 14 IMPs to OzOne-Del'Monte, 50-114.

Bd: 18	North		
Dir: East	♠ 8765		
Vul: N/S	♥ J2		
	♦ A94		
	♣ Q642		
	West		East
	♠ AK		♠ J103
	♥ 7654		♥ KQ1098
	♦ K865		♦ J72
	♣ J87		♣ K3
			South
			♠ Q942
			♥ A3
			♦ Q103
			♣ A1095
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
		1NT	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dbl	Pass	3♥	All Pass

A small coup for Tony Nunn, who made his frivolous 1NT on a spade lead, exiting with his third spade after cashing hearts, and having South switch to the ♦Q; +120. Meanwhile, 3♥ went one down, -50, at the other table—two clubs, two diamonds, and a trump—and the Aussies gained 5 IMPs, 56-114.

When crazy people go through a forest, do they take a psycho path?

Bd: 19	North		
Dir: South	♠ Q75		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ10987		
	♦ AK106		
	♣ ---		
	West		East
	♠ AK8		♠ J106
	♥ 6		♥ K4
	♦ 985		♦ QJ7
	♣ K109865		♣ AQJ32
			South
			♠ 9432
			♥ J532
			♦ 432
			♣ 74
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
			Pass
1♣	Dbl	2NT(♣)	Pass
3♥(SPL)	Dbl	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Dbl	3♥
5♣	5♦	Dbl	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

5♣ doubled was off ♦AK and the ♥A for -200. 5♥ doubled was off four top tricks, but Fruewirth lost a fifth: he ruffed the club lead and played ♥A, ♥Q to the king, ruffed the club continuation, and played ace-king and a third diamond. Sutherlin led the ♠J to Kasle's ace and Gaylor returned the ♠8, which Rob ducked to the ten, -500. 12 IMPs to Kasle, 126-56.



"Damn, we'll need to get a new tee time."

Bd: 20	North		
Dlr: West	♠ A63		
Vul: Both	♥ A4		
	♦ AQJ10		
	♣ J1084		
	West	East	
	♠ Q	♠ 108752	
	♥ KJ1098752	♥ Q3	
	♦ 43	♦ 965	
	♣ 75	♣ K93	
	South		
	♠ KJ94		
	♥ 6		
	♦ K872		
	♣ AQ62		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Hayden</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Onstott</i>
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kasle</i>	<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Sutherlin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

The last deal for the Australians in the 2006 NEC Cup was a good one, with Del'Monte-Fruewirth reaching an excellent 6♣ while Hayden took a second conservative view (passing 4♥ was the first, a view shared by Fruewirth and quite possibly no one else) and languished in five. Both declarers took all 13 tricks, but the trailing team gained 13 IMPs for the slam bonus. Kasle won the second half 65-48 and the match 126-69, a fair reflection of the quality of the play.

Tajima recouped 5 IMPs against Israel, but lost 74-107, setting up a semifinal match between USA/Kasle and Israel.

In the other bracket, Italy gained another 9 IMPs against OzOne-Neill and won their match 126-53. Italy would face Japan-YOI, who gained another 11 IMPs against La France to win their match 97-30.

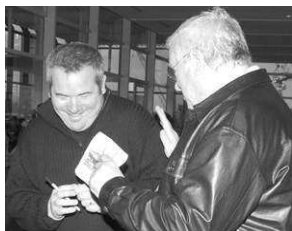
**If an eskimo sits on the ice too long,
does he get polaroids?**

Rosters of Teams in the Quarter-finals: 11th NEC Cup

#	Name	Members
1	Israel: Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Campanile	
2	Italy: Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Agustin Madala, Massimo Ortensi	
3	YOI: Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Yasuhiro Shimizu	
4	WBF Women (France): Bénédicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Catherine d'Ovidio, Daniele Gaviard	
5	OzOne-Neill: Ron Klingler, Bruce Neill, Kieran Dyke, David Wiltshire	
6	USA/Kasle: Gaylor Kasle, Garey Hayden, John Onstott, John Sutherlin	
7	OzOne-Del'Monte: Ishmael Del'Monte, Robert Fruewirth, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans	
8	TAJIMA: Tadashi Teramoto, Mitsue Tajima, Kyoko Shimamura, Hideki Takano, Hiroshi Kaku, Masaaki Takayama	



"Looks like you did save a trick—it's only 1700."



"Don't laugh, Pepsi, it's no fun playing a 2-1 fit."



"We'll practice 'till we get it right. Now on my signal..."



"Bingo!!"

The Semifinals (First Half): Italy vs Japan-YOI

by Eric Kokish

On Vugraph, Italy (**Maria Teresa Lavazza, Massimo Ortensi, Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin, Agustin Madala-Guido Ferraro**) faced Japan-YOI (**Dawei Chen-Kazuo Furuta, Yasuhiro Shimizu-Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Masayuki Ino-Tadashi Imakura**). In the other match, USA/Kasle went to war with the defending champs from Israel.

discarded his remaining diamonds on spades, +170.

Against 3♥, Duboin led the ♦2, Bocchi winning the ace to return the ten. Chen won, drew trumps, and led the ♠2 to the queen and king. Bocchi led the ♣2 to the ace and Duboin cashed the ♦Q before returning a club for one down, -50. 6 IMPs to Italy, ahead 7-0.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ AQ64		
Vul: E/W	♥ K965		
	♦ J87		
	♣ 109		
	West		East
	♠ 1073		♠ K985
	♥ 108		♥ J4
	♦ Q5432		♦ A10
	♣ A83		♣ KQ742
		South	
		♠ J2	
		♥ AQ732	
		♦ K96	
		♣ J65	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	3♦	Pass	1♥
Pass			3♥
All Pass			

Against 2♥, Shimizu led a trump, which permitted declarer time to draw trumps ending in dummy to lead a low spade towards the jack. Nakamura went in with the king to cash two high clubs and lead the ♦10. That was excellent defense by Yoshiyuki, but it cost him a trick when Ferraro played the king, won the trick, and

Bd: 4	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J52		
Vul: Both	♥ Q98		
	♦ K10972		
	♣ Q3		
	West		East
	♠ 97		♠ AK10864
	♥ AK643		♥ J752
	♦ 85		♦ A
	♣ 9875		♣ J4
		South	
		♠ Q3	
		♥ 10	
		♦ QJ643	
		♣ AK1062	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2NT
Pass	5♦	All Pass	
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

5♦ was two down undoubled, -200, a handsome profit for Madala-Ferraro against their opponents' unbid 4♥. 4♥? Who said anything about 4♥? Meanwhile, Furuta's remarkable 3♦ stole the pot in the Closed Room for an easy +110 and 7 IMPs to YOI, tying the match, 7-7. Should anyone double 5♦? Should Bocchi double 3♦ for takeout (typically four hearts) with a good hand for offense but a high-card

minimum? Would 3♥ from Duboin on the way out suggest modest hearts with spade tolerance after passing over 2NT? How complex!

In the other match, both North players jumped to 4♦ over 2NT and bought the contract, a push at -100.

And lest it go unspoken, is it mandatory to overcall 2NT, vulnerable with that South hand? Given the result, I expect a bag of letters, postcards and UK hate mail telling me to get stuffed and that only a beginner would not bid 2NT.

Bd: 5	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 852		
Vul: N/S	♥ K765		
	♦ 108		
	♣ AJ62		
West		East	
♠ ---		♠ KJ1074	
♥ A9832		♥ QJ10	
♦ AKQ953		♦ 2	
♣ 95		♣ Q1043	
South			
♠ AQ963			
♥ 4			
♦ J764			
♣ K87			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♠(1)	Dbl	4♥	All Pass
(1) Hearts and a minor			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2NT	3♠	4♥	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Chen's 4♠ bid gets the Bulletin's "testosterone" award for 2006 with two-plus days left in the event. He might have escaped for a mere two down as the play went, but misguessed to go three down (we'll spare you the details), -800.

If Nakamura could make 4♥, YOI's loss would be only 9 IMPs. Ferraro led his singleton trump, ducked to the queen. Nakamura played ♦A, diamond ruff, and the ♥Q, passing it to the king. Madala played ♣A, club to the king, and Ferraro played a third diamond, giving Madala a ruff, with Nakamura out of trumps; -50. That was 13 IMPs to Italy, ahead 20-7.

In the Kastle vs Israel match, Campanile also led her singleton trump against Hayden's 4♥, doubled by Barel. Declarer, Hayden, ducked in dummy. But here Barel won the king to play ♣A, club, fearing that declarer might hold the ♠A and get a club discard from dummy. Campanile won and switched to a diamond, but the rest was easy: declarer won in dummy, ruffed a diamond, and drew trumps for +590. That was a 12-IMP loss for Israel when 4♥ went down at the other table on three rounds of clubs. Doron passed the ♥J, which held, then the ♥Q, which lost. A trump came back and he could never ruff a diamond.

YOI struck back immediately...

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AJ94		
Vul: E/W	♥ A52		
	♦ Q10		
	♣ J763		
West		East	
♠ 7		♠ 1065	
♥ 9643		♥ K8	
♦ A954		♦ J83	
♣ K1098		♣ AQ542	
South			
♠ KQ832			
♥ QJ107			
♦ K762			
♣ ---			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT(♠)	Pass	4♣(void)
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT(Exclusion RKCB)
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	3♥(L/R)	Pass	1♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Not so fast, there, Bulletin guys. This effort by the irrepressible Guido doesn't take a back seat to the Chen gambit on the previous deal. If it weren't for the Australian presence we might blame all this hyperactivity on the ozone layer, but ozone is now OzOne, so we use the word more carefully these days. Shimizu led a heart against 6♠ and Ferraro was soon down one, which looks like a just result to me; -50. Chen made only four but he was only in four, and +420 was enough for a 10-IMP gain to YOI, 17-20.

Bd: 8	North		
Dlr: West	♠ J54		
Vul: None	♥ 52		
	♦ KQ9		
	♣ Q10765		
West		East	
♠ AKQ976		♠ 3	
♥ ---		♥ AKJ9876	
♦ 1052		♦ 76	
♣ K982		♣ AJ4	
	South		
	♠ 1082		
	♥ Q1043		
	♦ AJ843		
	♣ 3		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT(1)	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
(1) F1, includes game-forcing hands with long hearts			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦(♥)	Dbl(2)
2♥(3)	Pass	3♦(4)	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) 6+♥, INV, or 5+♥, FG			
(2) 4+♣			
(3) Fourth suit forcing			

It was easy to take 11 tricks in spades, and Shimizu was +450. He made a good decision to remove 4♥, but Nakamura's hearts could have been a bit worse. The quirky system treatment to show game-forcing values with long hearts made the auction a guessing game.

Against Duboin's short-sided 4♥, Furuta led the ♦K and continued with the ♦Q, overtaken. Chen had two trump tricks coming for one down, -50, and YOI gained 11 IMPs to take the lead, 28-21.

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ ---		
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ9654		
	♦ A62		
	♣ AKQ8		
West		East	
♠ AKJ2		♠ 108743	
♥ KQ3		♥ 82	
♦ 4		♦ 109853	
♣ J6432		♣ 9	
	South		
	♠ Q965		
	♥ 107		
	♦ KQJ7		
	♣ 1075		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT(1)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) ART FG, at least six hearts			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT(1)	Pass	3♣(R)
Pass	3♥(2)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) ART FG			
(2) 6+/4♣			

Everyone missed this excellent 6♥. In the other match N/S bid: 1♥-1♠; 3♣-3NT; Pass. Perhaps South should stall with 3♥, leading to 4♦ from North, which would suit South rather well. Still,

it's difficult for him to move past game. In this match, the artificial 2NT might have bought enough time to get North's full shape across, but that didn't happen. No swing.

Bd: 10	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AK1083		
Vul: Both	♥ AKQ5		
	♦ 653		
	♣ 8		
	West		East
	♠ 5		♠ J9642
	♥ 102		♥ J94
	♦ AQJ10		♦ K82
	♣ AQ10765		♣ 42
		South	
		♠ Q7	
		♥ 8763	
		♦ 974	
		♣ KJ93	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Dbl	1♥(♠)	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	2NT
All Pass			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Against 2NT, Shimizu led the ♦Q, which led E/W to four diamonds and two clubs for one down, -100. Had Ferraro passed the double of 2♣, Shimizu would have had no trouble making it. Perhaps Ferraro should have bid 2♥.

Against 2♠, Bocchi led a club to West's ten, and after cashing three diamonds, Duboin played the ♣A. Furuta ruffed low, played ♠Q, ♠A, and high hearts. When Bocchi ruffed the fourth heart, he was endplayed; +110. 5 IMPs to YOI, ahead 33-21.

Bd: 11	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q964		
Vul: None	♥ K8542		
	♦ J7		
	♣ J8		
	West		East
	♠ 53		♠ AJ108
	♥ A763		♥ 10
	♦ KQ53		♦ A42
	♣ Q92		♣ K10764
		South	
		♠ K72	
		♥ QJ9	
		♦ 10986	
		♣ A53	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			Pass
Pass	2♥(1)	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
(1) 4+♥/4+♠, 0-10 HCP			

Although Ferraro did not lead a heart against Nakamura's 3NT (he led the ♦10) and Madala did not switch to hearts (he continued diamonds) when he won the second round of clubs with his jack—Nakamura misguessed—Ferraro got around to hearts when he won the third round of clubs, and Nakamura could take only eight tricks for -50. Furuta stole the hand with weak two-suited opening bid, but Chen was two down, -100, and Italy gained 4 IMPs for the two small plus scores, 25-33.



The thrill of victory...the agony of minus 1700.

Bd: 12	North		
Dir: West	♠ KQ2		
Vul: N/S	♥ AQ7		
	♦ KQ6		
	♣ J842		
West		East	
♠ J105		♠ A9763	
♥ K6		♥ J943	
♦ A103		♦ 854	
♣ K10965		♣ A	
	South		
	♠ 84		
	♥ 10852		
	♦ J972		
	♣ Q73		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♣	1NT	Dbl	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1NT	Dbl	2♥(♠)	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Madala got out for one down in 1NT doubled on a spade lead to the ten and king, coming to a late club trick, along with a spade, two hearts, and two diamonds, -200. After Duboin's weak notrump, Bocchi transferred to spades over Furuta's double rather than try for a bigger plus in 1NT doubled, and Duboin made two on the lead of the ♦K, +110. YOI gained 3 IMPs, 36-25.

Bd: 15	North		
Dir: South	♠ 72		
Vul: N/S	♥ 108654		
	♦ J		
	♣ A6532		
West		East	
♠ 10963		♠ AQ85	
♥ KQ2		♥ J3	
♦ A10762		♦ K954	
♣ 8		♣ KJ10	
	South		
	♠ KJ4		
	♥ A97		
	♦ Q83		
	♣ Q974		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♦	Dbl(♥)	1♥(♠)	1♣
2♠	3♣	4♠	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1♦	3♣	3NT	1♣
			All Pass

Madala's dalliance with hearts made it possible for his opponents to get together in spades, and Shimizu was able to express his full potential with a jump to 2♠. Madala led his singleton ♦J and Shimizu played accurately by taking the king to play ♠A, ♠Q. Unfortunately, he had to lose two trumps and two aces (he picked up the ♦Q) to go one down, -50.

Meanwhile, Bocchi was in 3NT and with the ♣Q wrong, his chances looked poor on a club to the ace and a club back. Unfortunately for the defense, though, South led the natural ♣4 rather than the third-best seven, and with North's second-highest club the six, the suit was blocked even though Chen got his nine out of the way on the third round of the suit, as Bocchi won his king. As if it were his due, Bocchi saw his ♥J hold the trick, and duly picked up diamonds before knocking out the ♥A to take nine tricks; +400. That was bad luck for YOI, to the tune of 10 visible IMPs, which tied the match at 36. It could easily have been 10 IMPs the other way, so perhaps Italy was 20 IMPs lucky on this deal.

Bd: 16	North		
Dir: West	♠ AQ762		
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ108		
	♦ 82		
	♣ J3		
West		East	
♠ 9		♠ K10543	
♥ K532		♥ J	
♦ A9		♦ 764	
♣ KQ9542		♣ A1087	
	South		
	♠ J8		
	♥ 9764		
	♦ KQJ1053		
	♣ 6		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
1♣	1♠	2♣	2♦
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

In the other semifinal, both E/W pairs played 5♣, one down. Here, there were two remarkable decisions, Madala converting Ferraro's non-forcing 4♦ to 4♥ at the eleventh hour, while Chen left the known haven of 2♥ for 3♦, a decision that would work well if there were no game for his side. That worked much better for Chen (+110 after ♣Q, low heart switch, queen) than for Madala (-250 on two rounds of clubs when the hand fell apart after a trump to the ten and jack, a diamond switch ducked, and a heart to the...ace). YOI gained 8 IMPs and led 44-36.

Bd: 17	North		
Dlr: North	♠ K107		
Vul: None	♥ Q9		
	♦ 9432		
	♣ AQ103		
	West	East	
	♠ AQ8532	♠ 4	
	♥ 106	♥ A7542	
	♦ QJ65	♦ AK107	
	♣ 2	♣ K97	
	South		
	♠ J96		
	♥ KJ83		
	♦ 8		
	♣ J8654		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
	Pass	1♣	1♦
1NT(5+♠)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♣	1♥	2♣
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Shimizu, in 2♠, played carefully to make his contract after the challenging lead of the ♥Q, discarding his club on the third round of hearts after losing the spade finesse; +110.

Against Duboin's 5♦, Furuta led a trump, took his ♣A when that suit was led, and played a second trump. Duboin discarded his heart loser on the ♣K, played ♥A, club ruff, and cross-ruffed for two down, -100. 5 IMPs to YOI, 49-36.

Bd: 18	North		
Dlr: East	♠ K1097		
Vul: N/S	♥ 876		
	♦ 9742		
	♣ K5		
	West	East	
	♠ A54	♠ QJ63	
	♥ J1032	♥ KQ4	
	♦ K103	♦ Q	
	♣ 732	♣ A10964	
	South		
	♠ 82		
	♥ A95		
	♦ AJ865		
	♣ QJ8		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
		1♣	1♦
1♥	Dbl(4♠)	Rdbl(3♥)	Pass
1NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		1♣	1♦
Dbl	1♥(♠)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Shimizu had seven tricks in 1NT when his ♦10 held at trick two; +90. Chen, very high in 3♦, was down two, vulnerable, and -200 gave Italy 3 IMPs, 39-49.

Bd: 19	North		
Dir: South	♠ KQJ9		
Vul: E/W	♥ 1086		
	♦ J862		
	♣ 75		
West		East	
♠ 4		♠ A8762	
♥ Q97		♥ 532	
♦ K10974		♦ AQ3	
♣ AK83		♣ J9	
	South		
	♠ 1053		
	♥ AKJ4		
	♦ 5		
	♣ Q10642		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
			Pass
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			1♣
1♦	1♠	Dbl*	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	2♠
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

It seems inconsistent for Nakamura to remain silent throughout, but he decided there was no game for his side and was not willing to double 2♠ for penalty with such poor trump spots. He led the ♦A and switched to a heart. Madala finished two down, -100. Against Bocchi's promising 3NT, Chen cleared hearts. Bocchi tested diamonds, then led the ♣J, covered. He won the ♣A and gave Furuta his fourth-round diamond trick. Bocchi took the ♠K with the ace, passed the ♣9, and got out with a spade, but there was no miracle: Furuta claimed two down, -200. 7 IMPs to YOI, 56-39.

And, finally, to close out the set, a touch of the high life...

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ KJ932		
Vul: Both	♥ 9		
	♦ J9653		
	♣ 64		
West		East	
♠ AQ1084		♠ 5	
♥ 32		♥ K1086	
♦ Q8		♦ AK72	
♣ Q1098		♣ AK52	
	South		
	♠ 76		
	♥ AQJ754		
	♦ 104		
	♣ J73		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Ferraro</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♥
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♥(5+♠)	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	All Pass

While it's easy to see why Furuta doubled 3NT, it looks conspicuously like another case of Testosterone Rising, especially opposite a dude who might overcall at the one-level with a weak jump overcall. Well, at least it got Chen off to the best lead of the ♠7, ten, jack. Bocchi covered the ♥9 with the ten, and Chen won the jack to play another spade. Bocchi took the ace, cashed diamonds, cashed clubs ending in dummy, and played a heart, collecting his ♥K at the end. Making three, +1000. Against Nakamura, Ferraro led the unbid suit. Declarer took his club tricks, ending in dummy to play a heart to the nine, ten, and jack. North had encouraged in spades and discarded a diamond, so Ferraro switched to the ♠7. Nakamura took dummy's ace, and played four rounds of diamonds to endplay Madala. Dummy got a spade trick and Nakamura chalked up +600. Pretty play to lose 9 IMPs. Halfway through their semifinal, YOI was

8 IMPs ahead of Italy, 56-48, a good start for the home side.

In the other match, Izzy Yadlin got the lead of the ♠7 from Kasle (who had overcalled 1♥) queen, king, five. The ♥9 was covered cheaply, and South continued spades. Izzy won the ace and played as Nakamura did, which was

particularly commendable as South had not shown six hearts. As Barel had gone for 500 in 2♠ doubled the other way, Izzy's play gave his team a 4-IMP gain.

After 20 deals, Israel led USA/Kasle by 12 IMPs, 41-29.

Heart Failure

by Ron Klinger

With only N/S vulnerable the bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
All Pass		Pass	2♥(1)
(1) Three-suiter, short diamonds			

What would you lead as West from: ♠A1073 ♥KQ62 ♦KJ5 ♣106?

Shortly into the fifth session of the final, the same contract was played at both tables but in opposite directions.

Bd: 66	♠ Q5		
Dir: East	♥ J84		
Vul: N/S	♦ A10632		
	♣ 875		
♠ A1073		♠ J96	
♥ KQ62		♥ 75	
♦ KJ5		♦ Q987	
♣ 106		♣ QJ93	
	♠ K842		
	♥ A1093		
	♦ 4		
	♣ AK42		

In the Open Room a misunderstanding:

West	North	East	South
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Araszwieckicz</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Buras</i>
		Pass	1♣
Dbl	1♦	2♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♣7

East bid 2♦ natural, West took it as a cue-bid.

The ♣Q was taken by the king and South switched to the ♦4, five, ace. North reverted to the ♣5 (high-low from an odd number): three, ace, ten. South continued clubs, West discarding the ♠3. The ♥5 went to the king and declarer then tried the ♦J, overtaken by the queen and ruffed.

South played the fourth club and West ruffed with the ♥Q. He exited with a trump and scored two spades at the end for three down, -150.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
		2♥(1)	All Pass
(1) Three-suiter, short in diamonds			

Jacek Kalita found the excellent lead of the ♥K. Declarer won and played the ♠4: three, queen, nine. On the ♠5, East played the jack and South ducked. East resumed the heart attack to West's queen and the third heart was won in dummy. A club to the ace, East playing the ♣Q, was followed by the ♥10 and the ♣2 exit. West won and switched to diamonds and when the clubs did not break declarer was one down, -100, 6 Imps to Poland.

Declarer might have succeeded after the ♥K lead via a mini-dummy-reversal: take the ♥A, play over to the ♦A and ruff a diamond, followed by a low spade. If West ducks, the ♠Q wins and you score a second diamond ruff, plus two clubs and another trump trick. If West rises ♠A to clear trumps, you score three heart tricks, ♦A and two tricks in each of the black suits.

Meet Team Hackett



Paul Hackett, 64, is Britain's first real bridge professional. He lives in Manchester with his wife, Olivia. Their twin sons, Justin and Jason are both bridge professionals and former World Junior Champions. Paul was British Grand Master #137. In 1981, he finished second in both the European Teams and

the European Union Pairs, and fifth in the Bermuda Bowl, playing with John Collings. Playing with Tony Waterlow he also earned a silver medal at the 1995 European Pairs. Paul has represented Great Britain in five World Championships, including the 1996 World Teams Olympiad where Paul, Jason and Justin were all members of the Great Britain team. Paul has numerous British National titles to his credit and is a regular winner at major international events, including the Tunisian Open Teams, the Estoril Teams in Portugal, the Schiphol International Teams in The Netherlands, the Singapore National Open Teams, the Djarum Cup in Indonesia, and the Argentine National Teams. He has finished second in two North American NABC events (the Open Swiss and the BAM Teams) and reached the final day of the Reisinger. In 1998, he reached the quarter-finals of the Rosenblum Teams and won both the NEC Cup in Japan.



John Armstrong, 54, lives in Derbyshire, England. He retired from work three years ago and now plays bridge worldwide, preferring new and interesting locations. Away from the bridge table his main interests are orienteering and paying classical music.

John's most notable bridge partnership was with Graham Kirby, which began in 1976 and lasted for 20 years. During this period they won Gold and Silver medals for Great Britain in the European Championships, and a Silver medal at the 1987 Bermuda Bowl. John is England's most capped bridge player and is a regular participant

here at the NEC Bridge Festival, where he has won the NEC Cup three times.



Jack Mizel, 41, has three children and is engaged to the lovely Sara. Managing Director of his own Custom Publishing business, his hobbies include Tottenham Hotspur Football club, cinema and not walking anywhere. He is definitely one of the more colorful

characters on the British bridge scene—at least in the sense that his partners are normally seeing red. As those partners are invariably Andrew McIntosh or Tony Forrester, his mental fortitude can not be questioned.

Jack's powers of persuasion are legend—Forrester has been playing weak notrumps and four-card majors for over a year now. That's the equivalent of persuading George Bush to take up the olive branch and become an eco-warrior. Mush to Tony's disgust, they won the UK's most prestigious pairs competition playing these methods.



Andrew McIntosh, 38, is single. He has been a professional bridge player for 12 years, that coinciding with a move from his native Scotland to London. He has represented both Scotland and England internationally at bridge and won all of their major competitions at least

once.

Andrew's hobbies are playing golf badly and boules worse. Shoot-em-up X-box games are also a passion, as befits his "teen" mental age.

The highlight of his NEC tournament here has been reading his partner's line of play, described in the Daily Bulletin as "loading his only basket with suspect looking eggs." Some people say he is a nasty piece of work.

Highlights of the 2005 World Championship Finals

by Eric Kokish

Bd 3	♠ 973		
Dir: South	♥ KQJ		
Vul: E/W	♦ KJ53		
	♣ Q73		
	♠ QJ652		♠ 84
	♥ 1096		♥ A7543
	♦ A97		♦ 1062
	♣ J2		♣ A95
	♠ AK10		
	♥ 82		
	♦ Q84		
	♣ K10864		
West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♥	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
Pass	1♥(2)	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
(1) 3+♦ only with 4/5♣ too weak for a 14-16 1NT			
(2) Normally bypass four-card hearts over 1♦, but three is another story!			
West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Schraverus</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
Pass	1♦(1)	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
(1) Walsh-style: no four-card major unless FG; occasionally 2/3 cards with 5-7/11-12 w/ clubs			

At the three tables where South declared 3NT (Hamman's semi-psychoic 1♥ response worked the way he hoped it would, getting notrump played from Soloway's side; Soloway would have four hearts only with at least six diamonds in their methods, so Hamman felt he could control the auction without much danger: he intended to bid 3♦, non-forcing, over a raise to 2♥, willing to risk finding Soloway with 2=3=3=5), West led a low spade (Bocchi the attitude deuce, von Arnim and Willard the fourth-best five). Declarer took East's eight with the ten and led a club to the queen and ace. East continued spades, the Venice Cup Wests following with the deuce to confirm their length.

Alberti won, led a diamond to the jack, and called for a heart. Cronier took the ace and played a second diamond, to the eight, nine, and king. With seven winners outside clubs in her account, Alberti could afford to lead a club to the ten. Willard won the jack and cleared spades, but lost her ♦A, as declarer discarded her remaining diamond on a high heart; +430. Had Cronier ducked the heart, Alberti would have had to guess how to continue: a club to the ten would have led to defeat; a second diamond to the queen would have created some interesting play-and-defend options—if West ducks, declarer is very unlikely to go wrong if she plays a third diamond, but could fail if she plays a second heart, ducked.

When Gaviard won the second spade, she led a diamond to the king, and a club to the...king. A heart to the king held, as did a diamond to the queen. Gaviard took her 10 tricks for +430; no swing, France, 16-0. When the ♦K held, Gaviard reasonably placed West with the ace, so East had to have the ♥A. Had the ♣K not dropped the jack, she would have reverted to diamonds, and would have been able to lose a club safely to East had she started with ace-jack-third or -fourth.

When Soloway won the second spade, he led a diamond to the jack and a diamond to the queen and ace, Duboin clearing spades. Soloway knew the ♥A was on his right (no overcall), but Bocchi had given false count in diamonds, so it was not

clear how that suit was dividing. Had he been sure of the diamond position, Soloway could have knocked out the ♥A while he had a diamond entry to dummy, and taken the rest by dropping the ♣J for safety, but he played a third diamond instead, cashed the long diamond, discarding a club, and played the ♥K, which held. If the club finesse was onside, Soloway didn't need it: he could cross to the ♣K and exit with a heart. East would have to give dummy a second heart before or after cashing the putative ♣J. When the ♣J fell under the king, Soloway had 10 tricks: three spades, three diamonds, a heart, and three clubs. It was scored officially as +400, however, and it's safe to say that the correction deadline has passed. Let's not think about whether that potential overtrick IMP could matter at the end.

It's interesting that none of the East players ducked the ♣Q; now, after a club to the ten and jack, and a heart switch, ducked, declarer must play on diamonds to get home.

At the remaining table, Meckstroth risked a vulnerable 1♥ overcall rejected by the Easts in the Venice Cup, one of whom was the hyper-aggressive Auken. That created a scenario where North declared 3NT on the lead of the ♥4 to the nine and king, the best start for the defense. Placing Meckstroth with the ♣A, Lauria led low to dummy's king, and a second club to the jack and queen. Had Meckstroth taken his ace to lead a second low heart, he would have beaten the contract, but he let the queen hold, and now Lauria changed tack, crossing deceptively to the ♠A to lead a diamond from dummy, inducing Rodwell to go in with the ace (Lauria knew where the ♦A was: if Meckstroth held it, he would have taken the ♣A to clear hearts, and Rodwell would have had no high cards for his raise) to return a heart. Lauria had two spades, two hearts, three diamonds, and two clubs for +400, no swing. USA, 20-10.

This deal was bothering me for a while, and I resolved to get back to it for a fresh look, but in the interim, I received this illuminating note from the American expert Kit Woolsey, one of the players gracious enough to review my first draft for error:

Kit: "Apparently Meckstroth chose to play Rodwell for ♥J109 along with the ♠Q and ♦KJ,

rather than ♠Q and ♦A. I guess this is reasonable, but Rodwell could have saved the day by playing the ♥10 at trick one. Meckstroth will think declarer has the ♥9, but this is a good thing, as now Meckstroth will have no reason not to continue the suit from an original holding of ace-fifth. And if Meckstroth has ace-jack-fifth or ace-queen-fifth, playing the ten will not cost, as the location of the nine will in those cases not affect Meckstroth's defense. This is analogous to the third-hand play of the jack from QJ10. By placing the lower honor in declarer's hand, you make it safe for partner to continue the suit. This particular position isn't well-known, and West must be careful not to play the ten indiscriminately; its ideal application occurs where dummy has two cards and declarer is known to have three."

About a week later, I received a note from Patrick Huang of Chinese Taipei (who would get my vote as Pacific Asia's greatest-ever player), taking Woolsey's hypothetical rationale for Meckstroth's defense a step further:

Patrick: "Even if Rodwell had ♥J109, ♠Q, and the ♦KJ, that would not be enough to defeat 3NT. Declarer will drive out the ♣A and Meckstroth would do best to shift to a spade. Dummy wins and cashes two clubs, which squeezes West: he needs to keep two spades and three diamonds, so in the six-card ending can keep only one heart. There are many ways declarer can end-play West now, as long as he doesn't cover West's remaining heart. Even if West has ♦KJ9 and East shifts to the ♦10 after winning the ♣A, declarer can make 3NT...unless West also has the ♠J to go with the queen. If declarer has the ♠J and East overtakes West's blocking heart honor in the endgame to play a diamond through the queen, West's last two cards will be ♠Qx, and he will have to give declarer a third spade trick."



"I love these family outings."

Bd: 4	♠ QJ52		
Dir: West	♥ 63		
Vul: Both	♦ 8		
	♣ J109864		
♠ K8643		♠ 107	
♥ AKQJ		♥ 10974	
♦ J5		♦ K632	
♣ 52		♣ AQ7	
	♠ A9		
	♥ 852		
	♦ AQ10974		
	♣ K3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT(1)	2♦
2♥	All Pass		
(1) Semi-forcing			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
2♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Schraverus</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♦
2♥	All Pass		

As South's 2♦ overcall decreased the value of East's hand, Meckstroth and Auken, facing limited opening bids, had no difficulty in passing 2♥. It was not as clear for Bocchi and Cronier, as West's maximum was considerably higher at their tables. Cronier took the low road, and reached the same contract as her counterpart in

the Open Room. Bocchi could not resist the lure of the vulnerable game bonus, and took the push to 3♥, so Duboin had to play a level higher than Rodwell. All the Norths led their singleton diamond to South's queen.

Gaviard switched to a trump. Von Arnim won with the king, and took the losing club finesse, d'Ovidio putting in the nine. Gaviard continued trumps, and played a third round when von Arnim passed the ♦J to the ace. Von Arnim could take only five trumps, a club, the ♠K, and the ♦K: +110.

Alberti, in contrast, continued with ♦A, diamond. Willard discarded a club and Schraverus ruffed to switch to the ♣J. Willard took dummy's ace to play a spade, Alberti winning the ace to play a fourth diamond. This time, Willard ruffed, played ♠K, spade ruff with the ♥9, trump to hand, spade ruff with the ♥10, drew trumps, and cashed her good spade for +140 and 1 IMP to France, 17-0.

Versace, like Gaviard, switched to a trump. Rodwell won and led the ♦J, which Lauria ruffed to switch to the ♣J. Rodwell called for the ace, led a spade to his king, and played a second spade to the ten and ace. Versace played a second trump, but Rodwell could ruff two spades with dummy's high trumps, using a diamond ruff as the entry for the second. He took six trumps, a club, and a spade for +110.

Soloway returned the ♦4 at trick two. Hamman ruffed and switched to the ♣10, trying to conceal the position from Duboin, who called for the queen. Soloway won the king and played another low diamond. Duboin ruffed, went to the ♣A, and played a spade to the king. A spade went to the ten and ace, and Soloway played the ♦A. Duboin could ruff and take two spade ruffs with the nine and ten, using a club ruff to take the last of those, but at trick 13, Soloway's eight of trumps was high. One down, -100, 5 IMPs to USA, 25-10.



Barnet Shenkin

It's Never Too Late

On Thursday, when we published "Meet USA-Mahaffey" (Bulletin 3, p. 31), no pictures of Barnet Shenkin and Jim Mahaffey were available. Well, our intrepid photographer has since supplied us with two dynamite pics of this dynamic duo, so smile Jim, and cheer up, Barney.



Jim Mahaffey

[In today's and tomorrow's bulletins we will publish a number of Ron Klinger's articles featuring hands played at the World Youth Teams Championships this past June in Sydney. Enjoy!]

A Minor Consideration

by Ron Klinger

At each table North bid diamonds on this deal from Session 1 of the final, but each North introduced them at a different level.

Bd: 14	♠ K963		
Dir: East	♥ 7		
Vul: None	♦ AQ1098754		
	♣ ---		
♠ QJ42		♠ A1085	
♥ J9865		♥ Q1043	
♦ K		♦ 2	
♣ Q96		♣ AJ107	
	♠ 7		
	♥ AK2		
	♦ J63		
	♣ K85432		

Firstly the one-level. Bronze medal playoff, Canada vs France:

West	North	East	South
<i>G.Grenthe Wolpert</i>		<i>J.Grenthe Demuy</i>	
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
3♥	4♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♥4

Declarer cashed the hearts, pitching a spade, then led the ♠7: jack, king, ace. With diamonds one-one, he could ruff the two spade losers and score an overtrick for +650.

Then the two-level:

West	North	East	South
<i>Grainger</i>	<i>T,Bessis</i>	<i>Capes</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	2♦	2♥	3♣
3♥	5♦	All Pass	

Declarer made the same twelve tricks, but not doubled it was +420, so 6 Imps to Canada.

Next the four-level:

Final, Poland vs USA1:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
		2♥(1)	Pass
2NT	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♥	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Rdbl
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Opening Lead: ♠7

East won cheaply with the ♠8 and led the ♥3. South took the ♥A and switched to the ♦6. North won with the ♦A and gave South his spade ruff. South cashed the ♥A and exited with a low club. He still had a club trick coming for three down and +500.

Finally, the five-level:

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>	<i>Araszkiwicz</i>	<i>Lall</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	5♦	All Pass	

Declarer scored the usual twelve tricks for +420, but 2 Imps to Poland.

Every Little IMP Counts

by Ron Klinger

It's easy to make your contract when the tricks are there, but the tough competitors play for every trick that is not nailed down for the opponents. Here is a little gem from the second session of the finals:

Bd: 17 ♠ Q102
 Dir: North ♥ 9863
 Vul: None ♦ J6
 ♣ 10985

♠ J983	♠ AK4
♥ KJ5	♥ Q42
♦ Q108	♦ 9543
♣ A62	♣ QJ3

♠ 765
 ♥ A107
 ♦ AK72
 ♣ K74

♠2 to the ace, the ♦3 went to the ten and jack. North continued hearts: four, ace, king. South returned a heart to dummy's queen and declarer cashed the ♠K and played a third spade. In with the ♠Q, North played the thirteenth heart, South discarding the ♦7. North exited with the ♦10 and declarer had three spades, two hearts and two clubs for +90. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Araszkiewicz</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
	Pass	1♣	DbI
Rdbl	1♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	All Pass		

In the playoff for third, both East's played in 1NT:

West	North	East	South
<i>Grainger</i>	<i>O. Bessis</i>	<i>Capes</i>	<i>De Tessieres</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>T. Bessis</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

At both tables South led the ♠7 and declarer did not lose a spade trick. Both played a diamond to the ten and jack (sooner or later). Tim Capes set up a diamond trick to go with three spades, two hearts and two clubs for +120. Thomas Bessis collected four spades, two hearts and two clubs for 120, too. No swing.

In the final, John Kranyak played 1NT as West:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
	Pass	1♦	DbI
1♥(1)	Pass	1♠(2)	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

(1) Shows 4+ spades
 (2) 3-card spade holding

Opening Lead: ♥8. Declarer ducked in dummy and captured South's ten with the jack. After the

This looked like a flat board since declarer figured to make three spades, two hearts and two clubs for +80. However, with a little help from the defense, Krzysztof Buras brought in two (!) overtricks. North led the ♥8: two, ten, king. A spade to the ace was followed by the ♣Q: four, six, five. Then came the ♠K and a third spade to North's queen. North continued with the ♥3, ducked to the jack (South did not want to give declarer an entry to dummy in case the club finesse could be repeated). West cashed the thirteenth spade on which everyone discarded a diamond. This was the ending:

	♠ ---	
	♥ 96	
	♦ J	
	♣ 1098	
♠ ---		♠ ---
♥ 5		♥ Q
♦ Q108		♦ 954
♣ A2		♣ J3
	♠ ---	
	♥ A	
	♦ AK7	
	♣ K7	

Buras exited with a heart to the queen and ace, and South tried the ♦7. Not wishing to let North in to cash the last heart and judging that South figured to have the top diamonds for his double anyway, Buras rose with the ♦Q. That was his seventh trick and when he exited with a diamond to endplay South, he was able to score two club tricks at the end for +140 and 2 Imps to Poland.

Endplayed in Four Suits

by Ron Klinger

Two pairs reached the best spot on this deal from the third session of the finals. The other two were a little hasty in the auction.

Bd: 38	♠ 109854		
Dlr: East	♥ 108642		
Vul: E/W	♦ 53		
	♣ 5		
♠ 3		♠ KJ72	
♥ J973		♥ ---	
♦ AK642		♦ Q1087	
♣ 632		♣ Q10974	
	♠ AQ6		
	♥ AKQ5		
	♦ J9		
	♣ AKJ8		

Playoff for third:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Grainger</i>	<i>T.Bessis</i>	<i>Halasi</i>
Pass	2♥(1)	Pass	2♣
All Pass		Pass	3NT
(1) Negative			

If system required me to handle the South cards this way, I'd want to do some work on my system. West led the ♦4 to the queen and the ♦7 came back. West won and cashed his other top diamond. The diamonds were now blocked and the ♦2 went to East's ten. As South had thrown two spades from dummy and a spade and a club from hand, East switched to the ♠2. South could see nine tricks via five hearts, a spade and three clubs via the club finesse. He therefore rose with the ♠A and played the ♥A. The four-zero break was a shock and South cashed out, making six tricks for -150.

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>J.Grenthe</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>G.Grenthe</i>
Pass	2♥(2)	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	4♦(3)	Pass	2NT
All Pass		Pass	4♥
(1) Artificial, strong			
(2) Negative			
(3) Pick a major.			

East led the ♣10, taken by the ace. After the ♥A

revealed the trump position, declarer cashed the ♣K to throw a diamond. He ruffed a club and exited with a diamond. West won and led the ♥J, won by the king. A diamond was ruffed, followed by the ♠9 to the queen and the ♣J, ruffed with North's last trump. West ruffed the ♠A next, but declarer had 10 tricks for +420 and 11 Imps to France.

Final:

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Araszwieckicz</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
Pass	2♥(1)	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥(2)	Pass	2NT
All Pass		Pass	4♠
(1) Negative			
(2) 5+-spades			

South might have marked time with 3♠, allowing North to bid 4♥ to reach the superior trump fit.

West began with the ♦AK and shifted to the ♥3, ruffed by East, who shifted to the ♣4. South took the ♣A, ruffed a club in dummy and led the ♠10. East followed with the seven and South chose to play East for ♠K72. The ♠Q held, but there was a trump to lose. One down and -50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♣(1)
2♦	Pass	2♣	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass		Pass	4♥
(1) Artificial, forcing			

South kept pestering North to bid until he found the right strain and raised to 4♥. East led the ♦8 and West took the ♦K and ace. At this point he was endplayed in all four suits!

A club return seems best. Although that gives declarer two spade discards, he still has to manage the spades for no losers. Double dummy North can still succeed on a club return, but he has to work for the contract.

In practice West shifted to the ♠3, hoping East's spades were slightly stronger. The ♠10 was covered by the king and ace. Declarer cashed the ♥A, finding the bad news, and followed with the ♥K, ♣AK, and a club ruff. Once West had followed to three clubs, North could tell from the

bidding that West had started with a 1=4=5=3 pattern. He therefore led the ♠8 and let it run. West ruffed, but that was the last trick for the defence. Plus 420 and 10 Imps to Poland.

It Was Only One IMP

by Ron Klinger

This deal was of little consequence in terms of the score but, just like a draw in cricket, that did not mean it lacked excitement.

Bd: 60	♠ 83	
Dir: East	♥ Q9543	
Vul: None	♦ 106	
	♣ 10874	
	♠ AJ1097	♠ Q652
	♥ 10	♥ AKJ62
	♦ AK	♦ 9852
	♣ QJ653	♣ ---
	♠ K4	
	♥ 87	
	♦ QJ743	
	♣ AK92	

Opening Lead: ♥9

Declarer cashed the ♥AK, crossed to the ♦A, ruffed a club, played a diamond to the king and ruffed another club. He continued with a heart, ruffing as South discarded the ♣K. The next club ruff set up the clubs and declarer had +1430.

At the other table the bidding did not climb as high, but the score almost did:

West	North	East	South
<i>Buras</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>	<i>Araszwieckicz</i>	<i>Lall</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Dbf
Rdbl	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dbf	All Pass		

In the play-off for third place, both E/W pairs played in 4♠, Grainger-Halasi scoring an extra overtrick for 1 Imp to Canada.

Final:

West	North	East	South
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

East led the ♥A and switched to the ♠2. The ♠K lost to the ace and a spade went back to the queen. East cashed the ♥K followed by the ♥6. Declarer pitched a diamond from dummy and West ruffed. After cashing the ♦AK West played a spade. Declarer discarded a heart from hand and ruffed in dummy. The ♣A revealed that West had two more trump tricks. That was five down, a mere 1400, for 1 Imp to USA1.

Lost in Translation

In the first half of the quarterfinal match between France and Japan-YOI, **Sylvie Willard** and **Benedicte Cronier** needed to verify the result on the previous deal and consulted one another about the vulnerability in perfect English, albeit with their especially delightful Gallic flavor. This got past **Kazuo Furuta**, who very politely smiled at Sylvie and said, "So sorry, only English, please..."

Match Six, Board 11 Revisited

by Eric Kokish

Bd: 11	North		
Dir: 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			
West	North	East	South
Mizel	Sutherlin	McIntosh	Kasle
Onstott	Hackett	Hayden	Armstrong
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

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.

Mizel's line would succeed if either the ♠Q or ♣K was well-placed, a 75% chance, and it was uncharitable to cast even parenthetical aspersions upon it.

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 a negative Smith signal in diamonds, but when Armstrong took the second diamond, he played a third when a switch to hearts would have been better. Onstott, delighted, won and knocked out the ♣K for +430 and another 11 IMPs, 64-17.

In Menton in 2003, I wrote a Bulletin Article entitled "My Latest Humiliating Experience," after missing a key point on an interesting deal. That has left me well placed to write this piece, which is directly on point.

Jack Mizel got a low heart lead from John 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.

At double dummy, the only lead to defeat 3NT is a diamond, allowing South to win and switch to

Further apologies are due for failing to note that declarer's best play at trick one in the Closed Room would have been the ♠A, to take the club finesse. That would protect the ♥Q and leave declarer with time to knock out the ♦A if the ♣K were wrong, and spades were really no threat to the contract. In fact, the presence of the ♠J and ♠9 were "red herrings"...appropriate for the occasion as this analyst can't seem to shake the smell of fish after realizing his errors.

It's bad enough to produce an inferior analysis, but it's doubly bad to do so on a beautiful technical deal. Mea culpa.



"Gitchee, gitchee..."



"Is that camera made in Japan?"



"I will NOT play that card!"

New Rider Cup-Style Bridge Event Being Planned

The Ryder Cup is taking place in Ireland starting on the 22nd September.

Preceding it on Monday the 18th September the first bridge competition, run upon Ryder Cup lines, will take place between Europe and America over a four day period. The event will start with an individual on the Monday. While each of the two continents will only partner all of their teammates each player will only be competing against one player from the other continent. There are twelve players on each team and the Captains will put in a line-up numbering their players from 1-12. Thus, until the draw comes out no one will know who their opponent is.

The other unusual feature is that each player can win, draw or lose each board (1-1/2-0) and the winner will earn one point for their continent or 1/2 point if they draw. The pairs will follow the same formula but this time the scores will be double. The last two days will be three-team matches with four points at stake for each match. This will be followed by a gala Asian banquet with many courses and plenty of wine.

At the moment the name of the Cup is still being decided, but the event is being put on by the Irish Bridge Association (CIBIA). The European team has already been announced: Noberto Bocchi and Georgio Duboin (Italy), Geir Helgemo and Tor Hellness (Norway), Sabine Van Auken and Daniella Van Porten (Germany), Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlan (Ireland), Jason and Justin Hackett (England) and Adam Zmudzinski and Cesare Balicki (Poland). Their Captain is Paul Hackett. The American team has not been announced but we have heard that Bob Hamman and Paul Solaway, Zia Mahmood and Roy Welland, Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco and Jill Meyers have accepted.



Capt'n Hackett

It is expected that Transworld Sports will be showing it on television and that BBO will have online commentary from all six tables.

11th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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)	
Sunday (Feb. 12)	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams	F201-204
	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup	F201-204
	18:00-20:30	Closing Ceremony	F205-206

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



WBF Women (L to R): Catherine d'Ovidio, Nathalie Frey, Daniele Gaviard, Sylvie Willard, Benedict Cronier, Vanessa Reess (not in photo)