



NEC Bridge Festival

Thursday, February 8, 2007
Bulletin Number 2

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

China-Beijing Leads 2007 NEC Cup

With three blitzes to their credit, China-Beijing (Wang Kui, Cheng Zhe, Shi Zhengjun, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Jianxin, Fan Xinyan), with 75 VPs, holds a 10-VP lead over JAPAN D-MaTK (Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura), who finished Day One with 65 VPs. In third place, just 1 VP back, sits ENGLAND (John Holland, William Hirst, John Hassett, Michelle Brunner) with 64 VPs. But none of these teams can relax because right behind them come THE LATIN with 63 VPs, JAPAN YAMADA with 62 VPs, and eight other teams all within 10 VPs of third place and all still in the hunt for #1. The complete Day One rankings are shown below while individual results of the first three matches may be found on pages 4-5.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day One (Three Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	CHINA-Beijing	75	17/19	JAPAN momocchi	47	33/34	JAPAN SunFlowers	37
2	JAPAN D-MaTK	65	17/19	JAPAN Symmetry	47	33/34	JAPAN Honey Hunt	37
3	ENGLAND	64	17/19	The NETHERLANDS	47	35/36	JAPAN Friends	36
4	THE LATIN	63	20/21	JAPAN makko	45	35/36	JAPAN MARUYAMA	36
5	JAPAN YAMADA	62	20/21	JAPAN TAJIMA	45	37/38	JAPAN LAS FLORES	35
6	POLAND/RUSSIA	60	22	JAPAN 2x4	44	37/38	JAPAN CHARADE	35
7	OzOne-Bridge	59	23/25	JAPAN NAITO	43	39	JAPAN MINK	34
8	CHINA SMEG	58	23/25	JAPAN Youth	43	40	JAPAN Kimura@Yok...	33
9	ISRAEL	57	23/25	INDIA-Tolani Shipping	43	41	JAPAN GIRASOL	32
10	ENGLAND+ (Hackett)	56	26/28	JAPAN WOMBAT+	40	42	JAPAN PS-Jack	30
11	JAPAN Shy Ant	55	26/28	JAPAN Kitty's	40	43	JAPAN ESPERANZA	27
12/13	HELMAN (Bridge Mag.)	52	26/28	KOREA CACTI	40	44	JAPAN Rhein	26
12/13	JAPAN HANA	52	29/31	JAPAN SKOTII	39	45	JAPAN MY-Bridge	24
14/15	JAPAN KOJIMA	51	29/31	JAPAN BIRD	39	46	JAPAN progress	21
14/15	IRELAND	51	29/31	VEGA*	39	47	JAPAN Kuzunun Karas19	
16	POLAND	49	32	JAPAN KinKi	38			



Today's 1st VuGraph Match is YAMADA (5th) vs POLAND/RUSSIA (6th)

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

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	INDIA-TOLANI SHIPPING:	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 Chuan Cheng, Shi Jianxin, Fan Xinyan
13	CACTI (KOREA):	Ilsu Chung, Jungyoon Park, Kyunghae Sung, Neongwook Seo
14	VEGA*:	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	momocchi:	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:	Takao Nakatani, Sachiko 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 Neya, 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	Kuzuuum Karas:	Yoko Mitsunashi, Sachiko Kunitomo, Michiko Furumoto, Emiko Noda, Kuniko Kito, Yoko Yagasaki

PCs with Internet access (but no printing capability) are available in the Secretariat (E206) for player use.

Tuesday's Match Results

Match 1

VEGA* (68)	21 - 9	JAPAN Youth (41)
ISRAEL (67)	25 - 3	Kimura@Yokohama (7)
POLAND (81)	25 - 5	MARUYAMA (28)
HELMAN (Bridge Mag.) (66)	24 - 6	SunFlowers (21)
ENGLAND+ (Hackett) (59)	24 - 6	momocchi (14)
INDIA-Tolani Shipping (38)	19 - 11	Honey Hunt (21)
THE LATIN (79)	25 - 4	Rhein (24)
CHINA SMEG (102)	25 - 0	Friends (20)
ENGLAND (65)	25 - 4	Kuzunun Karas (7)
The NETHERLANDS (49)	16 - 14	Symmetry (41)
IRELAND (69)	23 - 7	LAS FLORES (29)
POLAND/RUSSIA (77)	25 - 5	NAITO (27)
CHINA Beijing (92)	25 - 2	MY-Bridge (24)
KOREA CACTI (93)	25 - 3	PS-Jack (29)
OzOne-Bridge (71)	22 - 8	makko (35)
D-MaTK (51)	18 - 12	GIRASOL (38)
YAMADA (99)	25 - 0	CHARADE (19)
TAJIMA (26)	15 - 15	KOJIMA (25)
HANA (64)	20 - 10	MINK (39)
Shy Ant (118)	25 - 0	progress (31)
Kitty's (35)	9 - 21	BIRD (63)
ESPERANZA (38)	7 - 23	Kinki (79)
SKOTII (54)	15 -	2x4 and WOMBAT+ (56)
2x4 (40)	14 -	SKOTII and WOMBAT+ (43)
WOMBAT+ (50)	16 -	SKOTII and 2x4 (45)

Match 2

IRELAND (80)	25 - 4	KinKi (24)
THE LATIN (65)	22 - 8	CHINA SMEG (30)
ENGLAND (61)	20 - 10	POLAND / RUSSIA (35)
CHINA-Beijing (119)	25 - 0	KOREA CACTI (13)
YAMADA (74)	23 - 7	Shy Ant (34)
HELMAN (Bridge Mag.) (32)	9 - 21	ENGLAND+ (Hackett) (63)
ISRAEL (33)	15 - 15	POLAND (31)
OzOne-Bridge (45)	16 - 14	VEGA* (38)
BIRD (24)	11 - 19	HANA (42)
INDIA-Tolani Shipping (31)	7 - 23	D-MaTK (72)
The NETHERLANDS (103)	25 - 0	WOMBAT+ (22)
TAJIMA (46)	19 - 11	SKOTII (27)
KOJIMA (43)	16 - 14	Symmetry (40)
2x4 (23)	10 - 20	GIRASOL (48)
Honey Hunt (52)	16 - 14	MINK (45)
Kitty's (48)	16 - 14	JAPAN Youth (42)
makko (40)	17 - 13	ESPERANZA (31)
LAS FLORES (44)	14 - 16	momocchi (51)
SunFlowers (50)	15 - 15	NAITO (50)
MARUYAMA (52)	12 - 18	Rhein (66)
Kuzunun Karas (21)	10 - 20	Kimura@Yokohama (45)
PS-Jack (56)	16 - 14	MY-Bridge (53)
progress (25)	5 -	Friends and CHARADE (73)
Friends (56)	14 -	progress and CHARADE (64)
CHARADE (75)	25 -	progress and Friends (19)

Match 3

The NETHERLANDS (9)	6 - 24	D-MaTK (52)
YAMADA (35)	14 - 16	THE LATIN (42)
ENGLAND+ (Hackett) (25)	11 - 19	ENGLAND (43)
CHINA-Beijing (73)	25 - 3	IRELAND (13)
ISRAEL (44)	17 - 13	HANA (35)
POLAND (24)	9 - 21	OzOne-Bridge (53)
VEGA* (14)	4 - 25	POLAND/RUSSIA (71)
TAJIMA (30)	11 - 19	HELMAN (Bridge Mag.) (49)
CHINA SMEG (37)	25 - 0	GIRASOL (61)
BIRD (29)	7 - 23	Shy Ant (68)
KOJIMA (48)	20 - 10	Honey Hunt (25)
Symmetry (59)	19 - 11	KinKi (40)
SKOTII (38)	13 - 17	INDIA-Tolani Shipping (49)
CHARADE (28)	10 - 20	makko (51)
Kitty's (33)	15 - 15	KOREA CACTI (32)
MINK (14)	10 - 20	2x4 (36)
Kimura@Yokohama (21)	10 - 20	JAPAN Youth (43)
Rhein (7)	4 - 25	momocchi (64)
SunFlowers (54)	16 - 14	LAS FLORES (46)
NAITO (57)	23 - 7	ESPERANZA (17)
PS-Jack (39)	11 - 19	MARUYAMA (56)
MY-Bridge (23)	8 - 22	Friends (59)
WOMBAT+ (61)	24 -	Kuzunun Karas and progress (14)
Kuzunun Karas (14)	5 -	WOMBAT+ and progress (66)
progress (49)	16 -	WOMBAT+ and Kuzunun Karas (44)

Putt Putt

by Barry Rigal

In golf, they say *Drive for show, putt for dough*. In bridge, even if you don't get the auction right you can find a lot of gold in the dross by picking up the extra trick.

Dlr: South ♠ 432
 Vul: Both ♥ A875
 ♦ A96
 ♣ AJ8

♠ --- ♠ QJ76
 ♥ KQJ10632 ♥ 9
 ♦ Q1053 ♦ J8742
 ♣ K7 ♣ 965

♠ AK10985
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K
 ♣ Q10432

Jon Wittes and Ross Grabel sat N/S on this deal

from the first qualifying session of the Nail Life Master Open Pairs. Grabel as South opened 1♠ and heard his partner bid 4♠ over West's 4♥.

It was tempting to bid on, but with no outside controls, Grabel passed. When dummy came down after the lead of the ♥K, Grabel could see that slam was entirely playable. How should he handle the trumps?

A two-two trump split was highly unlikely on the auction. With a three-one split the direct and delayed finesses are 50-50. If trumps were four-zero, you gain from the immediate finesse, so Grabel won the heart lead in dummy and played a spade to the eight, shortly thereafter wrapping up 13 tricks.

Plus 680 would have been a 25% board. Plus 710 was comfortably above average.

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.

The World's Worst Bridge Player

by Richard Pavlicek

This article was inspired by Bernie Chazen of Tamarac. No, he is not the title character; indeed, Chazen is one of the country's finest players. He is a great storyteller and this happens to be his latest gem.

It seems there was a rubber bridge player in New York City years ago—I'll call him "The Loser" —who was the biggest patsy of all time. He would play for the highest stakes and set new records for losses every day. On the hand prior to this deal, he was declarer in 4♥ and claimed the rest of the tricks. Unfortunately, he forgot there was a trump out (the rules forbade drawing trumps after a claim) so an opponent scored a ruff to defeat an ice-cold contract.

Dir: South ♠ 983
Vul: Both ♥ 972
 ♦ 762
 ♣ AQ97

♠ 102	♠ —
♥ Q10864	♥ AKJ53
♦ 98	♦ J1054
♣ J865	♣ K1043
♠ AKQJ7654	
♥ —	
♦ AKQ3	
♣ 2	

West	North	East	South
			7♠
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
All Pass			

The Loser then picked up the South hand and, in typical fashion, opened with a brash bid of 7♠ which West doubled on general principles. South took all doubles as personal affronts and routinely redoubled. (Everyone agreed that bidding was the best part of his game—it had to be!)

Amazingly, the dummy hit with the ♣A and 7♠ was absolutely laydown. Redoubled, vulnerable, that is 2,890 points! In a state of frenzy, The Loser screamed, "I'm claiming! And this time I'm pulling trumps!"

To emphasize this he laid down the ♠A, ♠K and ♠Q! Unfortunately, this last play took out dummy's trump which was necessary to ruff the fourth diamond, and the laydown contract was now in jeopardy.

"Play it out!" the defenders demanded, so he cashed the top diamonds to find they didn't break. Then he led all of his trumps to reach a two-card ending. Dummy remained with ♣AQ and East perforce blanked the ♣K to keep the ♦J. The Loser led a club and remarked, "I suppose I'm not allowed to take a finesse after claiming."

"Do anything you want," East graciously replied.

"Thank you, queen!"

Down two! Minus 1,000!

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

Round One: VEGA* vs JAPAN Youth

by Barry Rigal

The first board of the day demonstrated that it was necessary to be awake, as both tables missed the mark—but the visitors emerged smelling of roses.

Michael Ware and Wayne Burrows play Symmetric Relay, methods developed 20 years ago which your author played with Alan Truscott for a few years in the USA. What are the odds...?

Their auction on the first deal featured some delicate modern science...but not quite enough.

Bd: 1	North		East
Dir: North	♠ 4		♠ 1065
Vul: None	♥ 106		♥ KQ82
	♦ KQ843		♦ 9652
	♣ AKQ65		♣ 73
	West		South
	♠ K73		♠ AQJ982
	♥ J9754		♥ A3
	♦ J		♦ A107
	♣ J1094		♣ 82

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Ware produced a near game-forcing relay, found his partner with five-five in the minors, then short spades. His 3♠ call was a weak-relay, requiring a response of 3NT unless facing a maximum, which was what Burrows had in the context of his strong club base.

According to Burrows the 4♣ bid showed precisely four controls (A=2, K=1), but Ware was playing a different scheme of responses and thought he was facing only three controls. So he signed off in game and Burrows received a friendly spade lead and disconsolately wrapped up 13 tricks. Operation unsuccessful, but at least the patient lived.

In the other room Yuichi Ikemoto and Hiroki Yokoi had a natural auction to the decent slam; it was considerably easier for Ikemoto as North to see the slam potential of the deal. On the heart lead declarer won and crossed to a top trump, then drew a second round. When he then ruffed out spades (shortening his own trumps down to the same length as East) he needed to get back to dummy with the ♦A to cash the long spade to pitch his heart, and could only make 11 tricks when the clubs did not break. Had he ruffed out spades before drawing the second round of trumps, he could then have run spades leaving Callaghan to score only one trump trick. There would still be a trump entry to dummy to draw the last trump and run the spades to pitch the clubs.

In Hackett-Momocchi, John Armstrong responded 1♠ as South, then jumped to 3♠ (forcing) at his second turn. Paul Hackett raised to 4♠ and there they played; +480. That was good for an 11-imp gain since Makoto Konomasaru Yoshida bid to 7♦ on a top heart lead, and the four-one trump break now prevented declarer from bringing home his contract no matter what he did.

A number of pairs bid *and made* slam: Vladisov Isporski-Valio Kovachev (Helman) bid and made 6♣. Ramawater Agrawal-Archelius Sequeira (India), Ju Chuancheng-Shi Zhengjun (China-Beijing), Akihiko Yamada-Kyoko Ohno (YAMADA), Masayuki Ino-Tadashi Imakura (D-MaTK), Midori Sakamoto-Yasudolida (MINK), Hideko Hasegawa-Kayoko Kubota (BIRD), Wang Xia Jing-Sun Shao Lin (China-SMEG) and Yoshiyuki Nakamura-Yasuhiro Shimizu (Shy Ant) bid and made 6♦ (the last two made *seven*). Ryo Matsubara-Michio Goto (WOMBAT+) bid and made 6♠.



Michael Ware

Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K
 ♥ 976
 ♦ Q1052
 ♣ AQJ107

West
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 82
 ♦ AKJ96
 ♣ 96542

East
 ♠ AQJ10953
 ♥ 1053
 ♦ 87
 ♣ 8

South
 ♠ 8762
 ♥ AKQJ4
 ♦ 43
 ♣ K3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
Pass	1♦	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Ware and Burrows play an aggressive variety of Precision (is there any other?) and that let Burrows get his blow in first. Ware closed his eyes over 3♠ and bid 4♥, and when he opened them again he had bought a magnificent dummy—in the context of it being a working seven-count. He emerged with 11 tricks, and found that was worth 10 imps when Ikemoto passed in first seat and did not balance with a double when 3♠ came back to him. 3♠ went down 200, but that was not nearly enough, in context.

Most E/W pairs managed to buy the hand for 2♠ or 3♠ (one played 3♦ down two, another 4♠ down one); but a few N/S pairs bought the hand for 2♥ or 3♥.

There was more to come for the Antipodeans.

Bd: 7
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q63
 ♥ K952
 ♦ AJ42
 ♣ 103

West
 ♠ KJ105
 ♥ Q107
 ♦ 853
 ♣ 764

East
 ♠ 8742
 ♥ J8
 ♦ K109
 ♣ KQ95

South
 ♠ A9
 ♥ A643
 ♦ Q76
 ♣ AJ82

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

In the Closed Room Gill led a diamond (perhaps the indicated choice after his partner had not doubled Stayman) while in the Open Room Shiga led a club.

On the club lead declarer won in hand and drew two rounds of trumps, then took the diamond finesse. On the spade shift he rose with the ♠A and pitched his spade loser on the diamonds, then drove out the ♣K. Even though East was unable to cash the master trump declarer had ten tricks without needing anything more than the diamond break.

After the diamond lead Yokoi won with the ♦Q and crossed to a top trump to advance the ♣10, covered all around, then repeated the diamond finesse. Callaghan won and shifted to an unsubtle ♠8. Declarer could have won this in hand and switched back to the winning line found in the other room of discarding the spade loser on the diamonds, but when he let the spade run around to Gill's king he created a fourth loser for himself. That left the match score 36-6, and there would soon be worse to come for the home team.

In Hackett-momocchi Yoshida reached 4♥ as South, again on a diamond lead to the queen. He led a low spade from hand at trick two. Justin Hackett took the king and returned a diamond; declarer finessed and no longer had a chance. Meanwhile, Armstrong reached 4♠ after a Puppet Stayman auction and received the lead of the ♠J. When he put up the ♠Q he was home and dry.

Bobby Richman played 4♥ as North on a top club lead. He now had the additional chance of finding the ♣9 tripleton, coupled with the chance that the defenders might not be able to shift to spades advantageously. When he won and drew trumps, then played on clubs, a spade switch put paid to his chances.

In fact 4♥ was declared universally (bar one curious accident where the board was passed out—I wonder what the auction was?) and curiously it produced a 12-imp swing in almost every match, since one table made game and one went down at just about every table. Can we draw any inferences from that? Probably only that there is no clearly correct line to follow.

Bd: 8
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 105
 ♥ 5
 ♦ KQJ73
 ♣ K9432

West
 ♠ A73
 ♥ AJ42
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ J107

East
 ♠ Q9862
 ♥ 983
 ♦ 82
 ♣ AQ8

South
 ♠ KJ4
 ♥ KQ1076
 ♦ A96
 ♣ 65

Bd: 9
 Dir: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ K86
 ♥ J4
 ♦ AK942
 ♣ K72

West
 ♠ 43
 ♥ K98762
 ♦ 8763
 ♣ 3

South
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ A5
 ♦ J10
 ♣ AQ109865

East
 ♠ J109752
 ♥ Q103
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ J4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣	Dbl	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
	1NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Dbl	5♠
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

Burrows and Ware's version of strong club includes natural but non-forcing responses to opening bids at the two-level (all good hands start with a relay) so Ware could happily pass out 2♦. In the other room a mini-notrump saw Callaghan about to play 2♠. Ikemoto sensibly balanced with 2NT, and there the rot set in; was this two or three-suited? I assume he thought 4♦ was forcing—though it is not clear why—and now the pair played the wrong strain at an inconvenient level. An understandably discouraged declarer did not give his contract the best play, and that was -800 and yet another double-figure swing to the visitors.

Only one other pair got overboard with the N/S cards; curiously this was against the other antipodean team, when Marston-Prescott collected 300 from 5♦x.

It was well past time for the Juniors to put someimps on the board, and their chance came along next.

Michael Ware opted for a leap in the dark facing a 12-15 notrump. His auction might win prizes for brevity but we are not giving out that award this tournament. In the other room the more leisurely approach adopted by Yokoi let him set clubs, ask for key cards, then make a general try for the grand slam. Ikemoto's source of tricks in diamonds allowed him to jump to the seven level; well done! The match score was 49-17 now.

Both tables in Hackett-momoccho reached 7♣ after a strongish NT opening bid for no swing. In fact, the field did not bid so well here: the datum was +1090; only one half of the field reached the grand slam. Mind you seven pairs stopped in game, and one went down in 7♦. Only Leon Jacobs-Maarten Schollaardt bid 7NT (does anyone else find it funny that Maarten's name is too long to fit into the BBO box for him? if you've seen him, at 6'6" or so, maybe the joke is funnier).



Wayne Burrows



Maarten Schollaardt

Bd: 12 North
 Dir: West ♠ K
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKJ763
 ♦ AJ9
 ♣ 875

West
 ♠ J8765
 ♥ 1095
 ♦ 764
 ♣ 32

East
 ♠ Q1093
 ♥ 2
 ♦ K53
 ♣ AKQJ4

South
 ♠ A42
 ♥ Q84
 ♦ Q1082
 ♣ 1096

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
Pass	1♥	Dbf	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
Pass	1♥	Dbf	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both tables reached 4♥ after approximately equivalent auction (Ware-Burrows play the 2♥ raise as non-constructive) and both Easts were faced with a lead problem straight off page one of the text-books. Do you look a gift horse in the mouth or not? Callaghan is an unsuspecting sort; he cashed his clubs and sat back for his diamond trick. Imai was not born yesterday; coming from the John Lowenthal school of opening leaders (an honor lead denies a sequence; when dealt a sequence lead anything else) he kicked off with a trump. Declarer pitched a club loser on the spades and had +620 and 12imps.

It should be noted that in the match between Hackett and momocchi Justin Hackett opened the West hand 2♣. Truly, beauty and a 2♣ preempt are in the eye of the beholder. 4♠ undoubled went down one, while in the other room 4♥ went one down on three rounds of clubs and a trump switch. 4imps to momocchi, and those of you who want to see poetic justice in this will hear no argument from me.

The datum score on the deal was 0; the field was basically split between those going down in 4♠ and those going down in 4♥. Mind you Frankie Frontaura-Carlos Pellgerini collected 500 as E/W when their opponents bid on to 5♥ over 4♠. And Cheng Zhe-Wang Kui were allowed to make 4♠ on a top heart lead and a shift to diamonds when the defenders

crashed their top spades.

The margin in our featured match was over 40imps at this point: time for a mini-recovery by the Juniors

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q10532
 Vul: Both ♥ K1092

♦ 75
 ♣ 63

West
 ♠ AK9
 ♥ AQJ3
 ♦ KJ108
 ♣ J5

East
 ♠ 876
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A942
 ♣ K10842

South
 ♠ J4
 ♥ 8654
 ♦ Q63
 ♣ AQ97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The 1♠ response steered Burrows to a heart lead. Declarer passed the ♣J unsuccessfully and the defenders established their two heart tricks. But now Motoaki Shiga set up his club winner, and pitched diamonds on the run of the hearts. That left him with two chances: the fall of the ♣9 or South having the ♦Q. Finally something came in for declarer, and when diamonds split three-two he had his ninth trick.

Gill was faced with a spade lead. He was unwilling to duck in case of a heart shift—though that would not necessarily have been fatal to him. When he won the spade and passed the ♣J, a second spade left him no chance as the cards lay, and an unsuccessful deep finesse in clubs cost him only an extra undertrick and a 13-imp loss instead of 12. It was 61-31 now.

This also turned out to be a great hand for four-card majors. Geir Helgemo-Justin Hackett bid 1NT-3NT and on a low club lead declarer finessed in diamonds to North, figuring that if it lost the defense would continue clubs. When the finesse won he had 11 tricks by setting up clubs.

In the match between Helman and SunFlowers the unsuccessful declarer for SunFlowers duplicated Gill's losing line. Victor Aronov ducked the ♠J, won the spade return, passed the ♣J unsuccessfully, and when South shifted to a high heart he went up with the ace and played a second club. The defenders won and played two more rounds of hearts, letting Aronov win the third round. At this point he knew that North had five spades, and the carding had suggested that he had four hearts as well to go with two clubs. So he led the ♦J to the ace and finessed in diamonds to bring home nine tricks.

The datum score here was +290 to E/W; again, about half the field made game, half went down.

Bd: 16 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q82
 Vul: E/W ♥ 2
 ♦ AQJ1052
 ♣ 942

West
 ♠ A76
 ♥ J73
 ♦ K976
 ♣ 753

East
 ♠ J5
 ♥ AQ1085
 ♦ 843
 ♣ KJ10

South
 ♠ K10943
 ♥ K964
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AQ86

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Both tables played diamond partscores here in our featured match. You can decide for yourself if you would rather pass the North hand or open 3♦, given that 2♦ would be a Multi. Put me firmly in the passing brigade, even if the vulnerability argues strongly for getting your blow in first.

In Hackett vs momocchi Papa opened a weak two and played there. Kohno by contrast passed, then produced a cue-bid raise of spades, and eventually accepted a game invitation. The defenders led hearts and shifted to clubs; Yoshida finessed, then cross-ruffed his way painlessly to +450, for 7 imps and his side's first major pick-up of the set.

The datum score of +220 suggests that this was not an easy game to reach; and on a trump lead (as found for instance by Victor Aronov) it is far from an easy contract to make. To succeed, declarer must rise with the ♠Q at trick one; if they did that against you, hold

your cards back in the future.

A couple of N/S pairs managed a rather easier way to collect a big plus score, by applying the red card when defending optimistic E/W contracts. John Holland-Michelle Brunner collected 1100, Bob Richman-Zoltan Nagy defended 3NTx for 800.

Board: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ A
 Vul: N/S ♥ K73
 ♦ 10752
 ♣ AJ764

West
 ♠ K10952
 ♥ A2
 ♦ A43
 ♣ Q103

East
 ♠ Q87
 ♥ QJ8654
 ♦ J86
 ♣ 5

South
 ♠ J643
 ♥ 109
 ♦ KQ9
 ♣ K982

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
2♥	3♣	2♦	Pass
		All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
2♥	All Pass	2♦	Pass

Which player—if either—is supposed to balance over a Multi 2♦? In the Open Room Burrows came in directly with 3♣ and Ware chose not to raise or look for 3NT. Technically 5♣ makes with both diamonds and hearts well-placed and a good guess in clubs, but you would surely rather play in a part-score. Burrows scored +130, and that went nicely with the +110 from 2♥ in the Closed Room where neither North nor South could find a bid, and the defense then went astray. Ikemoto led the ♠A and shifted to a low diamond to the queen and ace. Declarer led out ♥A and another, and Ikemoto won to lead back a low diamond. Declarer ducked in dummy, leaving the defenders the chance to take six tricks if they could find the spade ruff. But Yokoi went up with the ♦K and shifted to a low club, so Gill had his overtrick. The match score was now 68-33.

Nobody bid and made 5♣ here; the best result for N/S came when Ju Chuancheng-Shi Zhenjun collected 500 against an optimistic 4♠x.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ 10982
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q6
 ♦ 976
 ♣ J1083

West
 ♠ Q53
 ♥ 1095
 ♦ KJ1083
 ♣ 42

East
 ♠ 74
 ♥ 8743
 ♦ 2
 ♣ AKQ765

South
 ♠ AKJ6
 ♥ AKJ2
 ♦ AQ54
 ♣ 9

juniors in the Closed Room did earn their good score here.

There was one final opportunity for both sides:

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ 875
 Vul: Both ♥ QJ95
 ♦ 932
 ♣ 1042

West
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ K8642
 ♦ AK1065
 ♣ J

East
 ♠ AKJ92
 ♥ A
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ KQ986

South
 ♠ 643
 ♥ 1073
 ♦ J74
 ♣ A753

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
Pass	1♦	2♣	1♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			3♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Dbl	2NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			4♠

Although there are still some players using Roman 2♦, it has very much gone out of favor—and not without good reason, some might say. But this sort of deal indicates its strengths. As it was, Ware took a slightly cautious view only to invite game, Burrows an equally pessimistic one to pass 3♠ (he had a chance to limit his hand, though his initial response was rather wider range than for some strong clubbers). Playing safe, Burrows emerged with +140, while Ikemoto-Yokoi reached 4♠ and were naturally favored with a club lead and continuation. That allowed Yokoi to ruff, cash two top trumps, then pitch diamond losers on hearts and cross-ruff for +450.

With the datum of +200 to N/S it is clear that the



Victor Aronov

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shiga</i>	<i>Burrows</i>	<i>Imai</i>	<i>Ware</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Ikemoto</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Yokoi</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In similar positions both Easts took what to the naked eye looks like an excessively cautious position. An overtrick imp left the visitors winners by 27 imps, just enough for a 21-9 win.

Hackett-Helgemo duplicated the auction from the Open Room, surprisingly good enough for a big pick-up when the other room had a fourth-suit forcing accident and played in a part-score. All of that added up to a 24-6 win for Hackett.

Yet again, almost exactly half the field bid the slam.



Motoaki Shiga

Round Two: Ireland vs Kinki

As will shortly become evident, this match featured two teams with contrasting styles. While none of the Irish team have ever seen an 11-count (or even perhaps a 10-count) that they do not like, the Kinki team (named after the Japanese pop-group duo, not the Kate Winslet movie *Hideous Kinky*) would take a more conservative approach to the bidding. Normally the team that finishes up declaring more hands will win. But would the cards run with the bidders or the defenders?

Bd: 2	North		
Dlr: East	♠ Q10752		
Vul: N/S	♥ A1086		
	♦ 1065		
	♣ 3		
	West		East
	♠ A6		♠ K9843
	♥ KJ92		♥ 73
	♦ 982		♦ AK43
	♣ KQ62		♣ 75
	South		
	♠ J		
	♥ Q54		
	♦ QJ7		
	♣ AJ10984		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
		1♠	2♣
Dbl	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

After a small pick-up for Ireland for arriving in a superior partscore on the first deal, both tables felt obliged to play 3NT on an ill-fitting combined 23-count. Which side would you fancy, assuming in both cases that West would be declarer: the player who received a diamond lead or the one who received a club lead?

Nick FitzGibbon for Ireland played 3NT after having had the chance of doubling 2♣ for penalties at favorable vulnerability. He won the second club, led a diamond to dummy and a heart to the king (holding the trick—a bad moment for Toru Tamura to try to be brilliant. Now ♠A and a spade to the eight let declarer

duck a diamond and claim nine tricks on a club return when the diamonds split. And yes, the defenders could have done better.

In the Closed Room the defenders led and continued diamonds. Declarer, Sonoko Namba, won and played a spade to the ♠A then guessed to lead a spade to the ♠8. (I'm not sure if this is the indicated play, but it gave declarer a third trick in the spade suit which could not be all bad.) Now a club to the queen held, but declarer was rather awkwardly placed. Rather than cross to dummy in diamonds and cash her winners—which would have set up North's spades while he still had a heart entry—she exited from hand with the ♥9. Tom Hanlon won and returned a low heart, and now the defenders had five tricks before declarer had nine. 10 imps to Ireland which could or should have gone the other way.

Emiko Noda and Michiko Furumoto also made 3NT from the West seat, as did Misako Fukuzawa and Sumiko Sugino. No one else bid and made game here. Mind you, Alexander Lewis and Anal Shah of India found a less complicated way as E/W to collect a plus score. They started doubling their opponents for penalties and took +500 against 2♥. Bakkeren-Bertens managed +800 against the same contract, while Richman-Nagy collected 800 from 3♣.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ KQ106		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q93		
	♦ 9653		
	♣ 73		
	West		East
	♠ J93		♠ A8752
	♥ A42		♥ 1065
	♦ AJ4		♦ KQ7
	♣ QJ108		♣ A6
	South		
	♠ 4		
	♥ KJ87		
	♦ 1082		
	♣ K9542		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) GF relay

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
Pass	Pass		
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♥(2)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Invitational Relay; (2) Three spades, maximum

The one-way traffic continued on the third deal where Ireland played the superior game contract, down one instead of down two. McGann led a diamond against 4♠ and declarer took an early club finesse, losing three trumps, a club and one heart. In 3NT the defense attacked hearts early enough that it was only a question of undertricks once the club finesse lost. After three deals the score was 17-0 to Ireland.

A couple of tables actually bid and made 3NT here. Played by West on a diamond lead the technical play is to win in dummy and lead a spade to the nine, hoping for the intra-finesse against the doubleton ♠10 in South. North must win and switch to a heart sooner or later or declarer can find a way to nine tricks. Lewis-Shah and Dubinin-Gromov managed this feat, as did Hiroshi Kaku-Masaaki Takayama, Michiko Ono-Toyoko Saito, Yoshiko Murata-Atsuko Kurita and Kenji Miyakuni-Keisuke Akama.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ J5
 ♦ AQ10954
 ♣ Q42

West	East
♠ K1065	♠ A432
♥ 1098	♥ AKQ432
♦ 86	♦ J3
♣ J1083	♣ 5

South
 ♠ J98
 ♥ 76
 ♦ K72
 ♣ AK976

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣
2♥	2NT	3♥	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣
2♥	3♣	4♥	All Pass

After an uneventful partscore both Irish pairs bid an awful lot here. Hanlon's 2NT bid suggested a purely competitive hand somewhere, which turned out to be in diamonds, so that made McGann's raise to game rather sporting (others would use a less flattering term but we at the bulletin are just warming up). The defenders cashed out efficiently, their one regret being the failure to double. (When they have played more against the Irish they will no doubt double first and ask questions later.) In the other room Adam Mesbur's jump to 4♥ left Tamura with a problem. He sensibly convinced himself that there was no reason for the auction to be forcing, and no reason why the contract should not be laydown, so he passed and collected his +50 in peace and quiet. Kinki were on the board, 17-6.

Hassett-Hirst achieved pride of place amongst the E/W pairs by making game here—well, technically being doubled in 3♥ for +530 counts as making game. Bakkeren-Bertens, Teruo Miyazaki-Akiko Miwa and Tomoyuki Harada-Ryoga Tanaka along with Michiko Shida-Kotomi Asakoshi actually made 4♥ on the defense of two top clubs when declarer could set up the ♣J as a home for a diamond loser. The key here is that North should be able to work out to discourage on a top club lead. No good can come of partner continuing the suit, and you can not only stand, but actually want, the obvious diamond shift.

In the match between Helman and Hackett, Helman treated the East hand as worth a double followed by a heart bid, far from unreasonably; that got him to 4♥, down a trick, while Justin Hackett and Geir Helgemo played 3♥ making 140 in the other room.

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 7
 ♥ K10865
 ♦ Q63
 ♣ AJ103

West	East
♠ AKJ4	♠ Q98
♥ A32	♥ Q97
♦ J9	♦ K108752
♣ 9864	♣ 7

South
 ♠ 106532
 ♥ J4
 ♦ A4
 ♣ KQ52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	2♦ (♥)	Pass	1♠
All Pass			2♥

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
1♦(1)	1♥	2♦	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass
(1) 2+♦			

Hanlon-McGann play some transfers in response to their major-suit openings, so Hugh McGann got to declare 2♥ as South after opening the South hand 1♠. (Now you see what I mean about it being hard to envisage a ten-count that would not look like an opening bid to these guys.) The defenders cashed a spade, then shifted to the ♦J, ducked. McGann won the second diamond, and now guessed well to lead a heart to the king, allowing him to ruff a diamond with the ♥J. The defenders scored one spade, one diamond, and three trumps. Meanwhile FitzGibbon's loose 1♦ opening got him to 3♦, on the singleton spade lead. He advanced the ♦9, and guessed well to let it run, then took the heart shift in hand to repeat the diamond finesse. Now a spade to the queen was allowed to slip through. Declarer drew trumps and claimed 11 tricks. Easy game, bridge.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ 8765
Vul: Both	♥ 53
	♦ K92
	♣ AKJ10
West	East
♠ 10942	♠ Q3
♥ K94	♥ AQ72
♦ J76	♦ A1085
♣ Q64	♣ 932
	South
	♠ AKJ
	♥ J1086
	♦ Q43
	♣ 875

In our featured matches this deal did not provide much excitement. How do you fancy your chances in 3NT as North here? That was where Pablo Ravenna as North found himself after an auction that should probably be kept concealed under the 25-year hazardous waste legislation. On a club lead he won in hand and led a heart to the jack and king. Back came a club. He took a spade finesse, then cashed his top spades and remaining club winners, as East came down to ♥AQ7 and ♦A10. Had he kept three diamonds and two hearts declarer would have led to the ♦Q and East would have been endplayed with a heart to lead diamonds. As it was Ravenna knew that he needed East to have all the key cards, so he led a heart to the ten and claimed nine tricks when it held.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ Q763
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ62
	♦ 105
	♣ J107

West	East
♠ 2	♠ K4
♥	♥ KJ98753
♦ KQJ97643	♦ A
♣ Q543	♣ A62
	South
	♠ AJ10985
	♥ 104
	♦ 82
	♣ K98

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	Pass	1♥	2♠
3♦	3♠	4♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
	Pass	1♥	2♠
3♦	4♠	5♥	All Pass

So far Kinki had failed to make much impression on the score. Their second opportunity for a big pick-up came on a tough deal; Tamura's full-blooded jump to 4♠ really put it to Mesbur (Hanlon has seen McGann's preempts before so he did not duplicate this action). When Mesbur committed his side to 5♥, FitzGibbon passed before the doubling could start. Mesbur pinned the ♥10 to escape for two down. This did not seem to matter too much, since surely 5♦ would make in the Closed Room. No, declarer had a blind spot and failed to use her entries to dummy efficiently to hold her club losers to one. That was just 3 imps to Kinki, trailing 23-9 now.

This is the sort of deal that 'wild' preempters do not take into account when calculating the gains and losses from their preempting style. It was South's known soundness of style that let North jump to 4♠ instead of bidding 3♠—in other words, the sound preempt stood to gain 14 imps.

In Helman vs Hackett the same red-blooded preemption from Paul Hackett tempted Helman to bid 5♥, down 400, while in the other room Geir Helgemo as West was only faced with a 1♠ overcall. Vladislav Isporski as North showed a strong raise of spades, rather than preempting to the limit initially. That allowed Justin Hackett to bid only 4♥, and Helgemo got to bid 5♦ at his next turn. That was the above-mentioned 14 imps to Hackett.

The datum here was E/W +160; the extreme results on the deal coming when Furuta-Dawei collected 800 from 6♠x while Makoto Kono-Masaru Yoshida took 500 from 6NTx on the E/W cards.

Bd: 10 North
 Dir: East ♠ 10753
 Vul: Both ♥ A97632
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 93

West	East
♠ AQJ9	♠ 64
♥ 4	♥ KQJ85
♦ AQ65	♦ 1072
♣ J865	♣ 1042

South
 ♠ K82
 ♥ 10
 ♦ KJ943
 ♣ AKQ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
			2NT (1)

All Pass
 (1) 5-4 Minors, good hand

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
		Pass	1♣(STR)
Pass	1♦(Weak)	Dbl	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	2NT
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

The Irish continued to dice with death here. While McGann's 2NT opening (showing the minors and a good hand) got them too high, at least on a spade lead declarer was able to set up a long spade and garner an impressive seven tricks. In the Closed Room E/W had an accident when the double of 1♦ was misinterpreted by West. North and East were on the same side of the screen, so Tamura should have worked out what was going on. Eventually Tamura ended up in 3♥, and on Mesbur's accurate spade lead ended up losing four trump tricks and four side-suit losers, scored as down five.

In Hackett vs Helman Valio Kovachev's off-center 1NT opening as South got his side to 2♥ down 300, while the more normal 1♦ from John Armstrong saw Victor Aronov overcall 1♠ and buy it there, down 100. A bad moment for West to get active, and a good decision by Armstrong to stay out of the auction. At the half, Hackett led 32-12.

Kazuo Furuta-Chen Dawei outdid their performance on the previous deal, collecting 1100 from 3♥x. As to

making contracts; well done Jacobs-Schollaardt for their +70 on the N/S cards, but Yoshitaka Agata and Kuniko Miyauchi outdid them as E/W bringing home a mighty +90 in 1NT. In the triangular match both E/W pairs brought home 2NT. Perhaps they play them better there...?

The next four deals saw very few imps change hands around the room. I'd show you the hand that was passed out at one of the tables involving the Irish but I'm worried you would not believe anything I told you after that. Our next deal started a run of truly wild hands...

Bd: 15 North
 Dir: South ♠ A65
 Vul: N/S ♥ K
 ♦ A1086542
 ♣ QJ

West	East
♠ 932	♠ J104
♥ AQ107542	♥ J963
♦ 3	♦ KQJ9
♣ 83	♣ 75

South
 ♠ KQ87
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 7
 ♣ AK109642

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
			2♣
2♥	Dbl	3♥	4♥
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
			2♣
4♥	5♦	All Pass	

So far we have not been especially complimentary about the constructive bidding of the Irish; time to pass a favorable comment on the Hanlon-McGann auction here. After the limited opening McGann could afford to show a good 4♠ bid with a heart control. Now Hanlon judged well to jump to 6♣. Although his ♥K figured to be wasted, the second-round control might be worth something. On the singleton diamond lead McGann carefully ruffed diamonds back to hand with high trumps and took 13 tricks when everything else was as friendly as could be.

The difference in the two teams' styles of preemption became apparent (if the point has not already been beaten to death) when FitzGibbon elected to bounce

to 4♥ at his first turn. While we can all see how unsuccessful Tamura's choice was—double might have yielded 800 on perfect defense—bidding 5♦ did not have to work as poorly as it did. That was 17 imps to the Irish, and the active preempters would want to reclaim those 14 imps I was taking away from them a board or two previously. As we shall see, the carnage was not yet complete.

In Hackett vs Helman Armstrong, as South, opened 1♣ and heard the auction continue 3♥, 4♦, 5♥ to him. Trusting his opponents he tried 6♣—and right he was! By contrast, in a very similar position to that in the McGann-Hanlon auction Valio Kovachev opened 2♣, heard 2♥ on his left, a negative double from his partner, and next came a cue-bid of 3♣ on his right rather than a raise to 3♥. He cue-bid 3♥ himself, and over 4♦ bid 4♠. But now when Isporski bid only 5♣ he passed, and that was another 13 imps to Hackett, leading 46-21 now.

The datum here was +760 to N/S, suggesting that only a handful of pairs reached slam. The matchpoint top went to Brenner-Ravenna for declaring 6♠, closely followed by Yoshiyuki Nakamura-Yasuhiro Shimizu, who collected 1400 from 6♥x. As far as we can tell only one declarer forgot to ruff the second diamond high in 6♣ and suffered an overruff...no names, no packdrill.

Bd: 16 North
 Dir: West ♠ 432
 Vul: E/W ♥ AK542
 ♦ 9752
 ♣ 3

West ♠ AJ7 ♥ 10 ♦ Q10 ♣ A1098754	East ♠ K9865 ♥ QJ ♦ K863 ♣ KJ
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South
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ 98763
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ Q62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Namba	Hanlon	Sugiura	McGann
1♣	1♥	1♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
FitzG	Tamura	Mesbur	Ishizuka
2♣	Pass	2NT (R)	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Again in the Open Room N/S did their duty by preempting to the maximum as quickly as possible, and leaving it up to their opponents to sort things out from then on. While Namba's 4♠ bid got her side to the best spot, Sugiura obviously expected (or hoped) for more. In 5♠ the defenders cashed their two red-suit winners by leading a second-highest ♥8 to the king and returning a low diamond to the ace. McGann exited with his low diamond, not the true-count ♦J, and declarer won the ♦Q but could not unscramble the black-suits to find a legitimate way to take the rest. Sugiura gave it the old college-try. She guessed trumps by cashing the ♠A and leading the ♠J to the ♠K, ruffed her heart loser, and now crossed to the ♣K and drew the last trump. She then cashed one more trump, took the ♣A, and ruffed a club, on which McGann sat for five minutes, trying to work out how his partner had been torturing him. Eventually he got it right, trusting the preemptive raise, plus the second highest spot-card leading method, not the diamond count-card. He pitched the ♥A to retain his diamond guard, and declarer lost the setting trick to the ♦9.

Not surprisingly, FitzGibbon's 2♣ opening bid was enough to silence N/S in the other room, so Mesbur bought the contract in 4♠ and managed to guess trumps to make +620. That made the match score 65-12.

Justin Hackett played 4♣ here, making 150 on an unchallenging defense; an opportunity for a swing if Helman could bring home 4♠. The defenders cashed their red aces and played a second heart. Helman ruffed in dummy, then played ♠A, and when the ♠10 appeared he ran the ♠J—a play that it is hard to criticize on any grounds except its failure to bring home 10 tricks when Armstrong won and played a second diamond. 6 imps to Hackett that might have been 10 the other way. Hackett led 48-21 now.



"Oh, the shame. How could I forget to pull the last trump?"

The field was split roughly equally between those making game and those going down; the datum was +290 to E/W.

Bd: 17 North
 Dir: North ♠ 1054
 Vul: None ♥ QJ10754
 ♦ 7
 ♣ Q97

West
 ♠ 972
 ♥ 862
 ♦ J10865
 ♣ 85

East
 ♠ QJ63
 ♥ A
 ♦ KQ943
 ♣ 1062

South
 ♠ AK8
 ♥ K93
 ♦ A2
 ♣ AKJ43

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	2♦ (Multi)	3♦	4♦
Dbl.	4♥	4♠	5♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

On yet another deal with huge swing potential neither side found their way to slam. Hanlon's Multi might have done the trick, but McGann was unwilling to risk a slam that might hinge on a club finesse. Credit E/W for their barrage; when in doubt the Irish always assume that if someone does not have their bids it will be partner. Meanwhile in the Closed Room after Tamura's initial jump-response to the double of 1♦ Ishizuka followed a route that asked for good trumps, and Tamura presumably expected her partner to be missing both the ace and king. Maybe Ishizuka might have used Key Card, although using 1430 responses one cannot ask for the ♥Q facing a zero-ace response. I'm sure that is why the fancy use 4♠ as Key Card here.

On an unopposed sequence Isporski-Kovachev (using 3041 Key Card) could check out the ♥Q after a Multi and Key Card ask to reach slam, for 11 imps back to Helman. Once you open the North cards it is easy to see how South will find a way to drive to slam. Still, when Papa Hackett opened 2♥, Armstrong relayed, found a dead minimum and signed off in 4♥;

perhaps he should know by now that a Hackett minimum weak-two is often stronger than an Armstrong maximum. Jagniewski-Kwiecien and Nakamura-Shimizu reached slam, but pride of place should go to Ino-Imakura who racked up +1210 (what, no redouble?). Maybe Morimura-Termaoto would be less keen to broadcast their +1230 from 6NTx—I can understand why that was not redoubled...equally Kyoko Toyofoku and Yoko Nenohi as E/W must have felt their +470 from 3♦x was worth rather more than the 14 imps they gained on the deal.

The swingy deals continued without intermission.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ 94
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ109
 ♦ A102
 ♣ K762

West
 ♠ 1065
 ♥ A72
 ♦ 7
 ♣ QJ10953

East
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ J5
 ♦ KQJ96543
 ♣ 8

South
 ♠ AKJ832
 ♥ 8643
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Namba</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Sugiura</i>	<i>McGann</i>
		5♦	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzG</i>	<i>Tamura</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Ishizuka</i>
		5♦	Dbl.
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

McGann's simple 5♠ bid got him to the rather poor slam, but one that could not be defeated. McGann won the diamond lead, finessed in trumps by leading low to the ♠J in case there was a bare queen, drew trumps, led a heart to the queen, then ruffed a diamond to get the count there. Now declarer could ruff out the clubs and confirm East had a 2-2-8-1 pattern. Since a 5♦ opening was unlikely on a hand with both the ♠Q and ♥A, McGann led a heart to the king. Well done.

By contrast, in the other room Ishizuka's double of 5♦—which could certainly have been the right action on a different day—got a 6♦ response from Tamura; maybe 5NT would have kept clubs in play. Did

Ishizuka do well or badly to guess to bid 6♥ here? As you can see, this is a far better slam than 6♠; alas, the operation was successful but the patient failed to survive trick three. FitzGibbon led a club—clearly the right lead though not by any means an automatic one until you work out that a diamond loser is really quite unlikely to go away while a club ruff might. He took the first trump and duly gave his partner the ruff; a hard-earned 17 imps for an 82-12 lead.

Slam was not attempted all that frequently; 6♠ went down when declarer misguessed hearts (as in Korea vs China-Beijing) but it was a very honorable push at 1430 in Kuzunun Karas vs Kimura@Yokohama. It was unlucky for Honey Hunt that they attempted 6♥ from the North seat—making the club lead a lot easier to find.

Bd: 20	North		
Dir: West	♠ 8742		
Vul: Both	♥ 8		
	♦ KQ94		
	♣ 10643		
West		East	
♠ 5		♠ AKQ10963	
♥ 10743		♥ KQJ	
♦ 10532		♦ 8	
♣ QJ82		♣ 75	
	South		
	♠ J		
	♥ A9652		
	♦ AJ76		
	♣ AK9		

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Namba	Hanlon	Sugiura	McGann
FitzG	Tamura	Mesbur	Ishizuka
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dbl.
All Pass			

The Japanese team managed to salvage some dignity if not victory points on the final deal. Both tables defended 4♠ doubled on identical auctions. McGann led out two top clubs and shifted to a trump to collect 800. Ishizuka cashed a top club and switched to the ♥A and a second heart, and had 800; when you think about it, a heart shift can hardly cost unless you catch partner with the doubleton ♥QJ. T h e 12 imps gave Ireland a 25-4 win. Marston-Prescott also managed to collect +800, as did Nakatani-Ueda, Sugino-Kawabata and Sekizawa-Takasaki.

Both tables managed only +200 in Helman-Hacket; the match finished 63-32, a 21-9 win for the English.



"But what if they find out that we're the ones *really* writing the bulletins?"

Haiku/Tanka

From time to time we plan to publish our efforts at writing verse in one of two traditional Japanese forms: *haiku* or *tanka*. For those unfamiliar with Japanese poetry, haiku is a three-line verse having a strict form (5-7-5): the first line has five syllables, the second line seven syllables, and the third line five syllables. Tanka is an extended form of haiku which adds two additional lines, each with seven syllables. Page 7 of yesterday's Bulletin (No. 1) contained our first effort (haiku). Here's our second (tanka).

Yokohama's snows melt.
Kokes in freezing Toronto:
"Shoulda stayed in bed!"

Quantity or quality?
Who can fill those blue suede shoes?

Round Three: The Netherlands vs D-MaTK

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 1
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ J3
♥ K873
♦ KJ986
♣ 74

West
♠ 10952
♥ Q
♦ 3
♣ KQJ10865

South
♠ AK64
♥ J104
♦ A754
♣ A9

East
♠ Q87
♥ A9652
♦ Q102
♣ 32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
3♣	3♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Schollaardt</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
2NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

The Japanese weak notrump worked the way Eric Kokish would tell you it was supposed to. It found Imakura his diamond fit immediately, while the strong notrump left Schollaardt looking for a game. Jacobs' pass of 3♠ smacks of desperation—maybe the problem was that he should have shown diamonds a round or two previously. 3♦ made a painless 130, 3♠ was a painful one down. Japan led 5-0.

In Israel vs JAPAN HANA Migry Zur-Campanile, in the Open Room, made 3NT on the lead of the ♣K. In the Closed Room Takeshi Hanayama failed by one trick on the same lead. The key was that Campanile played on hearts first, and when the defense returned the suit she could set up six red winners to go with her three black suit tricks. By contrast, when Hanayama cleared diamonds before hearts Levin shifted to the ♠7. Declarer hopped up with the ace and passed the ♥J, covered all around. Back came the ♠Q and now declarer had to find the ♥9 and failed to do so. In the top table matches 3NT made more often than not.

Bd: 2
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ AQ2
♥ K98643
♦ 93
♣ K2

West
♠ K10743
♥ 2
♦ K764
♣ Q95

South
♠ 865
♥ Q5
♦ A82
♣ J10764

East
♠ J9
♥ AJ107
♦ QJ105
♣ A83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Schollaardt</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Old fogeys like myself mourn the loss of a penalty double in Support Double positions. There again with a hand like East's I believe you are supposed to pass 2♥ and only sit for the double if partner reopens. Ino bought the sort of dummy on this auction that suggested he must have done something good in a past life. He ducked the diamond lead, won the next, then ran the ♣J. When it held he ruffed a diamond and exited with the ♣K. Bakkeren won and played the ♠J which rode around to Ino's queen; Ino cashed the ♠A, led a heart to the queen, ruffed a club, and got out with a spade, in the process reducing both himself and Bakkeren down to three for the endplay, and +670.

Bakkeren's duck of the ♣A was the fatal error. He needs to win and exit with a club to prevent declarer from reducing his own trumps sufficiently for the coup. Since 3♦ made a peaceful +130 in the Closed Room that was 13 imps to Japan.

If the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, pound the table and yell like hell.

Diamond partscores collecting +130 were the order of the day here.

Bd: 10 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 94
 Vul: Both ♥ 8732
 ♦ Q862
 ♣ 854

West East
 ♠ Q3 ♠ 87652
 ♥ J65 ♥ A1094
 ♦ 9754 ♦ 3
 ♣ Q973 ♣ AKJ

South
 ♠ AKJ10
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ AKJ10
 ♣ 1062

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Schollaardt</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Dbl	All Pass		

The match score had advanced to 19-1 for D-MaTK when an auction that may never have been seen before took place in the Closed Room. One has to admire Schollaardt's decision to pass 2♠x (the first word that comes to mind is my old friend C O Jones) but it was not a success when Chen found the heart lead. Declarer got the trumps right but still had only six tricks. 2NT made eight tricks in the Open Room on Bertens' imaginative but unsuccessful low spade lead; 12 imps to D-MaTK, leading 31-1.

Israel's Campanile and HANA's Hanayama jumped to 3NT in the same position that Imakura bid only 2NT. Both received the lead of ♠Q and won it to lead a diamond to dummy and a heart up; if this scored they would have nine tricks. Campanile stole her heart trick, but what about Amir Levin? Let's cut to the man himself: "I was just about to duck the ♥A when it occurred to me that declarer had advanced the ♥8, not a small one, from dummy. Why would he do that, I asked myself? He must be trying to steal a trick. Like an eagle I pounced. No one steals a trick against me." Remember that the next time you have a KJ guess instead of the ♥KQ in hand.

The N/S datum was +200; nine tricks were let through more often than not, but most of the field did

not attempt game.

Call me an old fogey (again) but there are some areas of bidding where the modern approach appears to be working for the worse and not the better. As a case in point, consider our next example.

Bd: 14 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 73
 Vul: None ♥ A109852
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AKQ5

West East
 ♠ K1094 ♠ AQ85
 ♥ KJ ♥ 74
 ♦ J1087 ♦ AKQ63
 ♣ J107 ♣ 43

South
 ♠ J62
 ♥ Q63
 ♦ 952
 ♣ 9862

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Schollaardt</i>
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass
			All Pass

Now you could argue that Bertens-Bakkeren judged brilliantly to stop in 3♠ and that only a favorable trump break plus finding the ♥Q onside let them make ten tricks. I prefer to look at the 6 imps in the home team's column and argue that the reason West passed was because he did not expect his partner to have a real 3♠ bid in competition. Regardless, D-MaTK would take their imps and move on.

There were no pessimists in Israel vs JAPAN HANA as both tables reached 4♠ and took their 10 tricks.

Again, the datum of +370 reflects my opinion that there is still a time and a place to assume partner actually has his bidding. And that was it.



"I know they can hear what I'm thinking."

Bd: 15 North
 Dir: South ♠ A7
 Vul: N/S ♥ A63
 ♦ 75
 ♣ Q76532

West
 ♠ 96
 ♥ KJ742
 ♦ 10863
 ♣ 98

East
 ♠ KQJ1084
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A2
 ♣ AKJ4

South
 ♠ 532
 ♥ 10985
 ♦ KQJ94
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	1♣	Dbl	1♦
1♥	2♣	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Schollaardt</i>
2♦	Pass	3♣(1)	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣(2)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

- (1) Forces 3♦
- (2) ♠ Slam-try

Both tables reached 4♠. Would you not rather do so from the East as opposed to the West seat, and receive a club lead into the tenace? So would I, which just shows how little we both know. On the lead of the ♣7 declarer Chen flew with the ace and advanced the ♥Q. Jacobs took it and played a second club. Declarer tried the ♣K which Schollaardt ruffed to shift to a trump. Had Jacobs won and continued trumps the defense would have set the contract. But when he won the ♠A and played a third club declarer scored his ♠9 by overruffing South, and pitched both of dummy's losers on his two good hearts for a triumphant +420.

(It looks to me as if North was playing South to hold the ♠9 and not the ♦K—with that hand wouldn't South exit with a diamond to clarify the position for partner and give him no option but to play for the trump promotion? But there again, if declarer had a 2-5-4-2 shape with the ♥KJ and ♦K he would pitch dummy's clubs and avoid the promotion.)

In the Closed Room Bakkeren won the club lead cheaply and advanced the ♥Q. Ino took his ♥A and found the shift to a diamond. When Bakkeren won and tried a second club Imakura could ruff, cash a

diamond winner, and the defenders could then sit back and wait to score the ♠A.

The 10imps here gave D-MaTK the lead 48-4.

In Israel vs JAPAN HANA 4♠ was also the contract at both tables. Both South's started the ♦K and both declarers tried the ♥Q at trick two. North won the ace and played a second diamond to South, but there the defenses diverged. In the Closed Room Hanayama, South, continued with a third diamond as declarer ruffed and cashed the ♣AK to try to get to dummy with a third-round club ruff. South ruffed the second club and led a fourth diamond which North ruffed with the ♠7 as declarer overruffed. But now declarer could deal with both of his club losers and finished only one down.

In the Open Room Campanile found a low spade at trick four and Barel carefully covered dummy's six with the seven to deny declarer a dummy entry in the ♠9. Declarer tried cashing the ♣AK to clear the way to ruff the third round to dummy but Campanile ruffed the second club, led her last spade to Barel's ace, who then cashed the ♣Q for two down. Nicely done.

Very few pairs made 4♠ here. Ramawatar Agrawal, Betty Taijiri and Yoko Maruyama made it from the East seat, Yang Lixin made no less than 11 tricks.

The next board was notable only because it represented The Netherlands' largest gain of the set.

Bd: 17 North
 Dir: North ♠ J653
 Vul: None ♥ AQ9
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ K872

West
 ♠ 4
 ♥ J73
 ♦ A853
 ♣ J10943

East
 ♠ AQ109872
 ♥ 52
 ♦ K76
 ♣ A

South
 ♠ K
 ♥ K10864
 ♦ J942
 ♣ Q65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♦
	2♥	3♠	All Pass

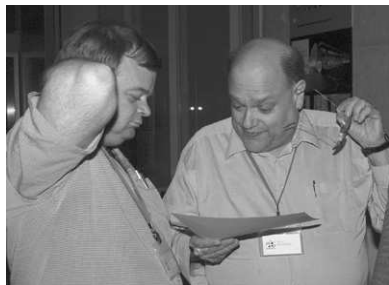
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Schollaardt</i>
	1NT	2♠	All Pass

The weak notrump let Bakkeren buy the contract one level lower. Both tables misguessed spades by leading to the queen. The 4 imps to The Netherlands doubled their score, reducing the deficit to 40 (at 48-

8). The last three boards gave D-MaTK an extra VP and the match ended with them ahead 52-9 in imps, 23-7 in VPs.

Images of Our Game



“OK, one more read through, but this time, puh-lease, *pay attention.*”



“Hey lady, how much will it take to get you off my butt?”



“Tell me again, what is 8x7?”

Bridge Defense—What's Going On (2)?

by Mike Lawrence

West deals, no one vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♥
2♠	4♥	All Pass	

NORTH
 ♠ 10542
 ♥ A65
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ AJ105

EAST
 ♠ 83
 ♥ 93
 ♦ 1086543
 ♣ 632

lead. That may mean he is looking for a trump promotion. The ♥9 isn't that big a trump, but it is the best you have. Play it and hope partner is doing the right thing.

♠ 10542
 ♥ A65
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ AJ105

♠ AKQJ6
 ♥ K107
 ♦ 972
 ♣ K7

♠ 83
 ♥ 93
 ♦ 1086543
 ♣ 632

♠ 97
 ♥ QJ842
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ Q984

West leads the ♠K and ♠A. A little surprisingly, South follows both times with the nine and seven. West now leads the ♠6 and dummy plays the five. What's going on? Doesn't partner have the ♠Q and ♠J? He did open the bidding and he did rebid them. What's up?

West has to have five spades so it is clear he is underleading the queen-jack when he could just as well have led the queen. Since he could have led the queen, it is clear he wants you to ruff this spade

West has defended well. By leading the ♠6, he woke East up to the necessity of ruffing. Had West led the queen, East would not have thought of ruffing. In fact, if West had led the ♠Q, East should not ruff. West should not lead a high card if he wants his partner to trump. The effect of the actual defense is that declarer has to overruff with the ♥J. West now has the heart spots to ensure two heart tricks. Without the “uppercut,” West would have gotten just one trump trick.

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
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

