



NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 12, 2006
Bulletin Number 7

Editors: Eric Kokish, Richard Colker

Mori-Takahashi Triumph in Asuka Cup Yokoe-Nagasaki Win JCBL Pairs



Hidenori Narita–Makoto Hirata



Kunihiro Takahashi–Kimiko Mori



Reiko Nagasaki–Miyoko Yokoe

Top Finishers in Asuka Cup And JCBL Pairs

Rank	Asuka Cup		JCBL Pairs	
	Pair	Score	Pair	Score
1	Mori–Takahashi	3022.5	Yokoe–Nagasaki	74.5
2	Hirata–Narita	3005	Sugio–Hirai	69.5
3	Mr & Mrs Takano	2967	Mr & Mrs Ijuin	61
4	Zhao–Ikemoto	2963.5		
5	Asakoshi–Fu	2913		
6	Chen–Hirata	2895		
7	Del'Monte–Imai	2892.5		
8	Gupta–Cronier	2865.5		
9	Ono–Saito	2862		
10	Ueki–Yanagisawa	2856		

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>

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NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2006

Domo Arigato

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to congratulate our corporate sponsor **NEC** for once again joining with **JCBL** to produce a bridge event of the highest quality and competitiveness. As we have mentioned before, the **NEC Bridge Festival** now regularly attracts the interest of the best players in the world. Many of the participants consider the NEC tournament one of their best bridge experiences. Once again, congratulations to the sponsors and especially the **JCBL** staff.

Yokohama, and especially the Pacifico, are wonderful places and get better and better each year. The Exhibition Hall has again proved to be a first-class playing venue. The weather was pleasant for this year's festival and the people warm and friendly, as always. It is our continuing great pleasure to be reunited each year with our many friends and to share once again the happy times, the fun and the excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts.

The significant prizes and broad participation continue to make the **NEC Bridge Festival** an important event on the bridge calendar, one which continues to grow in prestige. This year's field of 42 teams in the NEC Cup was smaller than either of the previous two years; nevertheless, the field was one of the strongest ever, and the quality of play continues to be impressive.

The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who provided us with deals, stories and other material to help us keep you informed. Many thanks to *Nakatani-san* for his leadership and enduring friendship; we look forward to working with *Yoshida-san*, Nakatani-san's successor, in the future. Thanks also to *Richard Grenside*, tormented Director, who as always ran a smooth and pleasant tournament; to *Sue Grenside* for her ace reporting; to *Omasa-san*, for his remarkable technical and computer support—often suffering with us well into the wee hours of the morning; to *Nakamura-san*, *Watanabe-san* and *Tashiro-san* for their wonderful pictures (which as always we subjected to our peculiar sense of humor); to *Suzuki-san* for his help with many things, both technical and otherwise; to the many who brought us gifts, food and moral support, especially during our late-night work sessions. Thanks also to the many volunteers who performed the myriad functions critical to making this tournament a success, while we remained absorbed in our work. We consider all of you part of our extended family here in Japan. And finally, thanks to the players, who produced such a rich source of exciting, top-level bridge for us to write about.



Eric



Rich



Bulletin "Staff"

Warmest regards, *Eric, Rich, and the Bulletin Staff*

The Final: Israel vs Japan-YOI

by Eric Kokish

Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

Bd: 33	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q9		
Vul: None	♥ 7653		
	♦ K964		
	♣ A53		
	West		East
	♠ AJ75		♠ K1043
	♥ A1092		♥ KQ8
	♦ 1075		♦ J82
	♣ Q8		♣ 976
		South	
		♠ 862	
		♥ J4	
		♦ AQ3	
		♣ KJ1042	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl*	Rdbl	2♣
2♠	All Pass		
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	Rdbl(♦)	1♠	Dbl(3♦)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

2♠, a nice normal contract, became much better when South's nice normal trump lead located the queen for declarer. With the ♥J coming down, Ino made three, +140.

3♦, an ugly abnormal contract reached because Furuta thought Chen's double was takeout showing hearts, while Chen thought his double showed three-card diamond support, had a chance after a trump lead to the jack and ace. Chen needed the clubs to come in and the diamonds to break, but at trick two he led the ♣J from hand (risking singleton queen in

West), rose with the ace when the queen did not appear, drew trumps, and led a club to the ten and queen. Doron played the ♠A, then the ♠7 to the queen and king. Izzy switched to hearts and the defense four of those for three down, -150. No swing at all.

Bd: 34	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AQJ832		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQJ6		
	♦ 9		
	♣ Q8		
	West		East
	♠ 1075		♠ 6
	♥ A42		♥ 8
	♦ 75		♦ AQJ10843
	♣ KJ965		♣ A1043
		South	
		♠ K94	
		♥ 109753	
		♦ K62	
		♣ 72	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		1♦	Pass
1NT	2♠	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	5♦	Dbl
All Pass			
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		1♦	Pass
1NT	2♦(1)	5♦	Dbl
All Pass			
(1) Majors, longer spades			

5♦ doubled turned on the ♣Q. Ino decided not to play Barel for two minor-suit singletons, and so got the clubs right for +550. Izzy had far more reason to play Furuta for six-five once it seemed that he had six spades, and so got the clubs wrong for -100. YOI gained 12 IMPs, 54-75.

Bd: 35	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 975		
Vul: E/W	♥ A65		
	♦ Q95		
	♣ AK106		
West		East	
♠ Q1042		♠ KJ	
♥ Q98742		♥ J3	
♦ A2		♦ K874	
♣ 5		♣ J9843	
	South		
	♠ A863		
	♥ K10		
	♦ J1063		
	♣ Q72		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Barel, in 1NT came to eight tricks easily on a diamond lead, +120. Doron, in 2♥, lost three trumps, a spade, and a club for +110. 6 IMPs to Israel, 81-54.

Bd: 36	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 7654		
Vul: Both	♥ K83		
	♦ 7		
	♣ Q10852		
West		East	
♠ 108		♠ Q92	
♥ AJ1064		♥ 972	
♦ 1042		♦ AKJ5	
♣ AJ7		♣ K63	
	South		
	♠ AKJ3		
	♥ Q5		
	♦ Q9863		
	♣ 94		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♥	3♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	All Pass	

Both 2♠ and 3♠ were touch and go. Chen got home in 2♠ by ruffing out clubs three-three, but in 3♠, Campanile needed to play clubs towards dummy twice and keep control, taking the spade finesse along the way. It would have been best for West to lead a second diamond when in with the ♥A, but when he continued hearts, Campanile was able to use a late ruffing entry to dummy to take her club tricks. 1 IMP to Israel for +140 vs -110, 82-54.

Bd: 37	North		
Dlr: North	♠ J3		
Vul: N/S	♥ QJ1096		
	♦ J54		
	♣ AQ9		
West		East	
♠ 42		♠ Q8765	
♥ A42		♥ K5	
♦ A1076		♦ Q93	
♣ KJ105		♣ 764	
	South		
	♠ AK109		
	♥ 873		
	♦ K82		
	♣ 832		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♥	1♠	4♥
Dbl	All Pass		

I've watched an awful lot of boards played by Meckstroth-Rodwell, but even they would not

duplicate Chen's bold 4♥ bid. He was hoping for 4♠, of course, but got a "cards" double instead, passed for penalty by Izzy, mostly because he had nowhere to go after his featherweight Italian-style 1♠ overcall. 4♥ doubled went two down, -500, on a spade lead and continuation. All 500 of those points counted for Israel when North, South and West passed their marginal hands at the other table. 11 IMPs to Israel, 93-54.

Bd: 38	North		
Dlr: East	♠ KJ2		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q7		
	♦ AQ10872		
	♣ 97		
West		East	
♠ 108		♠ 764	
♥ AKJ108643		♥ 92	
♦ ---		♦ 93	
♣ 542		♣ AKQJ106	
	South		
	♠ AQ953		
	♥ 5		
	♦ KJ654		
	♣ 83		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	1♠
4♥	4♠	5♣	Pass
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		1♣	1♠
2♥	3♥(♠)	Pass	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

5♠ was one down when Doron got the defense right, switching to the count ♣2 after the ♥A brought the seven, nine, and five; Izzy knew to cash a second club for -50. Had Campanile known more about Barel's hand type she might well have gone on to 5♠, but 4♥ had deprived him of the opportunity to do much describing. His double of 5♥ suggested that he was protecting his likely equity in 4♠, but did not point towards declaring rather than defending.

Barel led the ♠2 to the ace, and Campanile, who could not read the spade position (fourth-best-from-an-honor leads), switched to the ♦K. Imakura ruffed, drew trumps, and claimed six, +1050. YOI gained 14 IMPs, 68-93.

Bd: 39	North		
Dlr: South	♠ K42		
Vul: Both	♥ QJ2		
	♦ AK7		
	♣ KJ108		
West		East	
♠ QJ8765		♠ A	
♥ K93		♥ A654	
♦ 6		♦ Q983	
♣ 743		♣ AQ52	
	South		
	♠ 1093		
	♥ 1087		
	♦ J10542		
	♣ 96		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			Pass
2♦(1)	2NT	Dbl(2)	Pass
3♠	All Pass		
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠			
(2) Bid your major			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			Pass
2♦(1)	2NT	All Pass	
(1) Weak 2M or 20-22 HCP balanced			

Against Furuta's 2NT, Izzy led the ♦3, dummy's jack winning. The ♣9 lost to the queen, and Izzy switched to a low heart to his brother's king. The defenders cleared hearts, declarer clubs. Izzy cashed his heart and exited in diamonds and Furuta cashed out rather than lead a low spade from hand from king-low while he still had the ♦A to get back in to cash the ♠K. Down 200.

Imakura had time for a club discard on a long heart in 3♠ after ♦A, ♥Q, and so made four, +170. 1 IMP to Israel, 94-68.

Bd: 41
 Dir: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 1062
 ♥ K10542
 ♦ A108
 ♣ J8

West
 ♠ KQ3
 ♥ Q
 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ AK7652

East
 ♠ A8754
 ♥ 9
 ♦ K9643
 ♣ Q3

South
 ♠ J9
 ♥ AJ8763
 ♦ 75
 ♣ 1094

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
3♦(2)	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

(1) Unspecified weak M/m two suiter; (2) Inquiry

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♦(1)
3♣	3♠(2)	Dbl	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dbl	All Pass

(1) Weak 2♥/♠; (2) Pass with ♠ or correct to 4♥

5♥ doubled was down 500. As Ino-Imakura were under the impression that their brown sticker 2♥ opening had been approved for use in the knockout stage, they were surprised to discover that it was not permitted when their opponents summoned the Director. The score was adjusted from E/W +650 to E/W +500 and the board was halved. Had E/W pre-Alerted their BSC before the match began, the issue would have been avoided.



"We could go to the Ginza. I read there's a sale on Italian shoes."

Bd: 42
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J109653
 ♥ 6
 ♦ KQJ105
 ♣ 3

West
 ♠ KQ4
 ♥ K852
 ♦ 4
 ♣ KJ1074

East
 ♠ A
 ♥ QJ743
 ♦ 732
 ♣ Q986

South
 ♠ 872
 ♥ A109
 ♦ A986
 ♣ A52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	1♦
Dbl	1♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	4♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		Pass	1♦
Dbl	2♠(Fit)	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

Barel did well to bid 4♠, but wasn't certain he should stick it out when he was doubled. Alas, 4♠ doubled was cold, while 5♦ went one down, -100, Campanile leading the first spade from dummy, which made it impossible for a defensive error in the suit. Furuta's 3♠ produced +170, and YOI gained 7 IMPs, 75-95.

Bd: 43
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K8752
 ♥ Q953
 ♦ Q
 ♣ AQ4

West
 ♠ AQJ6
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J83
 ♣ KJ987

East
 ♠ 1043
 ♥ A10
 ♦ K76542
 ♣ 102

South
 ♠ 9
 ♥ KJ8762
 ♦ A109
 ♣ 653

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
3♣(2)	4♥(3)	5♦	2♦(1)
All Pass			
(1) Weak 2♥ or 2♠; (2) Light T/O of ♥; (3) P/C			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	2NT(2)	Pass	3♠(3)
Dbl	4♥	All Pass	2♦(1)
(1) Weak 2♥ orv weak 2♠; (2) Inquiry			
(3) Maximum weak 2♥ with a six-card suit			

In 4♥, Furuta made five on a spade lead for +450, but lost 8 IMPs when Ino's 5♦ was set 800 on a spade lead. Declarer took the ace to play a low trump to the queen, king, and ace. Campanile switched to a club, and Barel won, played ♠K (club from South), gave a spade ruff, got in with a club, and played a club to promote the ♦10. Israel, 103-75.

Bd: 47	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J943		
Vul: N/S	♥ K10875		
	♦ K102		
	♣ 2		
West	East		
♠ AK5	♠ Q8		
♥ A43	♥ J62		
♦ 964	♦ Q53		
♣ K1054	♣ Q9863		
South			
♠ 10762			
♥ Q9			
♦ AJ87			
♣ AJ7			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Dbl	1♥	2♣	1♦
3♣	All Pass	Pass	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	3♣	3♥	3NT!
4♥	All Pass		

3♣ was one down on the lead of the ♥Q, declarer discarding a diamond on the third spade but losing two diamonds, a heart, the ♣A, and a heart ruff, -50. In 2♥, Furuta got a club lead. He won the ace and tried a diamond to the ten, losing to the queen. He took the club force, but got the trumps wrong by leading low to the queen and ace. He accepted another club force but lost control and went two down, -200. Israel gained 6 IMPs and led 109-75.

Bd: 48	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 763		
Vul: E/W	♥ 43		
	♦ 107		
	♣ KQ7642		
West	East		
♠ K5	♠ Q94		
♥ 852	♥ AQ1096		
♦ K9642	♦ AJ8		
♣ J108	♣ A5		
South			
♠ AJ1082			
♥ KJ7			
♦ Q53			
♣ 93			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	3♣	3♥	3NT!
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

4♥ went one down at both tables on a club lead, North's 3♣ opening helping with that. Campanile's 3NT bid looks enough like an online mis-click that I'm willing to risk printing it with an exclamation mark despite my genuine fear of flying objects. Goodnight, Yokohama.

After 48 deals of the 64 board final, Israel had tacked on another IMP in the third quarter, 34-33, and led by 34, 109-75.

The Final: Israel vs Japan-YOI

by Eric Kokish

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

The Israeli lead of 34 IMPs was significant, but not secure, especially against an active team like YOI, and the home-team supporters were not without support for a comeback. On BBO, thousands watched the final, with most Israeli bridge aficionados settling in at their consoles to watch their heroes vie for the NEC title for the third year in a row.

The set began with a rather spectacular flat board...

Bd: 49	North		
Dlr: North	♠ Q842		
Vul: None	♥ 73		
	♦ A10		
	♣ KJ1053		
	West		East
	♠ KJ5		♠ A109
	♥ A65		♥ KQJ10
	♦ 9732		♦ KJ8654
	♣ AQ2		♣ ---
		South	
		♠ 763	
		♥ 9842	
		♦ Q	
		♣ 98764	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Imakura's inverted raise made it a lot easier to explore for slam than Doron Yadlin's 13-15 3NT response, but in the end, Ino's best guess was

not so different from Israel Yadlin's. Campanile led a spade against Ino, who won with dummy's king to lead a trump, Barel following with the ten. Ino knows that the jack is the correct technical play, catering to the extra chance of all three trumps in North, but he saw an opportunity to perhaps create a swing in the play if his counterparts reached the same contract, and he played the ♦K. Bingo! Plus 920.

Furuta also led a spade against Izzy, who played the jack from dummy and took the queen with the ace, crossed to the ♥A, and led a trump. Chen rose with the ace, a play that will not appear in his personal highlight film for 2006. Plus 920 here too. No swing.

Bd: 50	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 632		
Vul: N/S	♥ 64		
	♦ AJ8		
	♣ QJ742		
	West		East
	♠ J875		♠ A104
	♥ QJ		♥ A52
	♦ 109743		♦ KQ52
	♣ 63		♣ K95
		South	
		♠ KQ9	
		♥ K109873	
		♦ 6	
		♣ A108	
	Open Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		1♦	1♥
Dbl*	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♦	3♥	5♦	All Pass
	Closed Room		
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
		1NT	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	Pass	All Pass

Imakura-Ino play 10-12 notrumps in this position, which explains some of their bidding, but reaching 5♦ on those cards was ridiculous and they were fortunate to escape undoubled. Although South led a heart from the king, 5♦ still went three down, -150.

Against Chen's 2♥, Izzy found the unfortunate lead of the ♦2. Chen won with the jack, led the ♣Q to the king and ace, a club to his jack, cashed the ♦A to discard the ♠9, and led a trump to the king, and a trump; +170, That was 1 IMP to YOI, 76-109.

Bd: 51		North	
Dir: South		♠ AQ63	
Vul: E/W		♥ 53	
		♦ QJ842	
		♣ Q2	
West		East	
♠ J92		♠ 7	
♥ K9842		♥ AQJ76	
♦ A96		♦ K	
♣ K6		♣ A108754	
		South	
		♠ K10854	
		♥ 10	
		♦ 10753	
		♣ J93	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			Pass
1♥	Dbl	3♠(SPL)	Dbl
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
			2♦(1)
Pass	2♥(2)	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT(3)	Dbl(4)	3♣(5)
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠; (2) P/C; (3) Inquiry			
(4) T/O of spades; (5) Only 5♠, minimum			

Furuta's disgusting Multi really gave his opponents a hard time. While Chen's approach after that might seem less disruptive than a

simple jump to 4♠ would have been, Izzy would surely have bid 4NT over 4♠ and Doron might have committed to slam. It's difficult to understand why Furuta would want to bid 4♠ in front of his partner, but we can't quarrel too loudly with success. Izzy took the lead of the ♥4 with his ace and switched to the ♦K, seven, six, deuce. He continued with ♣A, club to the king, and Doron cashed the ♦A and dealt his brother a diamond ruff for three down, -500.

Despite his minimum opening bid, Imakura had a good hand facing a slam-try splinter, and was worth more than 4♥ over Campanile's double of 3♠ (4♠ was an alternative for her at this vulnerability, but that would have permitted Imakura a forcing pass and might have worked badly for Israel). It's never clear how to develop a complex support hand like East's, and Ino's choice of 3♠ should have worked very well this time, but slam was missed at this table also, Imakura scoring +710 after a trump lead by Barel. YOI gained 5 IMPs nonetheless, and trailed by 28, 81-109.

Bd: 52		North	
Dir: West		♠ KQ10742	
Vul: Both		♥ 732	
		♦ 75	
		♣ 64	
West		East	
♠ 53		♠ AJ98	
♥ AK65		♥ Q8	
♦ J632		♦ AKQ10984	
♣ Q93		♣ ---	
		South	
		♠ 6	
		♥ J1094	
		♦ ---	
		♣ AKJ108752	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	Dbl	5♣
Dbl	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	Dbl	Rdbl(2)
Pass	2♥	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠; (2) Puppet to 2♥, normally for South to play in his own suit

Perhaps Doron should have tried 3♥ over 3♦, but it was the difference in the actions of the South players that was largely responsible for getting Ino-Imakura to slam while the Yadrins stopped at game. Curiously, it was the hairy-chested Furuta that stayed low this time, while the more disciplined "Meatballs" Campanile bounced to the five-level (as who would not, quite frankly?). YOI gained 12 IMPs for +1370 and -660; closed to within 16 IMPs at 93-109.

Bd: 55	North		
Dlr: South	♠ 3		
Vul: Both	♥ Q97543		
	♦ AK102		
	♣ 64		
West		East	
♠ 97		♠ KQ8542	
♥ KJ1082		♥ ---	
♦ 6543		♦ QJ7	
♣ K2		♣ AQ97	
		South	
		♠ AJ106	
		♥ A6	
		♦ 98	
		♣ J10853	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	3♠	All Pass

(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
Pass	1NT	2♣(1)	Pass
2♦(2)	Pass	2♠	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) Unspecified one-suiter; (2) Which suit?

Ino's 3♠ showed a good hand, so Campanile was not anxious to double it, and the result was one down, -100. Apart from the result on Board 49, things had gone well for Chen-Furuta so far, so it was surprising to see Chen psych a strong notrump, vulnerable, in third seat, with a hand that could produce lots of tricks with a fit. By the time it sorted itself out, he had to declare 5♥ doubled, which was not what he had hoped for when he opened. He took the lead of the ♠K with the ace and led the ♠J, discarding a club. Izzy won with the ♠Q, cashed the ♣A, and continued clubs, Chen ruffing to play three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third low. Doron discarded his remaining diamond on the ♠10, and Chen threw his diamond winner, reducing to all trumps. On dummy's spade continuation, Doron ruffed in with the ♥K, and returned the deuce to dummy's ace, but on the lead of a club from dummy, Chen had the queen-nine-seven of trumps over Doron's jack-ten-eight. When Doron ruffed with the ten, Chen under-ruffed, took the last two tricks with his major tenace, an escaped for two down, -500. An uncharitable analyst would make a comment about playing it much better than he bid it, but we would never stoop to such depths in this publication. Israel gained 12 IMPs to lead again by 28, 121-93.

Bd: 56	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q3		
Vul: None	♥ K84		
	♦ A1063		
	♣ QJ104		
West		East	
♠ 1085		♠ A62	
♥ Q		♥ AJ9532	
♦ J842		♦ ---	
♣ A7632		♣ K985	
		South	
		♠ KJ974	
		♥ 1076	
		♦ KQ975	
		♣ ---	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠(5+♠)
Pass	1NT	2♣	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠(5+♠)
Pass	1NT	2♥	All Pass

The random system choice of which minor to open with four-four landed Barel in 5♦ while Chen-Furuta were selling out to 2♥. Both Israeli declarers did well in the play, Barel to go one down, Izzy to make an overtrick, and Israel gained 3 IMPs for +140 and -50, 124-93.

With Israel 31 IMPs ahead halfway through the fourth quarter, YOI needed some opportunities, but Board 57, though promising, was not the deal to go looking for magic.

Bd: 57	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AJ76		
Vul: E/W	♥ K985		
	♦ K7		
	♣ A64		
West		East	
♠ 9853		♠ K1042	
♥ Q32		♥ 10764	
♦ Q86		♦ 1094	
♣ Q32		♣ K5	
	South		
	♠ Q		
	♥ AJ		
	♦ AJ532		
	♣ J10987		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♦(1)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) Minors, forcing			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

Against Barel's 3NT, Ino led the ♠2, the queen winning. Barel passed a club to the king, played

the jack on East's heart shift, took the queen with the king, and crossed in hearts to take another club finesse. He came to the ♣A and knocked out the ♥10 for 11 tricks, +660.

Chen, in 4NT after an auction that looks very much like a homework problem, was treated to the interesting lead of the ♦4 from Izzy, low, eight, king. A second diamond went to the nine, jack, and queen, and Doron switched to the ♠3, ducked to the king. A second spade went to the eight and jack, but Chen discarded a diamond from dummy, expecting that suit to be four-two. He led a low club towards dummy, but Izzy went in with the king to knock out the ♠A. Chen, desperate now, led a heart to the jack, but that lost, and Doron cashed his partner's spade trick. Chen took the rest but he was two down, and Israel gained 11 IMPs, extending its lead to 42 IMPs, 135-93.

Bd: 58	North		
Dlr: East	♠ Q9542		
Vul: Both	♥ 1073		
	♦ K106		
	♣ Q3		
West		East	
♠ K		♠ J1087	
♥ 986		♥ QJ	
♦ AQ9		♦ J754	
♣ KJ9865		♣ A104	
	South		
	♠ A63		
	♥ AK542		
	♦ 832		
	♣ 72		
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
2♣	2♥	Pass	1♥
		3♣	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
2♣	2♥	Pass	1♥
3♣	All Pass	DbI*	Pass

Both declarers got a heart lead to the king, and a diamond shift, ducked to the king. When

neither West switched to spades, both declarers made four. No swing at E/W +130. With six deals left, Israel was sitting pretty.

But then the tide turned...in tsunami-like fashion.

Bd: 59	North		
Dlr: South	♠ Q9842		
Vul: None	♥ Q1085		
	♦ 62		
	♣ 105		
West	East		South
♠ 1076	♠ J5		♠ AK3
♥ 42	♥ AJ973		♥ K6
♦ A83	♦ Q10		♦ KJ9754
♣ K8642	♣ AQJ3		♣ 97
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♠	2♥	1♦
Pass	2♠	3♣	Dbl(3♠)
4♣	All Pass		3♦
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	1♦
3♣	Pass	Pass	Rdbl(3♠)
Pass	3♠	All Pass	3♦

Against 4♣, Campanile led the ♠K and Barel encouraged with the nine, an odd card. On the ♠A, he followed with the four. Whether this influenced Campanile to switch to a diamond is unclear, but Ino ran it to the queen and coasted home for +130. On a spade continuation, declarer could still get home by using the ♣K to lead a heart to the nine, and the ♦A to lead a heart to the jack (with adjustments for North playing the ♥Q on the first round) and using a third-round trump entry to hand to cash the long heart after establishing it with a ruff.

Izzy located the club fit by doubling to show his two suits, but Doron did not compete to 4♣, and Chen was pleased to play in 3♠, more so when Izzy led the ♦10 and he guessed right, playing dummy's jack. Doron won the ♦A and returned a diamond, and Chen could draw trumps, ending in dummy, discard clubs and hearts on diamonds, and lose only to the ♥A for +200. YOI gained 8 IMPs, 101-135.

Bd: 60	North		
Dlr: West	♠ 6		
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ1065		
	♦ J962		
	♣ K54		
West	East		South
♠ 5432	♠ AQ		♠ KJ10987
♥ J	♥ 873		♥ A942
♦ AK8	♦ Q1054		♦ 73
♣ Q10976	♣ J832		♣ A
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦(1)
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠
All Pass			
(1) Hearts or spades			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	4♣(2)
Pass	4♦(3)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) Weak 2♥ or 2♠; (2) Xfer to your M; (3) Hearts			

With the delicious spade position, Furuta had no trouble making 4♥, +620, and Chen's Multi made it easy to get there. Ino's 10-12 notrump set a different sort of problem for his opponents. While Campanile sensibly decided to focus on her long suit initially, she was faced with an undiscussed situation at her second turn. My feeling is that double would suggest 6-3=3=1 or 6-4 in the majors with good offense, but sorting out the major length would require

some intuitive reasoning combined with existing principles. For example, if South doubles 3♣, North can jump to 4♥ as a natural bid, not pass-or-correct, as he could bid 4♣ to land in South's long suit. At the three-level, it's not so clear how to proceed, as North will want to play in a six-two or six-one fit rather than a four-three, so aiming for the long suit with pass-or-correct bids of 3♥ and 3♠ would seem to be the appropriate strategy. Against 3♠, the defense started with three rounds of diamonds. A heart to dummy and a spade down would have worked nicely, but Campanile elected to start trumps from hand, leading the eight from hand. Ino won the queen and played a fourth diamond, Imakura discarding his stiff heart as declarer ruffed. When Campanile continued trumps, Ino won and gave Imakura a heart ruff to set the contract, -100. YOI gained 12 IMPs, 113-135. 22 IMPs, four boards left.

Declarer ruffed in dummy, and played ♦A, diamond ruff, trump to the jack and king. Ino returned a trump to dummy's nine, and Campanile cashed the ♦K to discard a club, ruffed a diamond, and ruffed her last club with the ♠A. There was a good diamond in dummy, but she couldn't cash it as East still had a trump, which he used to ruff that diamond. Campanile over-ruffed, West discarding the ♥7, and led a heart, but Imakura had two high hearts and a good club for one down, -100.

Against Furuta, Izzy also followed to the ♣A with the deuce, but in his methods, even cards are discouraging and suit preference, which would appear to be the reason that Doron switched to a diamond. Furuta played the ♦AK to discard a heart, ruffed a diamond with the ♠7, a club with the ♠4, and a diamond with the ♠2 as East discarded the ♣Q. Furuta continued with the ♥3, and Doron took the ♥K to play another club. Izzy did not over-ruff dummy's ♠9, and Furuta discarded his remaining heart on dummy's good diamond as West ruffed with the ♠8. The fourth round of clubs was ruffed and over-ruffed, but Furuta was down to trumps, +140. 6 IMPs to YOI, 16 behind, 119-135, three deals to play.

Bd: 61		North	
Dir: North		♠ AJ94	
Vul: Both		♥ Q86	
		♦ AK985	
		♣ 7	
West		East	
♠ 8		♠ K53	
♥ AK7		♥ 10952	
♦ Q762		♦ J104	
♣ AKJ86		♣ Q42	
		South	
		♠ Q10762	
		♥ J43	
		♦ 3	
		♣ 10953	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Dbl	3♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	3♠	All Pass	

Against Campanile, Imakura led the ♣A, saw Ino's encouraging (*not* suit preference, please note) deuce, and continued with a low club.

Bd: 62		North	
Dir: East		♠ J109864	
Vul: None		♥ 93	
		♦ J93	
		♣ 73	
West		East	
♠ Q73		♠ AK2	
♥ A1082		♥ KJ754	
♦ K4		♦ Q7	
♣ AQJ10		♣ K95	
		South	
		♠ 5	
		♥ Q6	
		♦ A108652	
		♣ 8642	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		1♥	Pass
2NT(♥)	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♠(1)	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	All Pass
(1) ART FG			

Although we can't verify the meaning of some of E/W's bids at both tables, it looks as if both were able to check on keycards and stop in 5♥ missing one key card and the trump queen. If they knew they had a nine-card fit, staying out of slam was judgment, but otherwise science kept them out of a 32-point slam that otherwise they might have bid and made. No swing at E/W +480. Still Israel by 16, two boards left.

Bd: 63	North		
Dlr: South	♠ J754		
Vul: N/S	♥ AK93		
	♦ ---		
	♣ KJ843		
	West		East
	♠ AK82		♠ 1063
	♥ Q72		♥ 1085
	♦ 65		♦ KQ983
	♣ AQ76		♣ 105
		South	
		♠ Q9	
		♥ J64	
		♦ AJ10742	
		♣ 92	
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Dbl	All Pass	Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
1NT	2♣(♥+♠)	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Against Furuta's 2♥, Doron led the ♠A, then switched to the ♦6. Furuta threw a club from dummy, took the queen with the ace, and led a club. Doron won ace and continued diamonds,

Furuta discarding another club as Izzy won his king. Two rounds of spades followed, declarer playing low from dummy and ruffing East's ten. On the ♦J both West and dummy discarded spades, and a club to the jack was followed by the ♣K, ruffed with the eight and over-ruffed with the jack. When both followed to the ace-king of trumps, Furuta had eight tricks, +110.

Barel had lots of ways to go with his complex hand, and chose to pass and double, nominally takeout of diamonds with a good hand. Campanile was delighted to pass, but the hand proved difficult to defend. Barel led the ♥A asking for attitude, and Campanile's "even" four denied the queen, with potential suit-preference overtones. Barel switched to a club and the ten won in dummy, South keeping her nine. Imakura came to the ♠K and led a diamond to the king and ace, North parting with a club. The ♣9 was taken by the ace, and declarer led a second diamond, Barel discarding a heart. Imakura won the ♦Q and played ♠A, spade. Barel won his jack and could exit safely with the ♠7, but declarer, with six tricks in and two doubleton queens remaining, could exit in clubs to endplay Barel, who had to give Imakura the ♥Q at trick 13. That was well played by Tadashi-san; 7 IMPs for YOI. With one board to play, YOI was only 9 IMPs behind, 126-135.

Bd: 64	North		
Dlr: West	♠ Q		
Vul: E/W	♥ A1062		
	♦ J8765		
	♣ 653		
	West		East
	♠ A1097		♠ 842
	♥ KQJ953		♥ 874
	♦ 104		♦ KQ
	♣ 9		♣ AKQ74
		South	
		♠ KJ653	
		♥ ---	
		♦ A932	
		♣ J1082	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

With both E/W pairs in the same contract, the only chance for YOI was to make 4♥ in the Open Room and defeat it in the other. As the outcome is far from clear looking at all the cards, the script had been written for the event to be decided on the last few cards played.

In the Closed Room, where Furuta had bid spades, Chen led the ♠Q. Doron took the ♠A and played three high clubs, discarding spades, and led a trump, getting set to claim if nothing bad happened on this trick. When South showed out, declarer could not avoid losing a spade, the ♦A, and two trumps, for -100.

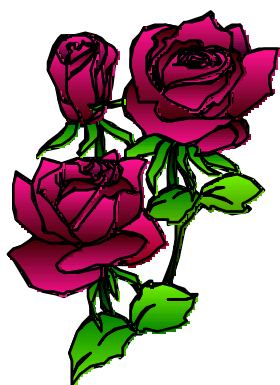
Could Imakura bring home 4♥? It looked as if he might have a chance when Barel, with nothing to guide him, led a diamond and not a spade. Campanile won and might have been forgiven for switching to spades, but she was

not looking for forgiveness and accurately returned a diamond, which is what it took to defeat the contract. Imakura won and led a trump to the king and ace. Barel switched to the ♠Q, which Imakura took to play his high trumps before starting clubs. As he did find jack-ten-eight tripleton, he had to go down one, -100.

If Campanile switches to a spade at trick two, Imakura can get home by winning and playing four rounds of clubs, ruffing with the ♥9. If North over-ruffs and knocks out the diamond entry, declarer can force a late entry in trumps. If North does not over-ruff, declarer plays high trumps (or not), but can discard his last spade on dummy's fifth club when he gets to dummy in diamonds as North ruffs with one of his natural trump tricks.

With no swing on this deal, Israel hung on to successfully defend its NEC Cup title by 9 IMPs, 135-126. YOI had rallied to win the last set 51-26 and very nearly came back from the dead to steal a win at the eleventh hour, only to fall inches short.

If Bridge were a professional spectator sport played in an arena, we would be retiring the numbers of **Doron** and **Israel Yadlin**, **Migry Campanile** and **Michael Barel** and hanging their jerseys from the rafters. As it is, the world will have to try to beat them again next year. We don't like the world's chances.



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Highlights of the 2005 World Championship Finals

by Eric Kokish

swing in the Venice Cup, France led 17-0.

Bd: 7	♠ 1096		
Dlr: South	♥ J3		
Vul: Both	♦ KQJ		
	♣ KQ976		
♠ Q854		♠ 73	
♥ A854		♥ Q106	
♦ 854		♦ A10732	
♣ 103		♣ J42	
	♠ AKJ2		
	♥ K972		
	♦ 96		
	♣ A85		
West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
Pass	2NT(1)	Pass	3♣(2)
Pass	3NT(3)	All Pass	1NT
(1) Asks for 5-card M, maybe 3-suit, w/short m			
(2) No 5-card M; (3) Only interest was 5-3 M fit			
West	North	East	South
<i>von Amim</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1♣
(i) F1, could have a 4-card M			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Schraverus</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

Bd: 8	♠ 5		
Dlr: West	♥ K107653		
Vul: None	♦ Q4		
	♣ AQ32		
♠ QJ96		♠ AK743	
♥ 4		♥ 82	
♦ J952		♦ A106	
♣ KJ54		♣ 1096	
	♠ 1082		
	♥ AQJ9		
	♦ K873		
	♣ 87		
West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠(1)
4♠	5♥	All Pass	
(i) 4-card support, limit raise			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠(1)
3♥(2)	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
(1) 4-card ♥ support, limit+; (2) Limit+ in ♠			
West	North	East	South
<i>von Amim</i>	<i>d'Ovidio</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	3♦(1)
4♠	5♥	All Pass	
(1) Fit-showing, typically 4+♥/5+♦ with limit-raise values			
West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Schraverus</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Alberti</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠(1)
3♥(2)	4♥	All Pass	
(1) Limit+ in ♥			
(2) Limit+ ♠			

All the N/S pairs reached 3NT without incident, Hamman-Soloway checking for a possible five-three spade fit, Gaviard preferring to open 1♣ rather than an in-range 1NT because of her two major suits and weak doubleton. All the Wests led a spade, and declarer had 10 tricks after knocking out the ♦A. Soloway lost his third spade trick by leading a heart towards the king in the end-game, the defenders coming to three hearts and the ♦A; 1 IMP to Italy, 11-30. No

With N/S on for 5♥, thanks to the location of the ♣K, EW's mission on Board 8 is to buy the contract at 4♠, which is only two down, doubled or not. Only Cronier-Willard failed to compete to 4♠, when Willard, uncharacteristically, tried to cut it very fine with a hand perhaps better suited

to bidding game and worrying about the consequences later. With Gaviard's atypical fit-showing jump helping d'Ovidio judge correctly to compete to 5♥, N/S were +450 at both tables, there was no swing in the Venice Cup final, France, 17-0.

Rodwell's practical 4♠ forced a decision on Lauria, who took the push to 5♥ on the strength of his distribution and honor location; +450. Meanwhile, Duboin tried the same approach as Willard by cue-bidding and respecting Bocchi's signoff. Hamman, who was hoping to avoid dealing with 4♠, waited to bid 4♥ until his opponents had found their level, and seemed poised to achieve his objective, but Duboin

reopened with 4♠. As E/W had subsided in 3♠ and bid four only after N/S eventually bid game, there is a strong case for treating the auction as forcing on N/S. Hamman-Soloway, however, play fewer forcing passes than most expert partnerships, and both considered themselves unforced. Indeed, Hamman could have created a force conventionally by bidding 3NT, or could have involved Soloway more meaningfully (when he had a limit raise) by bidding 3♠, 4♣, or 4♦. Soloway led the ♥A, saw the suit-preference three from Hamman, switched to the ♣8, got a third-round ruff, and waited for a diamond trick; two down, -100; and 8 IMPs to Italy, 19-30.

Crossed Up in Yokohama

by Ron Klinger

On this deal from the Yokohama Teams Bruce Neill brought home his game with an overtrick, vital in this form of scoring, via a rare criss-cross squeeze without the count.

♦K continuation was ruffed and a low club to the ten followed. Next came the ♦Q, ruffed by South with the ♠K. After cashing the ♠Q, Neill played a second trump, capturing West's jack. The ♠10 drew the missing trump and South and West both discarded a heart. This was now the position:

Dir: South		North	
Vul: None		♠ A1072	
		♥ 642	
		♦ Q103	
		♣ AK10	
West		East	
♠ J5		♠ 643	
♥ A875		♥ J3	
♦ 862		♦ AKJ754	
♣ Q863		♣ 52	
		South	
		♠ KQ98	
		♥ KQ109	
		♦ 9	
		♣ J974	

Dir: South		North	
Vul: None		♠ 7	
		♥ 642	
		♦ ---	
		♣ AK	
West		East	
♠ ---		♠ ---	
♥ A87		♥ J3	
♦ ---		♦ 754	
♣ Q86		♣ 5	
		South	
		♠ ---	
		♥ KQ10	
		♦ ---	
		♣ J97	

After South opened showing hearts and North replied to show a strong hand, East jump to 3♦, a weak jump overcall. Neill doubled for takeout, North bid 4♦, asking South to pick a game, and Neill chose 4♠.

It was highly likely that only West was guarding the hearts and clubs and on the bidding Neill placed the ♥A with West. He therefore played off the ♠7 and discarded the ♥10.

West led the ♦8 and East scored the ♦J. The

What could West do? If he threw a club, Neill would cashed the ♣A, ♣K and play a heart. He would make one heart trick and the ♣J. In practice West pitched a second heart and so

Neill led a heart. West won and played a club, taken in dummy. Neill cashed his top heart, crossed to dummy in clubs and the ♥6 was his eleventh trick.

The Editors' Choice Awards

This year we institute the first Editors' Choice Awards, henceforth to be bestowed annually for truly deserving, singularly spectacular "accomplishments" at or away from the bridge table at the NEC Bridge Festival. All Awards are final (even if you disagree) and the categories are assigned as we feel there are deserving recipients. This year's Awards are sponsored by the Institute of Paralogical Cognition, the Association of Phlegmatic Card-i-ologists, and the Schwartzbaum Institute.

Best Bid Hand

Michael Barel–Migry Campanile, Semi-final (second half), Board 5

Best Played Hand

Linda Lewis. Round 4, Round Robin, Board 20

Best Defended Hand

Giorgio Duboin, Quarter-final (first half), Board 20

Testosterone Award

Dawei Chen, Semi-final (first half), Board 5

Chutzpah Award (For Lifetime Achievement)

Migry Campanile, Round 5, Round Robin, Board 14

Migry Campanile, Semi-final (second half), Board 7

Unlucky Expert Award (Three-way Tie)

Philippe Cronier, Round 1, Round Robin, Board 5

Ismael Del'Monte, Quarter-final (second half), Board 11

Sartaj Hans, Quarter-final (first half), Board 15

Gotcha Covered Award

Kunio Ueda–Takaheko Tada, Round 1, Round Robin, Board 14

Smelling Like a Rose Award (Tie)

Paul Hackett–John Armstrong, Round 6, Round Robin, Board 5

Kazuo Furuta, Final, Board 52

So, congratulations to all the "winners." If you weren't among the lucky recipients, you might like to begin preparing for next year's Awards. Bribes are acceptable...but don't insult us with inadequate offers.

Butler Rankings (NEC Cup Round Robin)

(pairs playing at least 3 matches)

Rank	Partnership	Team	Matches	Score
1	Izaki-Ueda	SKOTII	3	1.57
2	Masamura-Oda	SWEET BRIER	3	1.40
3	Maeda-Hayashi	HANA	5	1.03
4	Yadlin-Yadlin	ISRAEL	8	1.03
5	Barel-Campanile	ISRAEL	8	0.93
6	Cronier-Gupta	FISK	8	0.87
6	Ferraro-Madala	ITALY	8	0.87
8	Ino-Imakura	YOI	5	0.81
9	Fu-Zhang	FAIRY TALE	4	0.75
9	Iida-Matsukawa	MAGNOLIA	4	0.75
11	Sango-Matsubara	ESPERANZA	5	0.73
12	Sekiyama-Sato	ESTRELLAS	3	0.70
13	Nagasaka-Hanayama	HANA	6	0.69
14	Takano-Sugino	CHARADE	4	0.68
15	Pszczola-Kweicien	USA/Mahaffey	6	0.67
16	Cronier-Willard	FRANCE	8	0.64
17	Toyofuku-Kaho	ESTRELLAS	3	0.63
18	Del'Monte-Fruewirth	OzOne-Del'Monte	8	0.59
19	Liu-Sasahira	SARA	3	0.58
20	Neill-Klinger	OzOne-Neill	8	0.55
21	Lambardi-Bianchedi	SOUTH AMERICA	8	0.53
22	Dyke-Wiltshire	OzOne-Neill	8	0.52
23	Bocchi-Duboin	ITALY	8	0.51
24	Hayden-Onstott	USA/Kasle	6	0.50
24	Hiramori-Nakakawaji	MERRY QUEENS	5	0.50
26	Arai-Tamura	BIRD	5	0.49
27	Umehara-Ueno	LBH	5	0.46
28	Lewis-Lewis	USA/Mori	8	0.46
29	Nakamura-Shimizu	YOI	6	0.45
30	A.Yamada-Abe	YAMADA	5	0.44
31	G.Kasle-Sutherland	USA/Kasle	8	0.42
32	Hackett-Armstrong	HACKETT	8	0.41
33	T.Hirata-K.Yamada	YAMADA	5	0.40
34	Furuta-Chen	YOI	5	0.37
34	Teramoto-Takano	TAJIMA	5	0.37
36	Yoo-Han	KOREA-HYILL	8	0.35
37	Iemori-Kosaka	BIRD	5	0.34
38	Toyofuku-Matsuo	ESTRELLAS	3	0.33
39	Shiga-Yokoi	JAPAN YOUTH	4	0.33
40	Kobayashi-Tsukamoto	Kimura@Yokohama	3	0.32
41	d'Ovidio-Gavard	FRANCE	8	0.28
41	Cohler-Lair	USA/Mahaffey	6	0.28
43	Setoguchi-Ota	HAPPY KORO	5	0.27
44	Nunn-Hans	OzOne-Del'Monte	8	0.25
45	Akama-Miyakuni	SLAM DUNK	6	0.22
46	Naito-Iiyama	NAITO	6	0.21
47	Qian-Jomura	HAPPY KORO	3	0.17
48	Frontaura-Brenner	SOUTH AMERICA	8	0.16
49	Shenkin-Mahaffey	USA/Mahaffey	4	0.14
50	Umezu-Naito	MAKKO	4	0.13
51	Kiriama-Kawamura	GIRASOL	3	0.12
52	Takayama-Kaku	TAJIMA	4	0.10
53	Nemoto-Kojima	XYZ	6	0.09
54	Tanaka-Ote	SARA	8	0.07
55	LaForge-Goto	MAKKO	4	0.06
56	Sekizawa-Takasaki	NAITO	3	0.00
57	Shimizu-Kobayashi	HANA	5	-0.05

Rank	Partnership	Team	Matches	Score
58	Nishida-Sakamoto	HAPPY KORO	5	-0.06
58	Nakatani-Naniwada	SUN FLOWERS	5	-0.06
60	Higashiguchi-Okuno	FAIRY TALE	3	-0.07
61	McIntosh-Mizel	HACKETT	8	-0.07
62	Tajiri-Hasegawa	SUN FLOWERS	6	-0.09
63	Carruthers-Sundelin	FISK	8	-0.12
64	Mori-Koneru	USA/Mori	8	-0.13
64	Harada-Tanaka	SLAM DUNK	8	-0.13
66	Sasaki-Okuno	FAIRY TALE	4	-0.14
67	Yoshizawa-Yoshizawa	MY-BRIDGE	5	-0.14
68	Ohno-M.Hirata	YAMADA	6	-0.17
69	Chung-Park	KOREA-CACTI	8	-0.18
69	Makita-Matsuzaki	GIRASOL	8	-0.18
71	Yamamura-Kawamura	GIRASOL	5	-0.19
72	Terauchi-Kubo	SOLARIS	6	-0.19
73	Sakurai-Kikuchi	SKOTII	8	-0.20
74	Oishi-Nabeshima	MY-BRIDGE	5	-0.21
75	Shimamura-Tajima	TAJIMA	3	-0.22
76	Kubo-Takahashi	SWEET BRIER	3	-0.23
77	Miyazaki-Nanjo	PS-JACK	4	-0.26
78	Namba-Takami	KINKI	4	-0.28
79	Hayashi-Miyake	MAKKO	5	-0.29
80	Lee-Sung	KOREA-CACTI	8	-0.30
81	Sumita-Fukuyama	MY-BRIDGE	6	-0.31
82	Asakoshi-Shida	MERRY QUEENS	5	-0.32
83	Tada-Ueda	SKOTII	3	-0.33
84	Otsuka-Miwa	PS-JACK	4	-0.35
85	Miyazaki-Shindo	LBH	5	-0.41
86	Sakai-Somemiyama	MAGNOLIA	4	-0.41
87	Sugino-Fujiwara	PS-JACK	6	-0.43
88	Kunitomo-Mitsuhashi	KUZUNUN KARAS	5	-0.46
89	Sekiyama-Nenohi	ESTRELLAS	3	-0.47
90	Tamura-Ishizuka	KINKI	8	-0.50
90	Sugiura-Namba	KINKI	4	-0.50
92	Kimura-Yamasuge	Kimura@Yokohama	4	-0.51
93	Nakanishi-Osako	ESPERANZA	6	-0.53
94	Saito-Kurita	XYZ	5	-0.54
95	Odaira-Nishino	Kimura@Yokohama	5	-0.66
96	Ozawa-Oda	SWEET BRIER	5	-0.69
97	Lee-Im	KOREA-HYILL	8	-0.71
98	Den-Ichikawa	XYZ	5	-0.71
99	Ikemoto-Imai	JAPAN YOUTH	4	-0.80
100	Fu-Takano	FAIRY TALE	3	-0.82
101	Qian-Nishida	HAPPY KORO	3	-0.83
102	Zhao-Sasahira	SARA	3	-0.87
103	Asaka-Fushida	LBH	6	-0.91
104	Nishimura-Nishimura	MERRY QUEENS	4	-0.91
105	Koshi-Ichihashi	ESPERANZA	5	-1.00
106	Toriumi-Saito	BIRD	6	-1.03
107	Matsukawa-Kawakatsu	SOLARIS	5	-1.14
108	Miura-Inagaki	JAPAN YOUTH	5	-1.18
109	Inoue-Furumoto	KUZUNUN KARAS	5	-1.22
110	Ueda-Kondo	SUN FLOWERS	3	-1.27
111	Haga-Takano	CHARADE	3	-1.30
112	Yoneyama-Miura	SOLARIS	5	-1.36
113	Maruyama-Takasaka	NAITO	5	-1.51
114	Takahashi-Kawashima	SWEET BRIER	3	-1.73
115	Inomoto-Kimura	KUZUNUN KARAS	6	-1.79