



NEC Bridge Festival

Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Bulletin Number 1

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Welcome to the 12th NEC Cup Bridge Festival

This year's 12th NEC Cup once again boasts a very strong international field, including many of the world's top players. Stage One will be an 8-round Swiss Teams consisting of 20-board matches, IMPs converted to Victory Points using the 20-VP WBF scale, qualifying eight teams for the KO phase. The 47-team field has been divided into top and bottom halves. The initial pairings match each top-half team at random against a bottom-half team; subsequent pairings will be based on current VP totals. The quarter-finals and semi-finals will consist of 40-board matches; the final 64 boards.

The Daily Bulletin Office/Secretariat and the Chief Director

As always, we need your help to keep everyone informed of what's happening at this tournament. Please don't make us beg. Report anything amusing, challenging, or skillful that happens in your matches (bridge or otherwise) to the **Daily Bulletin Office, a.k.a. The Secretariat** (E206). If we're not there, leave a note on one of our computers (they're on the tables along the opposite wall at the far right—nearest the LaserJet 4000 printer—as you enter the room). The **Secretariat** will open each day at 10:00 am. You can contact the Secretariat via a house phone from the hotel (Ext. 7647), or dial 228-6607 (from the Yokohama City area), or 045-228-6607 from outside the city area or +81 45 228 6607 from overseas. If you're trying to reach someone you can't find, you may leave a message with us and we'll do our best to get it to them. The **Chief Tournament Director** for this year's **NEC Bridge Festival** is once again the witty, urbane, unflappable and occasionally immovable **Richard Grenside**. Just be aware that if you call him you do so at your own risk.

Players Welcomed at Opening Ceremony

At yesterday evening's opening ceremony emcee **Haruko Koshi** introduced **Kimio Fujita**, JCBL President, who welcomed participants to the 12th NEC Bridge Festival. **Saito Koji**, of NEC Corporation, then welcomed players on behalf of NEC and expressed the company's pride in their long-standing relationship with JCBL and sponsorship of the festival. Other speakers were **Paul Hackett**, **Rich Colker** and **Richard Grenside**.



Kimio Fujita, JCBL President



Koji Saito, NEC Corporation

NEC Cup 2007: 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	<p>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.</p> <p>In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Smoking	No player may leave the Annex Hall during play without permission due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online broadcast.

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 12th NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/game/nec/necfest.html>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

The 12th NEC Cup Guest List

Konichi wa to all, especially those participating in their first NEC Cup or visiting Japan for the first time. We are delighted to see everyone again. This year's NEC Cup has an entry of 47 teams.

Once again, every session of the NEC Cup will be covered on Bridge Base Online, the world's leading Online Bridge site (hi Fred, Sheri, Uday, world), with live VuGraph broadcasts starting with today's Round One match between NZ/Australia/England and JAPAN Youth. It's become a tradition at this tournament that not only the favorites are still playing for the championship on Thursday evening, so don't despair if you start badly; keep your spirits up, and play with heart until someone tells you that you can't play any longer.

We're thrilled to see the many foreign teams here, especially those with players who are attending this tournament for the first time—or at least the first time in quite a while—and the many familiar faces from around the bridge world. Good luck to all.

One half of the twice defending champs (and they were second the year before that!) from Israel are back, **Michael Barel/Migry Campanile**, this year minus the Yadlin brothers but with new teammates **Amir Levin/Yaniv Zack**. Despite the roster change, we suspect they will be the team to beat in 2007.

Two teams containing Polish players are here this year. One is the all-Polish squad with members **Rafal Jagniewski, Michal Kwiecien, Krzysztof Buras, Grzegorz Narkiewicz**, and **Radoslaw Kielbasinski (npc)**. The other is the half-Polish, half-Russian squad consisting of **Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki, Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin**. Both look formidable.

China also has two teams in the NEC Cup this year. The first, and internationally better-known, squad (China SMEG) includes current World Open Pairs champions **Fu Zhong** playing with **Jack Zhao, Wang Xia Jing, Sun Shao Lin, Yang Li Xin**, and **Dai Jian Ming**. The second China team (Beijing) consists of **Wang Kui, Cheng Zhe, Shi Zhengjun, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Jianxin**, and **Fan Xinyan**. We have one piece of advice for our other competitors (and it is not limited to the team competition): "Beware the Fu man."

England is well represented this year with players on four (count them, four) teams. Team Helman (The Bridge Magazine) includes **Mark Horton, Valio Kovachev, Vladislav Isporski, Victor Aronov, Leonard Helman (PC)**, with **Kay Enfield** as "the coach." The Hackett team, including the whole Hackett brood for the first time in several years, consists of the Two-Headed Monster, **Justin and Jason Hackett**, along with "Papa" **Paul Hackett, Geir Helgamo**, and **John Armstrong**. The "titled" (and no less talented) England team includes **John Holland, William Hirst, John Hassett** (not to be confused with Hackett), and **Michelle Brunner**. And a fourth team, billed as New Zealand/ Australia/England, consists of **Valerie Gardiner, Wayne Burrows, Peter Gill, Brian Callaghan** and **Michael Ware**. We'll be surprised if the KO phase does not include at least two (groups of) English players butting heads. Come to think of it, isn't one form or another of "butting heads" an old English tradition?

Australia is represented by another team, this one carrying the "OzOne" banner. Those present at last year's NEC Bridge festival will have read in these pages about the OzOne project, aimed at bringing Australia into the ranks of the bridge elite over the next few years. This year's OzOne-Bridge team includes **Bob Richman, Zoli Nagy, Michael Prescott**, and **Paul Marston**.

Latin America is once again represented at the NEC Cup, albeit this time without the peripatetic Pablo Lambardi. We welcome back **Frankie Frontaura** and **Diego Brenner**, this year playing with **Carlos Pellegrini** and **Pablo Ravenna**.

They were here in 2000 and just couldn't stay away. Back again from Ireland are **Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann**, and **Adam Mesbur**, this time joined by tournament newcomers **Nick FitzGibbon, Tommy Garvey**, and **John Carroll**. Have a good time fellas, but watch out for the Japanese beer.

Another repeat competitor is the team from The Netherlands, which includes **Maarten Schollaardt** (from the 2005 NEC Cup team), **Ton Bakkeren** and **Huub Bertens** (fresh from their win in last year's prestigious Cavendish Pairs; they were on the 2002 NEC Cup squad), and **Leon Jacobs**.

Korea's CACTI is back again with three of the four members from last year: **Ilsung Chung, Jungyoon Park, Kyunghae Sung** and **Neongwook Seo**.

This year we also welcome the TOLANI SHIPPING team from India, with its members **Ramawatar Agrawal, Archelius Sequeira, Alexander F. Lewis,** and **Anal Shah**.

Among the top Japanese teams are D-MaTK: **Dawei Chen/Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino/ Tadashi Imakura;** YAMADA: **Akihiko Yamada/Kyoko Ohno, Eiji Otaka/Takahiko Hirata, Kazuhiko Yamada/Katsumi Takahashi;** HANA: **Takashi Maeda, Noboyuki Hayashi, Makoto Hirata, Takeshi Hanayama, Sei Nagasaka;** TAJIMA: **Mitsue Tajima, Tadashi Teramoto, Kyoko Shimamura, Shunsuke Morimura;** Shy Ant: **Yasuhiro Shimizu, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Ryoga Tanaka, Tomoyuki Harada**.

Surprisingly there are no North American teams entered in this year's event (despite the fact that at least one was invited). North American teams have habitually made it deep into the playoffs—last year USA/Kasle was a semifinalist and Canadian teams have similarly done quite well. Perhaps as a consequence, last night the spectre of our absent senior editor appeared to us in a dream decrying the absence of his beloved Canadians from this year's tournament. Beware the wrath of O'Kokish.

On a personal note, we thought of upholding the honor of North America by entering the NEC Cup ourselves, but decided not to subject the field to the handicap (or ourselves to the humiliation) that our participation would have engendered.

As every year, we are hoping to publish profiles of as many teams as possible, including those of teams in the second half of the entry list. We are not so much looking to evoke bridge achievements as to illuminate personalities—without getting too serious. The sooner you submit your team's story the better the chance that we'll get them published before the tournament ends.

We'd also like to hear about anything you think others will be interested in reading, from the brilliant to the bizarre. Come see us in E206 any old time.

As some of you may know, the legendary **Tadayoshi Nakatani** has retired as majordomo of JCBL, replaced by the erudite **Tadashi Yoshida**. We hope Tadashi-san is enjoying his new position—and Nakatani-san his new found leisure. We wish each of them well and look forward to working with both of them—Nakatani-san is, after all, still lurking in the shadows—in the days (and years) ahead.

JCBL Smoking Policy

NEC Cup:

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

Other events:

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

Smoking area:

Please do not smoke in the area immediately outside the playing rooms (to avoid second-hand smoke entering the rooms). 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.

Team Rosters: 12th NEC Cup

#	Name	Members
1	Israel: Migry Zur-Campanile	Michael Barel, Amir Levin, Yaniv Zack
2	Poland: Rafal Jagniewski	Michal Kwiecien, Krzysztof Buras, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Radoslaw Kielbasinski (npc)
3	Helman (The Bridge Magazine): Mark Horton	Valio Kovachev, Vladislav Isporski, Victor Aronov, Leonard Helman (PC), Kay Enfield (coach)
4	Hackett: Paul Hackett	Geir Helgemo, Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett, John Armstrong
5	TOLANI SHIPPING-INDIA: Ramawatar Agrawal	Archelius Sequeira, Alexander F. Lewis, Anal Shah
6	The Latin: Frankie Frontaura	Carlos Pellegrini, Diego Brenner, Pablo Ravenna
7	China SMEG: Fu Zhong	Jack Zhao, Wang Xia Jing, Sun Shao Lin, Yang Li Xin, Dai Jian Ming
8	England: John Holland	William Hirst, John Hassett, Michelle Brunner
9	The Netherlands: Huub Bertens	Ton Bakkeren, Leon Jacobs, Maarten Schollaardt
10	Ireland: Tom Hanlon	Hugh McGann, Nick FitzGibbon, Adam Mesbur, Tommy Garvey, John Carroll
11	Poland/Russia: Adam Zmudzinski	Cezary Balicki, Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin
12	China-Beijing: Wang Kui	Cheng Zhe, Shi Zhengjun, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Jianxin, Fan Xinyan
13	CACTI (KOREA): Ilsub Chung	Jungyoon Park, Kyunghae Sung, Neongwook Seo
14	New Zealand/Australia/England: Valerie Gardiner	Wayne Burrows, Peter Gill, Brian Callaghan, Michael Ware
15	OzOne-Bridge: Bob Richman	Zoli Nagy, Michael Prescott, Paul Marston
16	D-MaTK: Kazuo Furuta	Chen Dawei, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura
17	YAMADA: Kyoko Ohno	Akihiko Yamada, Katsumi Takahashi, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata, Eiji Otaka
18	TAJIMA: Tadashi Teramoto	Mitsue Tajima, Kyoko Shimamura, Shunsuke Morimura
19	HANA: Takeshi Hanayama	Sei Nagasaka, Makoto Hirata, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Takashi Maeda
20	Shy Ant: Yasuhiro Shimizu	Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Ryoga Tanaka, Tomoyuki Harada
21	Kittys: Makiko Sato	Hiroko Sekiyama, Kyoko Toyofuku, Yoko Nenohi, Kumiko Matsuo, Toshiko Kaho
22	ESPERANZA: Haruko Koshi	Mieko Nakanishi, Michiko Iwahashi, Misuzu Ichihashi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara
23	momochi: Yasushi Kobayashi	Seiya Shimizu, Hiroshi Kaku, Masaaki Takayama, Masaru Yoshida, Makoto Kono
24	NAITO: Sakiko Naito	Ayako Amano, Kenji Miyakuni, Keisuke Akama, Hiroaki Miura
25	GIRASOL: Sachiko Yamamura	Taeko Kawamura, Kimi Makita, Keiko Matsuzaki
26	Kimura@Yokohama: Osami Kimura	Hiroko Kobayashi, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Akio Yamasuge, Mamiko Odaira, Yumiko Kichise
27	Rhein: Michiko Ono	Toyoko Saito, Fumiko Kimura, Minako Takahashi, Junko Tsubaki, Mariko Matsukawa
28	Symmetry: Michiko Oono	Junko Arai, Haruyo Iiyama, Yayoi Sakamoto
29	PS-Jack: Akiko Miwa	Masakatsu Sugino, Teruo Miyazaki, Ryoji Fujiwara, Akiko Kawabata, Harumi Shibano
30	MINK: Yasuyo Iida	Midori Sakamoto, Natsuko Nishida, Atsuko Katsumata, Kimiko Kamakari, Misae Kato
31	BIRD: Yasuyoshi Toriumi	Yasuko Kosaka, Emiko Tamura, Hiroko Yanagisawa, Hideko Hasegawa, Kayoko Kubota
32	SKOTII: Tsuneo Sakurai	Atsushi Kikuchi, Kikuo Ito, Takehiko Tada
33	SunFlowers: Takako Nakatani	Sachiho Ueda, Betty Tajiri, Etsuko Hasegawa, Taeko Kuratani, Reiko Fukuda
34	LAS FLORES: Teruko Nishimura	Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Junko Nishimura
35	makko: Atsuyo Miyake	Makiko Hayashi, Yukiko Umezumi, Etsuko Naito, Ayako Matsubara, Natsuko Sugimoto
36	KOJIMA: Kazuhisa Kojima	Kei Nemoto, Toru Nishiwaki, Hitoshi Hojo, Kazuo Saeki, Yumiko Oda
37	2x4: Miyako Miyazaki	Kazuko Okamoto, Kiyoko Fushida, Hideko Shindo, Fumiko Kubo, Machiko Sekiya
38	progress: Shoko Somemiya	Setsuko Neyra, Tomoko Sakai, Yumiko Ishibashi, Akiko Miyata, Yoko Shimominami
39	Honey Hunt: Chieko Ichikawa	Junko Den, Kuniko Saito, Atsuko Kurita, Yoshiko Murata
40	MARUYAMA: Yoko Maruyama	Miho Sekizawa, Kyoko Sengoku, Masako Sakurai, Megumi Takasaki, Megumi Takasaka
41	Japan Youth: Yuichi Ikemoto	Shugo Tanaka, Motoaki Shiga, Hiroki Yokoi
42	Friends: Yoko Saito	Masaharu Takatori, Tsukasa Ito, Etsuko Matsuki, Kikyo Yamamura, Toshiko Nishi
43	CHARADE: Shunichi Haga	Misako Fukazawa, Sumiko Sugino, Kazuo Takano
44	WOMBAT+: Ryo Matsubara	Michio Goto, Mark LaForge, Hideto Yamaguchi, Midori Ito, Mutsue Kokubo
45	Kinki: Toru Tamura	Mimako Ishizuka, Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Noriko Takami
46	MY-Bridge: Noriko Yoshizawa	Masafumi Yoshizawa, Kuniko Miyauchi, Yoshitaka Agata, Takashi Sumita, Yoko Fukuyama
47	Kuzuum Karas: Yoko Mitsunashi	Sachiko Kunitomo, Michiko Furumoto, Emiko Noda, Kuniko Kito, Yoko Yagasaki

1st-round match-ups: 1v26, 2v40, 3v33, 4v23, 5v39, 6v27, 7v42, 8v47, 9v28, 10v34, 11v24, 12v46, 13v29, 14v41, 15v35, 16v25, 17v43, 18v36, 19v30, 20v38, 21v31, 22v45, 32v37v44.

Today's VuGraph Match = NZ/Australia/England vs JAPAN Youth

Rudolph Wins Again

by Richard Pavlicek

It was the second annual North Pole Bridge Tournament and Rudolph, the famous reindeer, had returned to defend his championship in the Open Pairs. He and his partner, Randolph, were the hottest pair on hooves; but they now faced their arch rivals, Mush and Slush (inventors of the Eskimo Club System).

Dlr: North ♠ AK
 Vul: Both ♥ J1093
 ♦ 64
 ♣ AQJ109

♠ J9743 ♥ 87654 ♦ — ♣ 754	♠ Q1065 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ K3 ♣ K86
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♠ 82
 ♥ —
 ♦ AQJ1098752
 ♣ 32

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1NT	7♦
	Pass	Dbf	All Pass

Randolph, North, opened 1♣ and Mush overcalled 1NT. This might have influenced the bidding of many South players; but not Rudolph, who had diamonds coming out of his antlers. “7♦,” he said with defiance. “Double,” shouted Mush.

The excitement had drawn a large crowd to Rudolph’s

table and the kibitzers were buzzing. “Rudolph bit off too much this time,” said one. “It can’t be made,” whispered another.

Slush led the ♥8 and the contract seemed doomed, as the club finesse was clearly offside. But reindeer have a magic of their own and, to Rudolph, an “impossible” contract only means that he has to play a little harder. How did Rudolph make his grand slam?

The ♥8 lead was covered by the nine and queen, and Rudolph ruffed with the ♦7. Dummy was entered with a spade to lead the ♦4: three; two (East cannot gain by playing his king). Then the ♥10 was led, covered by East and ruffed.

Rudolph led all but one of his diamonds, discarding clubs from dummy, and then led a spade to dummy to reach a three-card ending. North remained with ♥J3 and the ♣A.

There was no defense. East had to keep ♥A2 (else a low heart lead would ruff out the ace); West had to keep ♥76 in hearts (else the ♥J lead would force East to cover and establish the ♥3!); so each defender could keep only one club.

Rudolph cashed the ♣A and won the last trick with his club three.

And yes, his name will go down in history.

For more of Richard Pavlicek on bridge, visit his web site at: www.rpbridge.net

Where’s the Excedrin?

by Barry Rigal

This deal from the first qualifying session of the NABC Nail Life Master Open Pairs this past fall in Hawaii gave a great many declarers headaches.

Dlr: North ♠ QJ876
 Vul: N/S ♥ K103
 ♦ K
 ♣ Q 8 5 4

♠ 2 ♥ A752 ♦ Q653 ♣ A963	♠ K103 ♥ J9864 ♦ 9 ♣ KJ72
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♠ A954
 ♥ Q
 ♦ AJ108742
 ♣ 10

Against 4♠ by North, East might be tempted to lead a diamond. Declarer wins in hand and has to guess whether to pass the ♠Q or play a spade to the ace and another to try to avoid a trump promotion. The first line

works, the second does not.

If East can keep his fingers off a diamond lead, a heart to the ace forces West to cash the ♣A and continue the suit. That shortens dummy and defeats the game. Declarer plays low on the club continuation, ruffs in dummy, crosses to the ♦K and leads the ♠Q, on which East must play low. If East covers declarer ruffs a diamond to hand, cashes the ♥K, ruffs a heart, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a club to dummy and then leads the fifth diamond to pitch his last club. If East ruffs any of dummy’s diamonds, the ♠9 becomes the entry to dummy.

But if West plays the ♣A and shifts back to a heart, declarer wins the king, pitching a diamond. Now he unblocks the ♦K, passes the ♠Q (East does best to cover), then leads the ♦A and pitches his last heart. Now East can ruff but declarer can take a heart ruff in hand to draw the last trump. He has preserved an entry to dummy to allow him to set up diamonds.

The 2006 NEC Cup: JAPAN-YOI vs Israel

Entering the KO phase of last year's NEC Cup, the two top-qualifiers, Israel and Italy, selected JAPAN-TAJIMA and OzOne-Neill, respectively, as their quarterfinal opponents while third-place JAPAN-YOI chose to play 4th/5th qualifying WBF Women (France), and 4th/5th qualifying OzOne-Del'Monte went up against USA/Kasle.

In the quarterfinals, the top three seeds got off to big first-half leads and coasted to victory, Israel defeating JAPAN-TAJIMA 107-74, Italy besting OzOne-Neill 126-52, and JAPAN-YOI taking out WBF Women (France) 97-30. In a reversal of fortunes, 4th/5th seed OzOne-Del'Monte lost to USA/Kasle 126-69.

In one semifinal, top-seeded Israel took a 12-IMP first-half lead over USA/Kasle and widened it in the second half to win going away, 103-77. In the other semifinal, JAPAN-YOI took a narrow 8-IMP first-half lead over favor Italy and blew the Italians away in the second half to win 130-87. So the 2006 NEC Cup final featured top-seeded Israel, looking to repeat their 2005 NEC Cup victory, against home-team JAPAN-YOI.

For the third year running, **Michael Barel-Migry Campanile and Doron and Israel "Izzy" Yadlin** of Israel reached the NEC Cup final, a feat that had not been done before in this event. Their opponents were Japan-YOI (**Dawei Chen-Kazuo Furuta, Yasuhiro Shimizu-Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Masayuki Ino-Tadashi Imakura**), all star players in Japan with a history of success in the NEC Cup and international competition, and all of whom had been involved with **Kenji Miyakuni's** "Slam Dunk" project, an initiative that has significantly raised the level of expert play in Japan very quickly.

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

Bd: 2 North
 Dir: East ♠ A96
 Vul: N/S ♥ 7
 ♦ AJ10954
 ♣ 1032

West	East
♠ KQ10842	♠ J53
♥ J1096	♥ K
♦ ---	♦ KQ762
♣ 876	♣ KQ94

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ AQ85432
 ♦ 83
 ♣ AJ5

Open Room

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

Closed Room

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

Barel's 1NT got his side to 4♥, setting an interesting problem for Imakura, who could easily have been making 4♠. He did the right thing by electing to defend 4♥, but taking that position should have convinced him to double, as 4♠ had to be cheap if 4♥ were making, and if 4♥ were going down, doubling the vulnerable opponents might turn a fair score into a big one. He led a spade, and Campanile lost two trumps, a diamond, and a club for one down, -100.

Nakamura did not bid with the North cards, so Shimizu could do no more than he did on his own, and Doron jumped to 4♠ in case he could make it, which he couldn't. Shimizu took the ♥K with the ace and switched to a low club, Nakamura being gracious enough to hold the ♣10. Doron won in dummy and passed the ♦K, discarding a club. He had to lose a second heart later for two down, -100, and YOI gained 5 IMPs, 5-0.

Cold winds yield to warm;
 Card players flock to Japan.
 Bridge—not for the birds!

Bd: 4
 Dlr: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 6
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q9863
 ♣ QJ10742

West	East
♠ KQ982	♠ A10743
♥ AQ1075	♥ J642
♦ K	♦ 54
♣ A8	♣ 65

South
 ♠ J5
 ♥ K93
 ♦ AJ1072
 ♣ K93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♠	2NT	3♠	5♦
Dbf	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

If it's your day, you overcall 1♠ with 2NT, as Barel did, and have your partner jump to the five level with a hand sufficiently suitable to preclude a large loss. Michael Barel, this is your day. Ino overtook the ♠K with the ace to switch to a heart to the king and ace. Campanile ruffed the low-heart continuation in dummy and called for the ♦Q, gave her play a few seconds when East followed low, and played the ♦A for a wonderful -200.

If you're less blessed than Barel, you overcall 1♠ with 3♣ or pass, as Nakamura did. It didn't get any easier for him at his second turn, and he went quietly, conceding 710 on the lead of the ♣Q when Doron snuck a diamond past the ace. Israel gained 11 IMPs, 11-6.

Bd: 7
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q42
 ♥ AKJ43
 ♦ AQ8
 ♣ 104

West	East
♠ K53	♠ A87
♥ 10952	♥ Q6
♦ 96	♦ 1074
♣ A972	♣ KQ865

South
 ♠ J1096
 ♥ 87
 ♦ KJ532
 ♣ J3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1NT	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

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

Sometimes, when you don't open 1NT with a balanced 16-count, you find yourself scrambling to sort out your strength later. Consider the fate of Nakamura on Board 7, where he depicted a strong six-four rather than a medium 5-3-3-2 hand. 4♥ went down 300, which seems only just. Barel, in 1NT, was treated to five rounds of clubs and ♠AK for one down, -100. 5 IMPs to Israel, 16-5.

Bd: 8
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ J109862
 ♥ 96
 ♦ A
 ♣ J852

West	East
♠ A43	♠ Q5
♥ QJ10853	♥ K72
♦ 72	♦ KQ1095
♣ Q3	♣ A97

South
 ♠ K7
 ♥ A4
 ♦ J8643
 ♣ K1064

Open Room

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

(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠
 (2) Pass with spades, describe with hearts
 (3) Maximum weak 2♥

Closed Room

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

(1) Weak 2M or 20-22 balanced
 (2) Pass or correct

The Yadlins were probably not on the same page here. Doron, playing 3♦ from the short side, got a

spade lead through the queen and got out for one down, -50. As the same result might have ensued in 4♥, perhaps that wouldn't be so bad. We're not going to find out, however, as Campanile competed to 4♠ over Imakura-Ino's 4♥ at the other table. Barel got out for one down on the lead of the ♦K by leading a spade to the seven and ace. He discarded a heart on the diamond continuation, and when Ino did not underlead the ♣A upon winning the ♦Q, Barel had time to draw trumps and lose two clubs for one down, -100. That was 4 IMPs to YOI, 9-16.

Bd: 9
Dlr: North
Vul: E/W

North
♠ ---
♥ AJ832
♦ Q7654
♣ J107

West
♠ 7
♥ 109654
♦ AK832
♣ Q2

East
♠ AKQ106
♥ KQ7
♦ J10
♣ K93

South
♠ J985432
♥ ---
♦ 9
♣ A8654

Open Room

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

(1) 5+♥/5+m, 5-10 HCP

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♥	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Against Ino's 3NT, Campanile attacked with the ♣5, fourth best. Under Ino's queen, Barel did not play the jack, following instead with the seven, odd cards suggesting an odd number. As soon as he played that card, however, he regretted it, as the potential to block the suit or convince partner not to continue from king-fifth was simply too great. However, when Ino called for the ♥10, he rose with the ace to return the ♣J, and Ino did not cover to block the suit, and that was that. Clubs ran after all for one down, declarer losing four clubs and the ♥A, -100.

Against Doron's 3NT, Nakamura, whose 2♥ overcall was simply natural, attacked with the ♦5. Doron won with the jack and led the ♥K to North's ace. The ♣J ran to the queen, and Doron passed the ♥10 to secure his ninth trick, +600. 12 IMPs to Israel, ahead

28-9.

Bd: 11
Dlr: South
Vul: None

North
♠ 74
♥ 94
♦ KQ10942
♣ A103

West
♠ K108
♥ AK10
♦ J6
♣ K9854

East
♠ AQJ9
♥ J832
♦ 5
♣ QJ76

South
♠ 6532
♥ Q765
♦ A873
♣ 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♣	2♦	Dbl*	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
1♣	1♦	Dbl	2NT(♦)
Pass	3♦	4♣	All Pass

With 5♣ easy to make, missing game didn't seem like a great result for the Yadrins, but their +150 combined nicely with their teammates' -100 in 4♦ doubled for a 2-IMP gain. Before we move on, ask yourself who should have done anything directly with the East and West cards in both rooms. Israel gained 2 IMPs on this subtly difficult deal, 30-9.

Bd: 13
Dlr: North
Vul: Both

North
♠ AQJ8
♥ J92
♦ 9
♣ AQ762

West
♠ 96
♥ K8
♦ QJ
♣ KJ109854

East
♠ 103
♥ AQ1043
♦ K108765
♣ ---

South
♠ K7542
♥ 765
♦ A432
♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	1♣	2NT	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

The fact that Doron led the ♦Q against Shimizu's 4♠ suggests that Nakamura's 3♥ did not describe his red-suit lengths. Shimizu won with the ♦A and led a club to the ace. Izzy ruffed and cashed the ♥A, under which Doron played the king. That allowed Izzy to continue with the ♥Q and a heart for Doron to ruff, but Shimizu had the rest for one down, -50.

Imakura, with attractive red-suit holdings but inadequate length for a jump, went for the money by responding in hearts to the red-suit 2NT. Barel led his diamond to the ace, ruffed the ♦4 on the way back, and played ♠A, ♠8 to the king for a third diamond. Imakura ruffed high, and played trumps from the top, and claimed three when the jack fell, +140. 1 IMP to YOI, 10-30.

Bd: 14
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q75
 ♥ J10765
 ♦ 963
 ♣ A8

West
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 842
 ♦ AKQ1052
 ♣ 972

East
 ♠ AKJ962
 ♥ K
 ♦ 874
 ♣ J53

South
 ♠ 1043
 ♥ AQ93
 ♦ J
 ♣ KQ1064

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		1♠	2♣
2♦	Dbl(1)	2♠	3♥
All Pass			
(1) Hearts, with club tolerance			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
		1♠	2♣
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Both contracts made in comfort, I really like Barel's action, but must confess that I could not have resisted bidding 4♥ with Campanile's hand, which says something about my judgment. 6 IMPs to Israel, 36-

10.

Bd: 15
 Dlr: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AJ10
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A1052
 ♣ A7632

West
 ♠ KQ6
 ♥ 109754
 ♦ KJ64
 ♣ 10

East
 ♠ 9432
 ♥ Q83
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ KQJ8

South
 ♠ 875
 ♥ AKJ2
 ♦ 987
 ♣ 954

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

The two depicted auctions would be supported about equally in the world bridge community. The Nakamura approach worked well, as he made three on a club lead, ducked, and a club continuation, +150. The Barel approach worked less well. Ino led a spade to the queen and ace, and Barel exited with the ♠10 to Imakura's king. The ♣10 went to the ace and Barel cashed the ♠J before exiting with a club to Ino's jack. Ino cashed a third club and led the fourth club, Barel ruffing with dummy's seven and Imakura over-ruffed with...the ♦K(!), then got out with another diamond. Barel ducked this to Ino's queen and Ino led his last spade as Barel ruffed. Expecting Ino to show up with the ♦J Barel cashed the ♦A, then the ♥AK, and lost trick 13 to the ♦J as he underruffed with his ♦10. Thanks to Imakura's inspired deception Barel lost a spade, two clubs, and three trumps for one down, -100. YOI gained 6 IMPs to make it 16-36 with one deal to play in the session.

Life is a game, the object of which is to discover the object of the game.

Bd: 16
 Dlr: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KQ8
 ♥ K976
 ♦ KQ8
 ♣ 643

West
 ♠ A10953
 ♥ 105
 ♦ 962
 ♣ AJ2

East
 ♠ J2
 ♥ AQ842
 ♦ A74
 ♣ K108

South
 ♠ 764
 ♥ J3
 ♦ J1053
 ♣ Q975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	2♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Shimizu</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	2♣
Dbl	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

2♣, an ugly little contract, went two down, -100, and 2♥ made two, +110. No swing. Israel won the first quarter by 20 IMPs, 36-16, a good start to defending its 2005 NEC Cup title.

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

Bd: 17
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 1065
 ♥ K1072
 ♦ J7
 ♣ K1076

West
 ♠ 974
 ♥ J64
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ AJ54

East
 ♠ AQJ83
 ♥ A98
 ♦ 1093
 ♣ 83

South
 ♠ K2
 ♥ Q53
 ♦ 86542
 ♣ Q92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
3♦(1)	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass	3♠	Pass
(1) 3-card limit raise+			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
	All Pass		

Against Nakamura's 4♠ contract, Migry "Meatballs" Campanile, goddess of the pasteboards, led the second-highest-from-a-bad-suit ♦6. Declarer won, took the losing trump finesse (Michael playing his lowest spot to suggest a club shift), and Migry, true to her nature, shifted to...the ♥3, four, ten, ace. Nakamura ran his trumps, cashed his two remaining diamonds, and played the ♥J to Migry's queen. Migry switched to a low club to the jack and king, and Michael cashed his ♥K and returned a club for one down, -50. Dawei Chen led the ♣2 against Israel Yadlin's 4♠, and when Izzy called for a low card from dummy Kazuo Furuta couldn't bring himself to go in with the ten and won the king. Now declarer could lead a club to the jack for a heart discard and +420; 10 IMPs to Israel, 46-16.

But the empire struck back two boards later...

Bd: 19
 Dlr: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 6
 ♥ AQJ92
 ♦ K86
 ♣ KJ53

West
 ♠ J10
 ♥ 1053
 ♦ AQ943
 ♣ AQ4

East
 ♠ KQ87542
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 102
 ♣ 10872

South
 ♠ A93
 ♥ K8764
 ♦ J75
 ♣ 96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

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

There's a rumor (that we don't believe) circulating around here that when the 4♥ bid came around to Nakamura he said in a voice loud enough to be

heard on the other side of the screen, "You do play 4♥ is a transfer to 4♠, don't you partner?"—and then bid 4♠. Believe it if you wish, but 4♠ looks like a reasonable action to us, regardless. Nakamura ruffed the heart lead, played a trump to the jack, holding, and a second trump to the ace. Campanile switched to a club, ducked to the jack, and Barel got out with a second heart. Nakamura drew the last trump, tabled the ♦10, and let it ride. When it lost to the king, the diamonds provided enough pitches to shake his remaining club losers; +620.

Dawei Chen's 2♠ bid created a different impression for the Yadlins than Campanile's preemptive 4♥ did for Shimizu/Nakamura, and Izzy was unwilling to volunteer 4♠ over 4♥ on his right. Furuta took the ♠K lead with the ace, drew trumps in three rounds ending in dummy, and led a club. Doron rose with the ace and tried the ♠10, but Kazuo ruffed, cashed the ♣K, and ruffed out the queen for a neat +450. A cool 14 IMPs to YOI, trailing now by 16, 30-46.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ J108643
 Vul: Both ♥ Q54
 ♦ AQ6
 ♣ 8

West ♠ Q5 ♥ AK97632 ♦ J5 ♣ Q10	East ♠ A7 ♥ 108 ♦ 108743 ♣ KJ73
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South
 ♠ K92
 ♥ J
 ♦ K92
 ♣ A96542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♥	1♠	Dbl*	2♥(♠)
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1♥	1♠	Dbl*	4♠
All Pass			

Remarkably, the same pair of approaches to game were adopted on this deal, but this time it was the Israelis who showed strength while the the YOI dudes took the potentially weaker direct route. And again, showing strength yielded the better result, though in less dramatic fashion, when Nakamura doubled 4♠ unsuccessfully on general principles while Izzy did not. On a heart lead and diamond switch, declarer

arranged two heart ruffs in dummy and exited with the ♠K, losing only two trump tricks. That was +790 for Barel, +620 for Furuta; 5 IMPs to Israel, 51-30.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ J109
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK96543
 ♦ 43
 ♣ 8

West ♠ 87 ♥ Q7 ♦ K95 ♣ K107543	South ♠ Q432 ♥ J10 ♦ AJ72 ♣ J96	East ♠ AK65 ♥ 82 ♦ Q1086 ♣ AQ2
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	3♥	Dbl	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠
 (2) Bid your major

Shimizu judged well to bid only 4♣. He guessed the location of the ♦J correctly for +130. Doron, in 3♣, was not in any danger, and lost a fourth trick despite neutralizing the ♦J when Chen got a late heart ruff with the ♣J after declarer had played the ace and king of clubs early. 1 IMP to YOI, 31-51.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ 7
 Vul: E/W ♥ K6
 ♦ AQ10875
 ♣ 7654

West ♠ AKQJ2 ♥ QJ1084 ♦ --- ♣ AJ10	South ♠ 10964 ♥ A9752 ♦ 62 ♣ 82	East ♠ 853 ♥ 3 ♦ KJ943 ♣ KQ93
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		Pass	2♥(1)

All Pass

(1) 4+♥/4+♠, 0-10 HCP

The Chen-Furuta “weak majors” 2♥ achieved another big result in its second appearance in the Bulletin. Doron was handcuffed over 2♥ and didn’t want to risk a double with so little in the minors. Izzy was close to reopening 2♥, but when he passed, Chen went four down, for –200, which was likely to be inadequate compensation to E/W for their vulnerable game. In 3NT, Nakamura managed 11 tricks on a diamond lead to the queen and king when he was able to knock out the high hearts and the defense did not cash North’s ♦A; +660. 10 IMPs to YOI, 41-51.

Israel got those IMPs back with interest on the next deal...

Bd: 23	North
Dir: South	♠ K53
Vul: Both	♥ K63
	♦ J4
	♣ A10964

West	East
♠ Q87	♠ A1094
♥ QJ102	♥ 987
♦ AKQ1063	♦ 875
♣ ---	♣ KQJ

South
♠ J62
♥ A54
♦ 92
♣ 87532

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	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
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Against 3NT, Chen led a low heart to Furuta’s king, and a cub switch went to the queen. Declarer knocked out the ♥A, and South broke spades in an attempt to defeat the contract: +660. Against Nakamura’s remarkably obscure 4♠, Campanile led ♥A, ♥5 to the king, and Barel switched to the ♣10. Nakamura could have made his contract by winning the ♣K, and leading a spade to the eight (or crossing to a diamond to pass the ♠8), but decided to ruff the ♣K in dummy to lead the ♠Q, which Barel covered. Now the defenders were in control and might have negotiated two down, but settled for the ♠J and the ♣A, and Nakamura was –100. Israel gained 13 IMPs and led 64-13.

Bd: 24	North
Dir: West	♠ K7643
Vul: None	♥ Q962
	♦ AJ2
	♣ A

West	East
♠ J1098	♠ AQ
♥ K1085	♥ A743
♦ Q93	♦ 874
♣ 84	♣ J1092

South
♠ 52
♥ J
♦ K1065
♣ KQ7653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shimizu</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nakamura</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Chen</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

In 2♠, Barel got the lead of the ♣J to his ace. He led a heart to the jack and king and ducked Shimizu’s switch to the ♠J. Nakamura cashed the ♠A, and exited with a diamond to the nine and jack. Barel cashed the ♠K and crossed to the ♦K to play high clubs, discarding hearts: +110. Against Chen’s 3♣, Doron led a diamond to the eight and ten, solving declarer’s main problem, and the rest proved straightforward, +110, no swing.

Then this remarkable little number came along...



Bd: 27 North
 Dir: South ♠ 64
 Vul: None ♥ 642
 ♦ 962
 ♣ 107532

West
 ♠ 1085
 ♥ AK108
 ♦ K873
 ♣ QJ

East
 ♠ KQJ3
 ♥ J753
 ♦ J104
 ♣ K9

South
 ♠ A972
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ A864

Bd: 28 North
 Dir: West ♠ 943
 Vul: N/S ♥ A107
 ♦ AKJ107
 ♣ 107

West
 ♠ 2
 ♥ K9642
 ♦ 92
 ♣ AKJ86

East
 ♠ KQ1075
 ♥ Q
 ♦ Q86
 ♣ Q943

South
 ♠ AJ86
 ♥ J853
 ♦ 543
 ♣ 52

Open Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Shimizu Barel Nakamura Campanile
 1NT

All Pass
 Closed Room

West **North** **East** **South**
Doron Furuta Israel Chen
 1NT
 Pass Pass Dbl Pass
 Pass 2♣ All Pass

Open Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Shimizu Barel Nakamura Campanile
 1♥ 2♦ 2♠ 3♦

All Pass
 Closed Room

West **North** **East** **South**
Doron Furuta Israel Chen
 1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
 2♣ Pass 3♣ All Pass

In the Open Room, Shimizu found the excellent lead of the ♠5 against 1NT. Campanile took the jack with the ace to play ♣A, club. Nakamura got the spades wrong by cashing the queen and king, establishing declarer's nine, but then switched accurately to the ♥3, queen, king. Shimizu, misreading the heart position, switched in turn to a diamond, so Campanile chalked up a delicious +120. There is nothing on the Yadrins' convention card to explain Izzy's double of 1NT or Doron's subsequent reticence, but we promise to investigate. Against 2♣, the defense took its major-suit winners without incident, but Furuta was able to eliminate those suits and trumps before leading the ♦9 from hand. Izzy did not cover, so Furuta passed it and so made his unmakeable contract, +90. 1 strange IMP to Israel, 65-42.

The chances of solving a problem decline the closer one gets to finding out who caused the problem.

3♦ was one down, -100, but 3♣ made four, +130, and Israel gained another IMP, 66-42.

The last significant swing of the second quarter came on the next deal...

Bd: 29 North
 Dir: North ♠ 43
 Vul: Both ♥ 109764
 ♦ AQ94
 ♣ 102

West
 ♠ J
 ♥ Q853
 ♦ 1082
 ♣ KJ973

East
 ♠ Q76
 ♥ AJ2
 ♦ 7653
 ♣ A64

South
 ♠ AK109852
 ♥ K
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ Q85

Open Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Shimizu Barel Nakamura Campanile
 Pass Pass Pass 1♠
 Pass 1NT Pass 3♠
 All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Furuta	Israel	Chen
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥(NF)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Against Campanile's 3♠, the defense started with two rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffed, cashed ace-king of trumps and the ♦K, and overtook the ♦J. When the ♦10 dropped tripleton, declarer threw two clubs on the ♦Q9 and lost only a spade and a club for +170.

Against Chen's 4♠ (Furuta's T-shirt collection includes a vast number of "passing is dangerous" variants), Doron led the singleton jack of trumps around to the ace. Chen exited with the ♥K, and Izzy took the ♥A to switch to a low club. The defenders played three rounds to force dummy, and now Izzy could be sure of a trump trick to set the contract, -100. 7 IMPs to Israel, ahead 73-42.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: East	♠ K7
Vul: None	♥ J109
	♦ QJ94
	♣ J543

West
♠ J2
♥ K76543
♦ A53
♣ A6

East
♠ AQ98
♥ A
♦ K872
♣ Q1098

South
♠ 106543
♥ Q82
♦ 106
♣ K72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shimizu	Barel	Nakamura	Campanile
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Furuta	Israel	Chen
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Against Nakamura's 3NT, Campanile led the ♠6, deuce, king, ace. Declarer played the ♣10 to the ace, and a club to the nine and king. He had three spades, two hearts, two diamonds, and two clubs for +400.

It was more difficult for Doron, on the lead of the ♦Q. He let that hold, won the low-diamond continuation in hand, and played the ♠J to the king and ace before cashing the ♥A and playing ♠Q, ♠8 to the ten. Chen exited with a spade and Doron won with dummy's nine, cashed the ♦K, and exited with a diamond to Furuta, with the club suit frozen for the defense. Furuta got out with the ♥10 (devilishly concealing his jack), but Doron won and played a heart, and Chen, in with the queen, had to lead from the ♣K around to dummy's queen for Doron's ninth trick. Although in theory it would have been better for Chen to unblock the ♥Q to let Furuta break clubs in the endgame, in practice, Doron was going to get the suit right. A handsome push at E/W +400.

Bd: 31	North
Dlr: South	♠ A1092
Vul: N/S	♥ 84
	♦ Q842
	♣ J97

West
♠ J7
♥ KJ962
♦ 10975
♣ Q6

East
♠ KQ8643
♥ Q103
♦ A
♣ K42

South
♠ 5
♥ A75
♦ KJ63
♣ A10853

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shimizu	Barel	Nakamura	Campanile
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Doron	Furuta	Israel	Chen
			1♣
1♥	Dbf	2♣	2♦
2♥	3♦	3♥	All Pass

2♠ made two, but 3♥, although it ran into a spade ruff, made three. Another IMP to Israel.

Israel won the second quarter 39-26, and led at the half by 33 IMPs, 75-42.

NOTICE: Due to a shortage of trained trumpeters, the end of the world has been postponed indefinitely.

Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

Bd: 33
Dir: North
Vul: None

North
♠ Q9
♥ 7653
♦ K964
♣ A53

West
♠ AJ75
♥ A1092
♦ 1075
♣ Q8

East
♠ K1043
♥ KQ8
♦ J82
♣ 976

South
♠ 862
♥ J4
♦ AQ3
♣ KJ1042

Open Room

West <i>Imakura</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	1♦	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl*	Rdbl	2♣
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Doron</i>	North <i>Furuta</i>	East <i>Israel</i>	South <i>Chen</i>
Pass	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.

A fool in a high station is like a man on top of a high mountain: everything appears small to him and he appears small to everybody.

Bd: 34
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AQJ832
♥ KQJ6
♦ 9
♣ Q8

West
♠ 1075
♥ A42
♦ 75
♣ KJ965

East
♠ 6
♥ 8
♦ AQJ10843
♣ A1043

South
♠ K94
♥ 109753
♦ K62
♣ 72

Open Room

West <i>Imakura</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Campanile</i>
1NT	2♠	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	5♦	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West <i>Doron</i>	North <i>Furuta</i>	East <i>Israel</i>	South <i>Chen</i>
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
Dir: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ 975
♥ A65
♦ Q95
♣ AK106

West
♠ Q1042
♥ Q98742
♦ A2
♣ 5

East
♠ KJ
♥ J3
♦ K874
♣ J9843

South
♠ A863
♥ K10
♦ J1063
♣ Q72

Open Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Imakura Barel Ino Campanile
 Pass 1♣ Pass 1♠
 Pass 1NT All Pass

Closed Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Doron Furuta Israel Chen
 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
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both
 North
 ♠ 7654
 ♥ K83
 ♦ 7
 ♣ Q10852

West
 ♠ 108
 ♥ AJ1064
 ♦ 1042
 ♣ AJ7

East
 ♠ Q92
 ♥ 972
 ♦ AKJ5
 ♣ K63

South
 ♠ AKJ3
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ Q9863
 ♣ 94

Open Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Imakura Barel Ino Campanile
 Pass Pass 1♦ 1♠
 2♥ 3♠ All Pass

Closed Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Doron Furuta Israel Chen
 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
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S
 North
 ♠ J3
 ♥ QJ1096
 ♦ J54
 ♣ AQ9

West
 ♠ 42
 ♥ A42
 ♦ A1076
 ♣ KJ105

East
 ♠ Q8765
 ♥ K5
 ♦ Q93
 ♣ 764

South
 ♠ AK109
 ♥ 873
 ♦ K82
 ♣ 832

Open Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Imakura Barel Ino Campanile
 All Pass

Closed Room
West **North** **East** **South**
Doron Furuta Israel Chen
 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
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W
 North
 ♠ KJ2
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ AQ10872
 ♣ 97

West
 ♠ 108
 ♥ AKJ108643
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 542

East
 ♠ 764
 ♥ 92
 ♦ 93
 ♣ 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	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
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(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	North
Dlr: North	♠ 1062
Vul: E/W	♥ K10542
	♦ A108
	♣ J8

West	East
♠ KQ3	♠ A8754
♥ Q	♥ 9
♦ QJ2	♦ K9643
♣ AK7652	♣ 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.

Bd: 42
 Dlr: 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 <i>Imakura</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	1♦
Dbl	1♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	4♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Doron</i>	North <i>Furuta</i>	East <i>Israel</i>	South <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
 Dlr: 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 <i>Imakura</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Campanile</i>
			2♦(1) Dbl
3♣(2)	4♥(3)	5♦	
All Pass			

(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠; (2) Light T/O of ♥
 (3) Pass-or-correct

Closed Room

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

(1) Weak 2♥ or 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
 Dlr: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J943
 ♥ K10875
 ♦ K102
 ♣ 2

West ♠ AK5 ♥ A43 ♦ 964 ♣ K1054	East ♠ Q8 ♥ J62 ♦ Q53 ♣ Q9863
---	--

South
 ♠ 10762
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ AJ87
 ♣ AJ7

Open Room

West <i>Imakura</i>	North <i>Barel</i>	East <i>Ino</i>	South <i>Campanile</i>
			1♦ Pass
Dbl	1♥	2♣	
3♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Doron</i>	North <i>Furuta</i>	East <i>Israel</i>	South <i>Chen</i>
			1♦ 1NT
Pass	1♥	Pass	
Pass	2♥	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

Remember, it is winter: don't ever eat yellow snow.

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
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 763
 ♥ 43
 ♦ 107
 ♣ KQ7642

West
 ♠ K5
 ♥ 852
 ♦ K9642
 ♣ J108

East
 ♠ Q94
 ♥ AQ1096
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ 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.

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
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q842
 ♥ 73
 ♦ A10
 ♣ KJ1053

West
 ♠ KJ5
 ♥ A65
 ♦ 9732
 ♣ AQ2

East
 ♠ A109
 ♥ KQJ10
 ♦ KJ8654
 ♣ ---

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.

To err is human...but when the eraser wears out before the pencil, you're carrying it too far.

Bd: 50
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 632
 ♥ 64
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ QJ742

West
 ♠ J875
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ 109743
 ♣ 63

East
 ♠ A104
 ♥ A52
 ♦ KQ52
 ♣ 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
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ AQ63
 ♥ 53
 ♦ QJ842
 ♣ Q2

West
 ♠ J92
 ♥ K9842
 ♦ A96
 ♣ K6

East
 ♠ 7
 ♥ AQJ76
 ♦ K
 ♣ 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) Pass-or-correct;
 (3) Inquiry; (4) Takeout of spades
 (5) Only five spades, 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 but trailed by 28, 81-109.

Bd: 52
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ KQ10742
 ♥ 732
 ♦ 75
 ♣ 64

West
 ♠ 53
 ♥ AK65
 ♦ J632
 ♣ Q93

East
 ♠ AJ98
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ AKQ10984
 ♣ ---

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 Yadlins 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, and closed to within 16 IMPs, 93-109.

Bd: 55
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

	North	
	♠ 3	
	♥ 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♠	Pass
(1) Weak 2♥ or weak 2♠			All Pass

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 and took the last two tricks with his major tenace to escape 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
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

	North	
	♠ Q3	
	♥ 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
Dlr: North
Vul: E/W

North
♠ AJ76
♥ K985
♦ K7
♣ A64

West
♠ 9853
♥ Q32
♦ Q86
♣ Q32

East
♠ K1042
♥ 10764
♦ 1094
♣ K5

South
♠ Q
♥ AJ
♦ AJ532
♣ J10987

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	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>
	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, and claimed 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
Dlr: East
Vul: Both

North
♠ Q9542
♥ 1073
♦ K106
♣ Q3

West
♠ K
♥ 986
♦ AQ9
♣ KJ9865

East
♠ J1087
♥ QJ
♦ J754
♣ A104

South
♠ A63
♥ AK542
♦ 832
♣ 72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Imakura</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♣	2♥	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♣	2♥	DbI*	Pass
3♣	All 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
Dlr: South
Vul: None

North
♠ Q9842
♥ Q1085
♦ 62
♣ 105

West
♠ 1076
♥ 42
♦ A83
♣ K8642

East
♠ J5
♥ AJ973
♦ Q10
♣ AQJ3

South
♠ AK3
♥ K6
♦ KJ9754
♣ 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
♠ 5432	♠ AQ
♥ J	♥ 873
♦ AK8	♦ Q1054
♣ Q10976	♣ J832
	South
	♠ KJ10987
	♥ A942
	♦ 73
	♣ 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) Transfer to your major; (3) ♥s

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.

Bd: 61	North
Dlr: 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>
Dbl	1♦	Pass	1♠
	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 (note: *not* suit preference) deuce, and continued with a low club. 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, only 16 behind now, at 119-135, with three deals to play.

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 key cards 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
Dir: 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>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Doron</i>	<i>Chen</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>
			Pass
1NT	2♣(1)	Pass	2♥

All Pass
(1) Hearts and spades

Against Furuta's 2♥, Doron led the ♠A, then switched to the ♦6. Furuta discarded a club from dummy, took the queen with the ace, and led a club. Doron took the ace and continued diamonds, Furuta discarding another club as Izzy won his king. Two rounds of spades followed, declarer following 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, and earned YOI 7 IMPs. With one board to play, YOI was only 9 IMPs behind, 126-135.

Bd: 64
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ Q
 ♥ A1062
 ♦ J8765
 ♣ 653

West
 ♠ A1097
 ♥ KQJ953
 ♦ 104
 ♣ 9

East
 ♠ 842
 ♥ 874
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ 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 the ♠A and made the critical play of returning a diamond. Had she shifted to a spade declarer could have made ten tricks and changed the outcome of the event.

In this close, hard-fought contest Israel clung to a narrow 9-IMP lead to defeat JAPAN-YOI 135-126. This was Israel's second straight NEC Cup victory and their third straight appearance in the NEC Cup final, a feat unlikely to be matched any time soon. Congratulations to both teams on their fine 2006 showing.



2006 NEC Cup Winners



2006 NEC Cup Runners Up

Bridge Defense - What's Going On (1)?

by Mike Lawrence

West deals, no one vulnerable.

encouraging, showing the queen.

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dbl	2♠	4♥
All Pass			
	NORTH		
	♠ J7		
	♥ K642		
	♦ AQ83		
	♣ K104		
WEST			
♠ AK864			
♥ A87			
♦ 9			
♣ J975			

Remember the bidding? Partner raised spades. He is not showing a doubleton. Your plan therefore is to lead your singleton diamond and then to put partner in with the ♠Q for a diamond ruff.

	♠ J7	
	♥ K642	
	♦ AQ83	
	♣ K104	
♠ AK864		♠ Q953
♥ A87		♥ 95
♦ 9		♦ J2
♣ J975		♣ Q8632
	♠ 102	
	♥ QJ102	
	♦ K107654	
	♣ A	

You lead the ♠K and East plays the nine. Is East saying he likes spades or is it suit preference for diamonds? What is your plan? Why?

In defense, there are three messages you can give your partner.

- * You can give an attitude signal saying you like or dislike what he is doing.
- * You can give a count signal telling him how many cards you have in a particular suit.
- * And you can give a suit preference signal telling him indirectly which suit you would like him to shift to.

Here is a useful rule which should help you sort out what is going on.

RULE.

A suit preference signal takes a back seat to BOTH of the other signals.

If a signal can be interpreted as attitude or count, it is so interpreted.

A suit-preference signal is always the last interpretation. Partner's ♠9 is therefore

Here is the winning defense. Once you think of it, it isn't too hard to find.

The key is not to lose track of the bidding. If you forgot that partner raised spades, you will realize that the ♠9 can't be a doubleton.

Following the rule above, the ♠9 can only be an encouraging card telling you he has the ♠Q.

NOTE: A suit-preference card is usually defined as an unusually emphatic card. If East absolutely wants a diamond shift, he has to play the queen!

NOTE: If East has QJ5, he will play the queen, which shows the jack. The queen will be interpreted as suit preference only when West can tell that East doesn't have the jack. On this hand, the jack is in the dummy so East could play the queen and be sure of getting a diamond shift if he needed one.

For more of Michael Lawrence on bridge, visit his web site at: www.michaelslawrence.com

12th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday (Feb. 7)	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Swiss (1)	F201/F202 (20 boards/match)
	12:50-14:00	Lunch Break	
	14:00-16:50	NEC Cup Swiss (2)	
	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Swiss (3)	
Thursday (Feb. 8)	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Swiss (4)	F201/F202
	12:50-14:00	Lunch Break	
	14:00-16:50	NEC Cup Swiss (5)	
	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Swiss (6)	
Friday (Feb. 9)	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Swiss (7)	F201/F202
	13:10-16:00	NEC Cup Swiss (8)	
	16:00-17:10	Lunch Break	
	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)	
Saturday (Feb. 10)	10:00-12:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)	E204
	12:50-14:00	Lunch Break	
	14:00-16:50	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	
	17:10-20:00	NEC Cup Semi-Final (2)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams (1)	
Sunday (Feb. 11)	10:00-12:20	NEC Cup Final (1) & 3 rd Playoff (1)	E204
	12:30-14:50	NEC Cup Final (2) & 3 rd Playoff (2)	
	14:50-16:00	Lunch Break	
	16:00-18:20	NEC Cup Final (3)	
	18:30-20:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams (2)	
Monday (Feb. 12)	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	F203-206
	18:00-20:30	Closing Ceremony	F201-204

Swiss, Quarter- & Semi-Final segments = 20 boards; Final & 3rd place playoff segments = 16 boards