



# NEC Bridge Festival

Saturday, February 10, 2007  
Bulletin Number 4

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## POLAND/RUSSIA Leads 2007 NEC Cup Qualifiers

POLAND/RUSSIA (Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki, Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin) began their two-day climb to the top of the qualification rankings on Thursday, and concluded the round robin with 160 VPs and the number one spot. Two blitzes in their final two matches lifted CHINA-Beijing (Wang Kui, Cheng Zhe, Shi Zhengjun, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Jianxin, Fan Xinyan) from their fifth-place spot after Day One to the number two qualifying slot with a score of 153 VPs. And ENGLAND+(Hackett) (Paul Hackett, Geir Helgemo, Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett, John Armstrong) vaulted from the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> spot after Day One to fifth after Match Seven to third at the final gun with 149 VPs. Rounding out the eight qualifiers were ISRAEL, the holders, D-MaTK, the hometown favorites, The Netherlands, JAPAN Shy Ant, the sentimental favorite, and OzOne-Bridge. The complete final rankings are shown below; results for the last two matches may be found on page 4.

### NEC Cup: Final Round-Robin Rankings (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	POLAND/RUSSIA	160	16/17	JAPAN KOJIMA	126	33/34	JAPAN CHARADE	110
2	CHINA Beijing	153	18/19	IRELAND	125	33/34	JAPAN GIRASOL	110
3	ENGLAND+ (Hackett)	149	18/19	JAPAN Symmetry	125	35	JAPAN SunFlowers	109
4	ISRAEL	147	20/21	JAPAN TAJIMA	121	36	JAPAN WOMBAT+	106
5	JAPAN D-MaTK	145	20/21	JAPAN momocchi	121	37	JAPAN Honey Hunt	103
6	NETHERLANDS	140	22	ENGLAND	120	38	JAPAN MARUYAMA	102
7/8	JAPAN Shy Ant	139	23/24	INDIA-Tolani Shipping	119	39	JAPAN KinKi	100
7/8	OzOne	139	23/24	VEGA*	119	40/41	JAPAN Friends	97
9/10	CHINA SMEG	137	25/26	JAPAN ESPERANZA	116	40/41	JAPAN 2x4	97
9/10	POLAND	137	25/26	JAPAN Kimura@Yoko	116	42	JAPAN progress	91
11	HELMAN (Br. Mag)	132	27/28	JAPAN Kitty's	114	43	JAPAN Rhein	90
12/13	JAPAN SKOTII	130	27/28	JAPAN Youth	114	44	JAPAN BIRD	87
12/13	THE LATIN	130	29/31	JAPAN LAS FLORES	113	45	JAPAN PS-Jack	86
14	JAPAN YAMADA	129	29/31	JAPAN makko	113	46	JAPAN MY-Bridge	85
15	JAPAN MINK	127	29/31	KOREA CACTI	113	47	JAPAN Kuzunun Karas	77
16/17	JAPAN HANA	126	32	JAPAN NAITO	112			



The Bear Witnesses

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph match features POLAND/RUSSIA vs Shy Ant

# 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                At the end of the Swiss, ties will be broken by IMP quotient. If more than two teams are involved, WBF 2005 Conditions of Contest procedures will apply.

In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.

Systems                    No HUM or Brown Sticker methods will be permitted in this event.

Length of Matches        2 hours and 50 minutes will be allotted for each 20-board segment (or 2 hours and 20 minutes for each 16-board segment of the final). In addition a 5-minute grace period will be allotted to each team. Overtime and slow play penalties as per WBF 2005 Conditions of Contest.

Appeals                    The WBF Code of Practice will be in effect. The Chief Director will have 12C3 authority. Appeals which are found to be without merit may incur a penalty of up to 3 VPs.

Match Scoring            Pick-up slips are to be completed and all match results are to be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections and notifications of appeals will be permitted up until the start of the next session.

KO Draw                    The team finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> group. And so on.

In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

Smoking                    No player may leave the Annex Hall during play without permission due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online broadcast.

## NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bridgebase.com)

## Team Rosters: 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Chuancheng, Shi Jianxin, Fan Xinyan
13	CACTI (KOREA): Ilsub 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: 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 Umezu, 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	Kuzuum Karas: Yoko Mitsuhashi,	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.

## Friday's Round-Robin Results

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### Match 7

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ISRAEL (46)	18 - 12	HELMAN (Bridge Magazine) (33)
POLAND/RUSSIA (78)	25 - 3	CHINA SMEG (13)
CHINA Beijing (68)	25 - 5	SKOTII (18)
POLAND (26)	12 - 18	Shy Ant (41)
ENGLAND+(Hackett) (67)	20 - 10	The NETHERLANDS (42)
D-MaTK (36)	15 - 15	OzOne-Bridge (36)
YAMADA (53)	16 - 14	momocchi (49)
HANA (47)	20 - 10	ENGLAND (23)
VEGA* (27)	7 - 23	THE LATIN (65)
IRELAND (64)	25 - 5	WOMBAT+ (12)
Symmetry (48)	18 - 12	INDIA-Tolani Shipping (34)
makko (7)	5 - 25	LAS FLORES (60)
KOJIMA (55)	23 - 7	CHARADE (17)
MINK (29)	19 - 11	GIRASOL (12)
Kimura@Yokohama (47)	17 - 13	KOREA CACTI (38)
JAPAN Youth (15)	6 - 24	TAJIMA (59)
2x4 (48)	11 - 19	Kitty's (68)
Friends (33)	2 - 25	NAITO (102)
MARUYAMA (22)	12 - 18	ESPERANZA (37)
Rhein (46)	18 - 12	progress (31)
SunFlowers (40)	15 - 15	MY-Bridge (40)
BIRD (30)	15 - 15	Kuzunun Karas (30)
PS-Jack (29)	1 -	Honey Hunt and KinKi (101)
Honey Hunt (79)	25 -	PS-Jack and KinKi (24)
KinKi (66)	19 -	PS-Jack and Honey Hunt (48)

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### Match 8

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POLAND (32)	17 - 13	THE LATIN (21)
D-MaTK (10)	7 - 23	ENGLAND+(Hackett) (51)
CHINA Beijing (36)	16 - 14	Shy Ant (31)
ISRAEL (53)	23 - 7	IRELAND (15)
POLAND/RUSSIA (67)	20 - 10	OzOne-Bridge (43)
HANA (11)	9 - 21	CHINA SMEG (42)
YAMADA (40)	14 - 16	SKOTII (46)
The NETHERLANDS (101)	25 - 0	LAS FLORES (16)
momocchi (25)	9 - 21	HELMAN (Bridge Magazine) (56)
KOJIMA (50)	16 - 14	ENGLAND (47)
Symmetry (44)	16 - 14	TAJIMA (40)
MINK (60)	22 - 8	NAITO (26)
INDIA-Tolani Shipping (49)	16 - 14	Kimura@Yokohama (45)
VEGA* (61)	17 - 13	Kitty's
KOREA CACTI (3)	16 - 14	GIRASOL (31)
WOMBAT+ (37)	11 - 19	makko (54)
2x4 (23)	4 - 25	ESPERANZA (78)
CHARADE (47)	17 - 13	Honey Hunt (36)
MARUYAMA (39)	13 - 17	progress (50)
JAPAN Youth (77)	25 - 3	Rhein (17)
KinKi (36)	16 - 14	MY-Bridge (32)
Friends (35)	16 - 14	Kuzunun Karas (29)
SunFlowers (75)	25 -	BIRD and PS-Jack (1)
BIRD (21)	6 -	SunFlowers and PS-Jack (66)
PS-Jack (24)	9 -	BIRD and SunFlowers (53)

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## Quarterfinal Standings at the Half (20 Boards)

Team	Carryover	IMPs
POLAND/RUSSIA	.5	45
Shy Ant		55
CHINA-Beijing	.5	48
OzOne-Bridge		32
ENGLAND+(Hackett)	.5	38
D-MaTK		47
ISRAEL	.5	46
THE NETHERLANDS		55

## The Tell-tale "Read"

In Match Four of the round robin, Michael Ware and Wayne Burrows, of team VEGA\*, were playing Toru Tamura and Mimako Ishizuka of JAPAN KinKi. Board 3 provided an opportunity for a handy pick-up, if only Ware could find the right lead against the opponents' game.

Bd: 3  
Dlr: South  
Vul: E/W

West  
♠ J8542  
♥ 10852  
♦ 763  
♣ 4

North  
♠ A10  
♥ J963  
♦ K  
♣ AJ10973

South  
♠ K9763  
♥ KQ  
♦ Q84  
♣ Q85

East  
♠ Q  
♥ A74  
♦ AJ10952  
♣ K62

West	North	East	South
Burrows	Tamura	Ware	Ishizuka
Pass	2♣	2♦	1♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

North thought for a long time before bidding 3NT, and the pause did not go unnoticed by Ware. With ample entries it was clear to attack his own suit, the only problem being which card to lead. North's hesitancy in bidding the notrump game suggested possible doubt about the diamond stopper so Michael decided to lead the ♦A. And that, as they say, produced rain. Declarer eventually ended three down, -150.

At the other table South declared 3♣ and managed to take nine tricks after the ♦7 lead; +140. VEGA\*'s 7-imp pick-up may not seem like a lot—especially since the team won the match by a large margin—but this was their first likely pick-up of the round and we all know how important that can be to the psyche of the players at the table.

## Today's Haiku

A Swiss tournament:  
Keep going 'till it's all done.  
Like Swiss chocolate.

# Mind Sports “Come Together” in Japan

## Mind Sports Introductory Corner (lessons):

**Announcing the collaborative work of three mind sports associations in Japan; all participants in IMSA.**

**Games: Chess, Bridge and Go**

**Dates: Feb. 10 & 11, 2007 (Holidays)**

**Time: 10:00 - 5:00 (depending on visitors, may be longer)**

**Place: Yokohama Exhibition Center Annex, Rooms 201 & 202**

**Chess Computer Chess corner (demonstrating the latest PC software)**

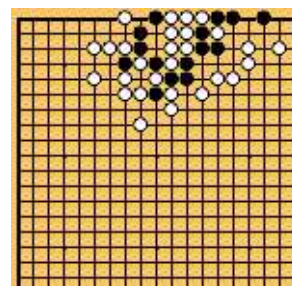
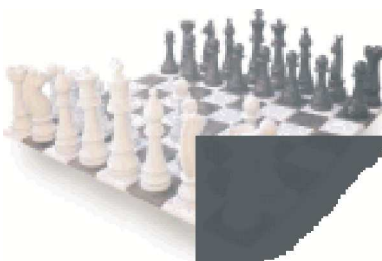
**Bridge**

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

**Go**

- 1. Introduction of Computer software**
- 2. Enjoy the Go corner, play Go with your friends or instructors**
- 3. Feb. 11, 12:00 — 1<sup>st</sup> Queen’s Cup for lady Go players**

**Bridge players who have time are invited to accept the challenge of other mind sports and prepare for the coming 2008 Word Mind Sports Games, to be held in Beijing, China**



# Under the Microscope

by Barry Rigal

Bridge is a game of mistakes. You have to take advantage of your opponents' errors and hope they don't take advantage of yours.

On the deal that follows, the suit combination of J8 in dummy facing A7 in hand comes under the microscope.

At a suit contract, when the defense leads the suit at trick one you are pretty sure to lose one trick and one trick only (unless this is your trump suit, in which case I suggest you revisit your bidding textbooks).

If the suit is led, there are clear deceptive advantages to putting up the jack. Why? Well, imagine you play low and take your RHO's nine or ten with the ace. When your LHO gets the lead, he will be able to lead to his partner, knowing he has a high honor in this suit. By contrast, if the layout is something along these lines:

	J8	
K9652		Q1043
	A7	

and the first trick goes 5, J, Q, A, how will West know if South has A10 doubleton (in which case an underlead costs a trick) or the actual layout?

But that is by the by. Here is the deal in question (see top of next column, hands rotated).

Dir: North	♠ A1064	
Vul: Both	♥ 82	
	♦ J8	
	♣ AKJ102	
	♠ 8	♠ Q 7 3
	♥ AQ653	♥ J104
	♦ Q9652	♦ K1043
	♣ 43	♣ Q85
	♠ KJ952	
	♥ K97	
	♦ A7	
	♣ 976	

What actually happened was that Vardana Vidwana, playing with Rajeev Gupta, declared 4♠ on an informative auction.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
1NT(1)	2♠	2NT(2)	4♠
All Pass			

(1) Red suits; (2) Cards

Since East had shown both suits himself, he was a little cornered when his partner led a fifth-highest ♦2. Could this be an underlead of the ♦A? Trying not to spoil his partner's brilliancy, East played the ♦K on the 8—and that was all the help Vardana needed. She won the ♦A, played a spade to the ace, finessed in trumps, drew East's queen, cashed the ♣AK and exited with the ♦J to West.

West could now open up hearts and hold declarer's losses in the suit to one trick, or lead a diamond and concede a ruff-sluff. Either way, declarer had her 10 tricks.

## Lateral Thinking

by Barry Rigal

A BBO vugraph of the 2007 NOT (Australian Open Teams) witnessed these two auctions:

1. 5♦-All Pass
2. 1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass  
1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

Would you believe it was the same board? Impossible, I would think (in an expert game), but Michael Courtney opened 5♦ on the same hand that Espen Erichson (playing with Boye Brogeland) opened 1♥ and rebid 1NT. The auction was entirely natural at both tables. Is that a record for differing viewpoints? And can you explain it?

**Answer:** Opener's hand was ♠4 ♥QJ93 ♦AQJ10764 ♣5.

Michael Courtney's 5♦ opening looks as normal as any action that Michael ever takes, Espen's action rather less normal. But the explanation is simple; Erichsen had the ♦A in with his hearts, a fact he only discovered before his second call. Having found out his mistake he decided to cut his losses by limiting his hand via the 1NT rebid rather than risking 2♦ and getting put back to hearts.

And right he was! 3NT was a makeable game, 5♦ was down in top tricks.

# Bridge Defense - What's Going On (4)?

by Mike Lawrence

East deals, no one vulnerable.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	3NT	Pass All Pass	1NT (15-17)

## NORTH

♠ Q2  
♥ 1072  
♦ QJ876  
♣ AK10

## EAST

♠ 1093  
♥ A64  
♦ 95  
♣ 87643

## ♠ Q2

♥ 1072  
♦ QJ876  
♣ AK10

♠ J8754  
♥ KJ83  
♦ K2  
♣ 95

♠ 1093  
♥ A64  
♦ 95  
♣ 87643

## ♠ AK6

♥ Q95  
♦ A1043  
♣ QJ2

West leads the ♠5 and dummy wins with the queen. You should play the ten on this. The ten obviously denies the ace or king since you would have covered the queen if you could.

If you had the jack and ten, you would play the jack. When you play the ten, it tells partner you do not have the jack, but you do have the nine. This will be useful to partner when he gets in. Your ten is NOT suit preference. It is just telling partner what you have in spades. At trick two, declarer finesses the ♦Q to West's king. West leads the ♥3 and you take your ace. What now? Why?

Return the ♥6. West led a little heart, which shows interest in hearts. If West wanted you to return a spade, he would have led a high heart spot to tell you he was just trying to get you in. It is important to have the understanding that when you shift to a little

card you are showing interest in the new suit and when you shift to a big spot card, you do not like the new suit. How else can you tell partner what you want him to do? NOTE that you should return the ♥6. If you had started with the ♥A654, you would return the four. You are trying to tell partner how many hearts you have. If you started with four or more cards in the suit partner leads, you return your original fourth best. With three only, you return the higher card. Hopefully, partner can read it.

If E/W don't have this agreement, East might return a spade, allowing declarer to take his ten tricks.

This is a frequently recurring theme. You make your opening lead and at the end of trick one, you usually know whether it was a good lead or a bad one. Later, when you get in, you will need to put partner in to make a return for you. Remember the above rule. If you want him to return your new suit, lead a little card. If you want him to return your original suit, lead a high card. It would be a shame to have partner return the wrong suit.

*For more of Michael Lawrence on bridge, visit his web site at: [www.michaelslawrence.com](http://www.michaelslawrence.com)*

## Register for Weekend Events

To be guaranteed an entry in either of the scheduled events this coming weekend, you must register in advance in the Secretariat (Room E206). Registration deadlines are:

Yokohama Swiss Teams (2-day teams on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) deadline: 7:00 pm Friday, 9 February.

The Asuka Cup (2-session Open Pairs on 12<sup>th</sup>): Deadline: 7:00 pm Sunday, 11 February.



## Round Seven: Israel vs Helman (The Bridge Magazine)

With two rounds to go both teams needed to turn on the steam; a draw would do neither of them much good, since they were lying 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> with two matches of the qualifying to go and the pack snapping at their heels.

The organizers had agreed that Helman would be West in the Open Room for Boards 1-10 and be replaced by Aronov at that point. The first board indicated that there was going to be blood all over the carpet.

Bd: 1  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A652  
 ♥ 97  
 ♦ 9865  
 ♣ K65

West  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ KQ83  
 ♦ K1032  
 ♣ 10843

East  
 ♠ K10  
 ♥ AJ10542  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ AQ92

South  
 ♠ J98743  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ AJ74  
 ♣ J7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helman</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	1♥	2♠
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	Pass	1♥	2♠
4♥	4♠	5♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Both tables advanced past 4♥, Horton under his own steam—was that really wise (particularly on an auction where North's tempo had suggested some spade length)? In the Open Room Isporski tried 4♠ over 4♥, accepting the transfer, as some might say. Now when Levin tried 5♣ his partner advanced directly to slam—a call with which I have some sympathy, despite the fact that the singleton spade was not nearly as good a holding as it might appear at first glance (partner is almost certainly looking at a spade control, which might well be shortness). An undertrick got Israel off to a 2-0 start.

In Hackett vs The Netherlands, both E/W pairs stopped short of slam. Unfortunately for Bakkeren-

Bertens, aka the Flying Dutchmen, they got to 5♥ and failed by one trick (there's an inescapable loser in each side suit, barring the lead of the ♣J by South or a duck of the ♦A). At the other table Jason Hackett-Helgemo stopped in 4♥ and made it on the nose, picking up 10 nifty imps for Papa Bear.

Bd: 2  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ KQ874  
 ♦ KQ854  
 ♣ 1073

West  
 ♠ AKQ6543  
 ♥ J1092  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ K9

East  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ 653  
 ♦ 10973  
 ♣ AQ52

South  
 ♠ 10972  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ AJ62  
 ♣ J864

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helman</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Dbl	Pass	Pass
1♠		Pass	2♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
		Pass	1♦
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

The next deal saw those imps return with interest to Helman; once Kovachev opened the South cards his side was never going to defend 4♠. 4NT by Isporski was two-suited, and 5♦ was a sensible enough spot. The defense led spades of course, but the four-zero trump break meant 10 tricks were the limit. In 4♠x (do you hate that take-out double as much as I do? And what about North's final pass?) declarer started life with 10 tricks and ended up with them too. 9 imps to Helman.

Bakkeren-Bertens zipped when they should have zagged when Bertens pulled Bakkeren's double of 5♦ (only 10 tricks are available) only to go down himself in 5♣—doubled no less. At the other table Helgemo declared a calm 4♠ and finished with an overtrick when Jacobs opted to lead the ♥K; 11 more imps for Papa Bear, leading 21-0.

After a quiet overtrick imp on a 3NT deal extended Helman's lead to 8 imps (Papa Bear did even better and picked up 3 overtrick imps), both Israeli pairs judged the next deal well.

Bd: 4  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ 832  
 ♦ Q9853  
 ♣ Q105

West  
 ♠ 952  
 ♥ 1065  
 ♦ A106  
 ♣ AKJ4

East  
 ♠ 7643  
 ♥ AKJ  
 ♦ KJ74  
 ♣ 86

South  
 ♠ AKQ10  
 ♥ Q974  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ 9732

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helman</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

The Israeli approach is one of the few in which suits are bid up the line (a curious throwback to Acol traditions) so Levin could respond in diamonds and have the danger in spades come to life. When Levin doubled 1♠ and heard his partner suggest three-card diamonds in a minimum hand (a double of 1♠ by West would have suggested four hearts and not shown support), he knew that 2♦ would be a sensible place to play despite the five-one trump break. He managed to take seven tricks (four rounds of spades left the defenders with three spades, two trumps, and a heart), but had he pitched a heart from dummy on the fourth spade he might have had some chances at eight and a plus score; even as the play went there were still residual possibilities.

In the Closed Room Campanile had as close to a gilt-edged double of 3NT as one could want (in Hackett vs The Netherlands 3NT was doubled at both tables, and set two); the side-suit pattern was ideal for defense, and the knowledge that partner would lead a diamond without a double made it an excellent investment. It succeeded beyond her wildest dreams. On a spade lead declarer lost the first four tricks, and

with both round-suited queens offside he could do no better than -500 on normal play, and a slip at the end resulted in -800. 12 imps to Israel.

On the next deal there was more to come...but the roles were reversed.

Bd: 5  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ J75  
 ♥ J985  
 ♦ 83  
 ♣ KQ87

West  
 ♠ Q42  
 ♥ Q73  
 ♦ A107642  
 ♣ 3

East  
 ♠ A103  
 ♥ K102  
 ♦ Q9  
 ♣ AJ654

South  
 ♠ K986  
 ♥ A64  
 ♦ KJ5  
 ♣ 1092

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helman</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Helman settled for the safety of 2♦, while after a strongish notrump from Levin, Zack showed diamonds and a good hand and Levin bid 3NT. After a spade to the jack and ace declarer led the ♦Q, ducked all around, then cleared the diamonds. Kovachev shifted to the ♣10 to the queen and ace, and now a heart to the queen let declarer run the diamonds. With the ♥J and ♣K well placed that was by no means an unfortunate +400 to Israel. If Kovachev covers the ♦Q and declarer leads a low diamond back to the nine the defenders can duck and disrupt declarer's communications. East can do no better than lead a heart to the queen but South flies with the ace and clears spades. Maybe declarer still has chances at double-dummy, though. To succeed he must play a heart to the ten at trick three and then lead a diamond up if that holds. Then, whether South wins or ducks the defense is helpless.

Like Helman, Bakkeren-Bertens settled for 2♦ (+130) while Jason-Helgemo went the Zack-Levin route and played 3NT. Unfortunately for them, the play did not conclude as felicitously. The defense and play went

the same way as in the Israel-Helman match up to the point where the declarer, Jason Hackett, ran dummy's diamonds. With five tricks remaining, Jason had come down to ♠10, ♥K10, and ♣J5 and dummy had ♠Q4, ♥73, ♦10. N/S had each come down to a singleton spade, so with only two of the little buggers out there no one could threaten to cash two tricks in the suit. All Jason had to do was to cash his last diamond throwing a spade from his hand, and exit with a heart to the 10. Whatever the defense does now declarer must come to one more trick—provided he remembers which opponent holds which danger cards. But instead Jason left the last diamond in dummy and played a heart to the ten and ace. South cashed the ♠K and continued with a heart to Jason's king, and Jason was endplayed to concede the last two tricks to North; -50 and 5 imps to The Dutchmen, trailing 5-24.

Bd: 7  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North	♠ AQ75
	♥ K6
	♦ J6
	♣ KQ986

West	♠ 8
	♥ QJ9752
	♦ 43
	♣ 7432

East	♠ KJ1092
	♥ 43
	♦ AKQ952
	♣ ---

South	♠ 643
	♥ A108
	♦ 1087
	♣ AJ105

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Helman</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	1NT	2♠	All Pass

Finding the diamond fit should not be beyond the greatest minds in the bridge world, should it? Apparently I spoke too soon. One can understand Zack's decision to pass before something bad happened. Maybe Helman's failure to correct to 3♦ is more culpable. Both defenses coped competently with their task; 3 undertrick imps to Israel left them 24-10 in front.

The good news is that Bakkeren and Bertens did in fact manage to find their diamond fit; the bad news is that they found it at the four level for down one, -100. The other good news is that this result is better than it should have been since best defense can hold 4♦ to eight tricks. But the real problem came at the other table where Jacobs-Schollaardt zoomed into 3NT (don't ask; we've been offered a decadent amount of yen not to reveal the auction—but fair is fair and we're willing to welch on our agreement for a *really* embarrassing sum), got doubled, and sat for it. Suffice it to say that Jason is still smiling thinking about those first six tricks; +500 for E/W and 12 imps to Papa Bear, ahead 36-5.

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North	♠ 63
	♥ 9652
	♦ A986
	♣ Q94

West	♠ K8
	♥ KJ87
	♦ 1042
	♣ A532

East	♠ J9742
	♥ AQ43
	♦ K53
	♣ 7

South	♠ AQ105
	♥ 10
	♦ QJ7
	♣ KJ1086

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Helman</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♣
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dbl
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Zack's opening bid bought the hand in 2♥. Kovachev's incisive trump lead let declarer play two rounds of spades, and the ♦Q floated around to the king. Now when declarer tried to ruff a spade low he was overruffed and a trump came back. Declarer ended up with five trump tricks and one trick in each suit for +110. By contrast, Helman passed the West hand and then decided to play his partner for more than he was likely to hold when he doubled 3♣. Horton had passed in third chair, after all, when non-vulnerable.

The defense can prevail against 3♣, e.g., on a heart lead and either a trump shift or a heart continuation at trick two, so long as East switches to a club, or on repeated initial club leads. Either way, Deep Finesse says it can't be made. But Horton won the ♥A and continued the suit, then led hearts again when in with the ♦K. Now Campanile read the hand very nicely. She cashed two diamonds to ruff the fourth heart, completing the dummy reversal, then led clubs, forcing Helman to win and play back a club to dummy's queen. Declarer had the thirteenth diamond to cash; Helman could ruff but was endplayed to lead from the ♠K. +470. A round of applause from the bulletin staff.

E/W are cold for 3♥ and 2♠, but the Flying Dutchmen sailed their frigate into 2NT when Bertens jumped to it as a passed hand over Bakkeren's third-seat 1♥ opening (natural or an artificial raise, you be the judge) and Bakkeren refused to give his shipmate a chance to bid again (or maybe he just forgot 2NT wasn't natural). With seven tricks the limit in notrump they finished one down, -50. At the other table Jason and Helgemo bid 1♥-4♥, got doubled, and went down one more than necessary. Jacobs, North, led a trump to the ten and king and Helgemo played along crossruff lines: ♣A, club ruff, spade to the king, club ruff, spade. Schollaardt won and led a third spade, Helgemo ruffing with the ♥J. He ruffed his last club in dummy and exited with a spade to Schollaardt, who played his fifth club, ruffed and overruffed. Helgemo came to one more trump trick but never scored a diamond (Jacobs pitched his low ones during the crossruff) and finished two down, -300. 6 imps to Hackett, whose lead was down to a mere 25 at 36-11.

After a couple of quiet deals Helman made good his escape and Aronov came in for the rest of the set.

Bd: 11	North	
Dlr: South	♠ 3	
Vul: None	♥ K7632	
	♦ KJ75	
	♣ K93	
	West	East
	♠ AJ874	♠ K92
	♥ AQJ10	♥ 5
	♦ A32	♦ Q1094
	♣ 10	♣ Q7542
	South	
	♠ Q1065	
	♥ 984	
	♦ 86	
	♣ AJ86	

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both tables played 4♠ on unrevealing auctions. Both Norths led a heart; West won and stole a heart trick at trick two. Now it is easy to find winning lines for declarer, who has four spade, four heart, and three diamond tricks. But both declarers were handicapped by not being able to see through the backs of the cards. Zack pitched a diamond from dummy, ducked a club to South, won the heart shift pitching another diamond, and now led the fourth heart to pitch yet another diamond as South did the same. Declarer ruffed a diamond and was overruffed, and he still had a diamond he needed to ruff high, and thus a second trump loser.

Aronov threw a club at trick two, then played a low diamond to Barel's king. Back came a third heart, giving declarer another heart trick. Aronov relaxed for a second: he played the ♠A and a spade to the king. When trumps were four-one he saw the danger too late: South would win the ♠Q and underlead in clubs for a heart ruff. So he changed tack, hoping to cash two diamonds ending in dummy to lead a fourth diamond and neutralize South's trumps. No luck there, and a flat board leaving both Wests very dissatisfied.



"That's okay, you stay here and I'll bring the etchings down."



"If we put our heads together we can work it out."

Jacobs led a heart against Helgemo's 4♠, won by the ten. Helgemo led back the ♥Q and passed it when Jacobs ducked, then played a spade to the king and a spade to the jack, discovering that he had a sure trump loser. He cashed the ♥A, ruffed the jack with dummy's last trump, then played a diamond to the ace, the ♠A, and a diamond toward dummy as Jacobs flew with the ace. Ten tricks, +420.

At the other table Papa Hackett led a low diamond to dummy's ten. Bertens tried a heart to the queen and king and Papa, not one to give up easily, played a second diamond to dummy's nine. Bertens next tried to sneak another diamond trick by leading the queen to the ace, but Justin was up to the task and ruffed, cashed the ♣A, and played a second club as Bertens ruffed. A spade to the king and a spade to the jack were inexplicably followed by the ♥AJ10 of hearts, Justin ruffing the last round (why did Bertens not just draw the last trump and claim his contract?) for +50 and 10 giftimps. Papa's lead was up to 33 at 46-13.

Bd: 12	North		
Dir: West	♠ KQ7		
Vul: N/S	♥ AKJ32		
	♦ A93		
	♣ Q9		
		East	
West		♠ A532	
♠ J96		♥ 874	
♥ Q109		♦ 872	
♦ J64		♣ 763	
♣ 10852			
	South		
	♠ 1084		
	♥ 65		
	♦ KQ105		
	♣ AKJ4		

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NN
Pass	4NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NN
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

6NT is a reasonable spot, but not a great one. As North on a spade lead to the ace you have combined red-suit chances, but on a club lead you appear to need hearts to behave. And on a diamond lead you might go down if declarer leads an early spade to his hand and East ducks. But Kovachev, as South, had

carefully arranged to be declarer to give Zack a blind lead. When a spade was led declarer would surely not have played West to have underled if Levin had ducked, would he? When Levin won the ♠A and returned a spade the show-up squeeze meant declarer did not even need a finesse; who says it was a lucky slam?

Campanile had no real reason to bid on over 4NT in her room, having shown a 2/1 at her first turn. Certainly Barel could have offered a choice of slams with a bid of 5NT, but since slam is no gimme, it is hard to criticize the auction too much.

Papa and Justin bid briskly to slam (2NT-6NT) and Ton Bakkeren cashed his ♠A before the mice could get at it. When the diamonds split three-three Papa claimed twelve tricks for +1440. At the other table Jacobs-Schollaardt stopped in 4♥ and made only five, but that was irrelevant since both scores resulted in a loss of 13imps. Papa's lead was now up to 46 at 59-13.

Bd: 15	North		
Dir: South	♠ KJ54		
Vul: N/S	♥ 52		
	♦ 10632		
	♣ AK9		
		East	
West		♠ A103	
♠ 8762		♥ J109	
♥ A863		♦ A854	
♦ 9		♣ J108	
♣ Q764			
	South		
	♠ Q9		
	♥ KQ74		
	♦ KQJ7		
	♣ 532		

The Bulgarians stopped in 1NT on an auction where South had shown 11-13. When Campanile rebid to show 12-14 Barel followed a different route, by transferring to 2♦, then inviting in that suit. On a club lead declarer drove out the ♠A to take care of her club loser, and ended up with nine tricks for a 1-imp pick-up, since 1NT made only +90.



"If I sit here long enough maybe they'll turn out the lights and go away."

Bd: 16  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 87654  
 ♥ AKJ108  
 ♦ 632  
 ♣ ---

West  
 ♠ 93  
 ♥ Q75  
 ♦ J9  
 ♣ 1098762

East  
 ♠ AQ2  
 ♥ 9643  
 ♦ Q875  
 ♣ Q4

South  
 ♠ KJ10  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ AK104  
 ♣ AKJ53

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Papa</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Justin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Papa-Justin failed to get to the spade slam The good news was that Papa only took eleven tricks. The bad news was that Jacobs-Schollaardt roared right into slam on an artificial auction after Jacobs opened the North hand 1♠.

There is certainly nothing wrong in general with cutting partner slack, but here Justin must have been worried that opposite as little as ♠Q98xx and ♥Axxxx, which is entirely consistent with Papa's bidding, slam figures to be an odds-on proposition. On a diamond lead Papa won and simply played spades from the top, conceding two trump tricks to the ace and queen. 11 imps to The Netherlands, trailing 59-26.

Bd: 17  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ QJ975  
 ♥ J1053  
 ♦ K8  
 ♣ AK

West  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ KQ64  
 ♦ 10954  
 ♣ Q1094

East  
 ♠ K82  
 ♥ A2  
 ♦ QJ62  
 ♣ 7532

South  
 ♠ A1043  
 ♥ 987  
 ♦ A73  
 ♣ J86

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣
All Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

When the Bulgarians bid a game on a finesse to pick up six more imps the match had reduced to the territory of the dreaded tie, a result that would indeed be like kissing your sister, as they say in the world of American sports.

In Hackett-The Netherlands Papa and Justin took another conservative view and stopped in 2♠ while Jacobs and Schollaardt bid the spade game and collected another 6 imps, to bring the deficit down to 27 at 59-32.

The match got closer when the Israelis were faced with the following challenging defensive problem.

Bd: 19  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ A862  
 ♥ 65  
 ♦ 642  
 ♣ 9632

West  
 ♠ QJ4  
 ♥ KQJ103  
 ♦ A73  
 ♣ Q7

East  
 ♠ 1075  
 ♥ 42  
 ♦ Q1095  
 ♣ AKJ4

South  
 ♠ K93  
 ♥ A987  
 ♦ KJ8  
 ♣ 1085

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Dbl	All Pass		1NT

Defending 1NTx Zack led the ♥KQ, then the ♥10—a combination of plays with no clear suit-preference message—as appropriate. Maybe Levin should work out to let go spades—that ♥Q should maybe suggest

this? Levin pitched a club—a winner—and Kovachev then returned a heart. After running the hearts Zack exited with a low diamond so declarer had escaped for down three and a 3-imp gain. It was 38-33 now.

Bertens-Bakkeren bid to 3NT on the E/W cards and took the obvious nine tricks after Papa's led the ♠6, trying to hit Justin's suit but having far more luck locating declarer's. At the other table Jason and Helgemo stopped in 1NT and again took nine tricks, this time on a spade lead. 10 more imps for the Dutch, bringing the lead down to only 17 at 59-42.

Bd: 20  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ K953  
 ♥ J63  
 ♦ Q63  
 ♣ A82

West  
 ♠ QJ  
 ♥ AK52  
 ♦ K10852  
 ♣ 95

East  
 ♠ 108764  
 ♥ 98  
 ♦ J7  
 ♣ J1063

South  
 ♠ A2  
 ♥ Q1074  
 ♦ A94  
 ♣ KQ74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Campanile</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zack</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

With one deal to go, both sides needed a swing and this deal gave both sides precisely that chance. Most pairs would treat a balance of 1NT as 11-14 and a double followed by 1NT as 15-17. Clearly one could go either way with this hand but the knowledge that partner is unlikely to double-cross you by jumping too high in spades, coupled with the possibility that hearts might be right, makes the double look at least as attractive as the direct action in notrump.

The Bulgarians played 1NT and wrapped up ten tricks, so Aronov had a chance to win the match for his side by leading diamonds—declarer is a tempo behind in the race. Horton's predilection for keeping the auction open on even a misfitting 0-count might have tempted Aronov to lead a diamond, but when God deals you an ace-king combination does he not mean for you to lead it? Well, much of the BBO commentators' discussion had already been about co-religionists competing against one another, so maybe Aronov's choice of a heart simply meant that God was on this side of the small battalions today. 10 imps to Israel, and an 18-12 win. Good, but maybe not enough. They were lying seventh now, but would have to face the very tough Irish team in the last match, needing a draw to be nearly sure to advance.

This time Papa-Justin were taking no prisoners and bid to 3NT after Bertens opened 1♦ in first seat. After the start of the ♥AK and a heart Justin came home with ten tricks by giving up a diamond to the king and then squeezing East in the black suits for +630. At the other table Jacobs-Schollaardt played the contract (rather unsuccessfully) in 2♠ on the E/W cards, ending up down three for -300. Hackett picked up another 8 imps to win the match by 25, 67-42

The following Haiku, by Tuzilla, was received via the Internet

Cold and biting wind  
 The heart pauses to go out  
 It's your turn to deal

# Round Eight: Poland vs the Latin

by Barry Rigal

This was do or die time. Both teams not only needed a big win, they needed the rest of the draw to work out in their favor if they were going to advance. Poland had a few VPs. in hand on The Latin; 20-10 might do it for the South Americans, 22 VP would be close to a lock, while a winning draw might suffice for the Poles. Meanwhile in the Israel-Ireland match the Irish needed a win, the Israelis needed not to lose.

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ AQ73		
Vul: None	♥ J1076		
	♦ J9		
	♣ K92		
	West	East	
	♠ 10	♠ K982	
	♥ 92	♥ K4	
	♦ AK1076532	♦ ---	
	♣ QJ	♣ A1087653	
	South		
	♠ J654		
	♥ AQ853		
	♦ Q84		
	♣ 4		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Buras</i>
	1♣	3♣	Dbl
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
5♦	Dbl.	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Jag'ski</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
4♦	All Pass		

Frontaura offered his opponents a fielder's choice in 5♦ here; they collected +300 but the sacrifice was still an expensive error since 4♥ was going down at least one trick. Both North players apparently considered that hand an opening bid. Brenner did sensibly when he passed out 4♦, figuring it was the best result possible—if not the best possible result. Poland led 6-0.

In Ireland-Israel Zack-Levin duplicated the Closed Room auction, while Barel passed the North hand and Garvey-Carroll bid unopposed to 5♦ down two. Israel led 2-0. In total, at the 47 tables in play there were three making contracts, all in 3♦.

Next both E/W pairs in Poland-The Latin stole a partscore in 2♠ when neither South, holding ♠6 ♥94 ♦J9875 ♣AK954 at unfavorable vulnerability, bid

over a 1♠ opening on their right, or balanced after 1♠-1NT-2♠, conceding -110 on a deal where they can make ten tricks in either minor. Garvey-Carroll propelled themselves to 3♠, down a trick, to give Israel a 7-0 lead.

The datum here was 100 to N/S, doubtless because N/S were allowed to make a hopeless notrump or club game on no less than eight occasions.

A series of undramatic deals followed in our main match (though Israel scored heavily when the Irish attempted a no-play slam in one room and then went overboard on a dull partscore deal for no reason, so that Israel was already in front 27-1 after five deals). The score was 8-3 Poland when the E/W pairs faced the sort of decision that seems to come up all too often—and to which there is no really convincing answer.

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ 9754		
Vul: E/W	♥ A9864		
	♦ A864		
	♣ ---		
	West	East	
	♠ J86	♠ KQ	
	♥ J102	♥ Q	
	♦ J	♦ Q97532	
	♣ AKQ843	♣ J1076	
	South		
	♠ A1032		
	♥ K753		
	♦ K10		
	♣ 952		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Buras</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♦	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Jag'ski</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	Pass
5♣	Dbl.	All Pass	

Both Norths overcalled 1♥ over 1♣ and found themselves in 4♥ (Narkiewicz accepting an invitation at his second turn!). Pellegrini sold out to 4♥ as East, and was probably disappointed but not entirely



surprised to discover he could not set it. By contrast, Jagniewski (having bid a non-forcing 2♦) doubled 4♥ and Kwiecien, knowing of heart shortage opposite, ran to 5♣. Dummy was a mixture of far more good than bad news and the defenders could do nothing but take their three top tricks. Even better, with clubs three-zero 4♥ was cold. Poland now led 12-3.

Both tables in Ireland-Israel reached 5♣. Hanlon-McGann doubled and cashed their three aces in the same order that the Poles had. But when Garvey declared 5♣ as East after having opened 1♦, the defense led a trump. Barel went up with ♦A at trick two and shifted to the ♠5. Now Campanile won to play a second trump. Declarer could pitch his heart loser on the spades and set up diamonds for 11 tricks; it was 27-14 to Israel now. (This was, not surprisingly, the only table at which games was bid and made.)

Then came a chance for both sides:

Bd: 9	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 732		
Vul: E/W	♥ Q9872		
	♦ 72		
	♣ J63		
West		East	
♠ 1084		♠ A965	
♥ 4		♥ A10	
♦ KJ1095		♦ Q6	
♣ AKQ9		♣ 108752	
	South		
	♠ KQJ		
	♥ KJ653		
	♦ A843		
	♣ 4		

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Buras</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl.	3♥	Dbl.	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣	All Pass
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kwecien</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Jag'ski</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl.	4♥	4♠	Dbl.
All Pass			

5♣ by West would surely have come home (a 4♥ choice-of-games cue-bid by East might have accomplished this) but Pellegrini naturally selected 5♣ to avoid accidents and a top spade lead put paid to his chances at once. Mind you 4♠x on a heart lead

is going to be a catastrophe if spades don't split...but Brenner led two top spades, both ducked, then shifted to a heart to the ♥A. Declarer made the mistake of leading the ♦Q from hand; Brenner won and forced dummy with a heart, then sat back for his spade winner. Down 200 and a sweaty 3 imps for Brazil. Declarer should have got this right, I think; the defenders would have played hearts earlier if trumps were not splitting. The three undertrick imps for The Latin made the score 18-6.

Barel-Campanile stole the pot here when Carroll passed a 1♥ opening as West; but Levin declared 4♠ after Zack (West) had doubled 1♥. The defense led and continued trumps; Levin took the second and played the ♦Q. McGann won to play a third spade, but now declarer claimed ten tricks. Had McGann taken the ♦A to play a heart, declarer can win, ruff a heart, and still survive if he reads the position (by cashing one club and two diamonds, as North discards, then reverting to clubs and letting South ruff with the master trump), but it is far harder.

Elsewhere, Aronov-Horton managed to achieve the perfect auction here: Aronov overcalled 2♦ (I like that choice myself) and over the jump to 4♥ Horton gambled with 4NT—pick a minor—since his partnership was relatively unlikely to have a four-card spade suit in a 2♦ overcall. Aronov bid 5♣ and wrapped up +600 and 13 imps when his teammates achieved +140 in 3♥. The datum here was E/W +150; 4♠ (quite often doubled) was bid and made 12 times; but pride of place goes to Atsuyo Miyake and Ayako Matsubara, making +950 in 5♣x. As against that, three pairs collected +530 on the N/S cards: Saito-Kurita, Park-Chung, and Yamada-Ohno.



"That's OK, we've all forgotten to draw trumps before."

This was another tough board for E/W:

Bd: 11 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 10  
 Vul: None ♥ 975  
 ♦ AQ1075  
 ♣ K542

West  
 ♠ AJ75  
 ♥ AQ106  
 ♦  
 ♣ AQJ73

East  
 ♠ Q86432  
 ♥ 432  
 ♦ J862  
 ♣ ---

South  
 ♠ K9  
 ♥ KJ8  
 ♦ K943  
 ♣ 10986

Bd: 12 North  
 Dir: West ♠ Q1032  
 Vul: N/S ♥ 862  
 ♦ A974  
 ♣ 95

West  
 ♠ KJ  
 ♥ Q943  
 ♦ KQ32  
 ♣ AJ2

East  
 ♠ A975  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ 865  
 ♣ KQ863

South  
 ♠ 864  
 ♥ AKJ105  
 ♦ J10  
 ♣ 1074

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Buras</i>
1♣	1♦	1♠	1NT
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Jag'ski</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♣	1♦	Pass	2♣
Dbf.	2♦	2♠	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Buras</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Jag'ski</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

If you heard partner contribute a free-bid of 1♠ (and yes, this would be a good hand for weak-jump responses; there have to be some) you might not give up below slam. Frontaura produced a void-showing spade raise, as 3♦ would be a singleton, then gave up in 4♠. When Jagniewski could not bid at his first turn Kwiecien appears to have followed a route to try to get doubled in game, but all that happened was that he played 4♠ on a slow rather than a fast route. An overtrick imp to The Latin left them trailing 16-7.

Neither E/W pair managed to get to slam in Ireland-Israel though Zack did hear his partner produce a weak-jump response in competition. As you might expect, the E/W results here were all over the place. Marston-Prescott collected 1400 from 5♦x, and four pairs bid to slam successfully. But some of the other results defy description, at least from a pen as ineloquent as mine. Five pairs missed game, one went down in the small slam, one defended 2NT (at least they beat it), one pair defended 1NTx and did not beat it, and the board was passed out once.

In the Closed Room a spade opening lead made declarer's task an easy one. In the other room a low diamond to the ten and king saw Kwiecien overtake the ♣J and finesse in spades. When Ravenna won his ♠Q he needed to exit with a club to start cutting declarer's communications. The ♥8 was not going to be good enough; declarer would duck the ♦10 and eventually extract another trick from the pointed suits (see Zack's play below). Brenner short-circuited this discussion by winning the ♥A and returning the ♥J. Kwiecien was not born yesterday; he rose with the ♥Q and had nine tricks. No swing.

**First Law of Bridge: It's always your partner's fault.**



"What, me worry?"

This deal is perhaps the most fascinating of the event so far. Even after the club play at trick four the defenders have to be very careful. Declarer wins in hand and cashes ♠K, then runs the clubs. This is the five-card ending:

	♠ 103 ♥ 8 ♦ A9 ♣ —		
West		East	
♠ — ♥ Q94 ♦ Q3 ♣ —		♠ A9 ♥ 7 ♦ 86 ♣ —	
	South		
	♠ 8 ♥ AKJ ♦ J ♣ —		

Declarer has the lead as East and seven tricks in the bank. He can do no better than lead a heart since cashing the ♠A would squeeze his own hand. South must win, lead the ♦10, ducked all around, then exit with the ♥AJ to endplay West into conceding trick 13 to North.

Fu Zhong and Jack Zhao defended 3NT on the Polish auction. A diamond to the jack and king saw declarer commit the slight inaccuracy of leading the ♣A and then overtaking the ♣J to take the spade finesse. Fu led the ♥8 to Zhao; the ♦10 held, and now a club back left the spades blocked. Fu could discard one spade on the clubs (knowing declarer to be 2-4-4-3) and sit back to watch West's discard on the last club. Whatever declarer did, the defenders would have a riposte.

Back to a successful declarer: Yaniv Zack played 3NT on a diamond lead. He led a low club to dummy, and finessed in spades. North won and led ♥8 to the king for the ♦10 back. Zack ducked, won the club return, unblocked spades, and ran the clubs. Note the difference from the previous position; the round of hearts did not do any harm per se, but the forced diamond play cut the defensive communications and tightened up the position for the squeeze, essentially rectifying the count.



"Wink, wink, nudge, nudge."

	♠ 103 ♥ — ♦ A9 ♣ —		
West		East	
♠ — ♥ Q 9 ♦ Q3 ♣ —		♠ A9 ♥ — ♦ 8 ♣ 3	
	South		
	♠ 8 ♥ AJ10 ♦ — ♣ —		

On the last club North was caught in a strip-squeeze. The best he could do was to pitch his low diamond but declarer could exit with a diamond and finesse on the spade return. Zack duly did this to gain 10 imps.

Notice how much better North does to pitch a spade early on the run of the clubs, and then to let go the ♦9 while retaining a low heart. That at least gives declarer a valid losing option.

Barel-Campanile cashed both of their heart winners prematurely, making this a flat board. Israel, 40-14.



Migry Campanile



Michael Barel

Elsewhere on this deal, 43 of 47 tables played 3NT (two stopped in 2NT, two collected penalties from N/S partnerships unwise enough to venture into the auction). Two thirds of the field made game; alas we do not have details on the lead from most tables.

Bd: 17 Dir: North Vul: None		North	
		♠ AK96 ♥ 87 ♦ 10763 ♣ 953	
	West		East
	♠ 53 ♥ KQ5 ♦ AQJ84 ♣ Q104		♠ QJ10 ♥ 10932 ♦ K9 ♣ AKJ2
		South	
		♠ 8742 ♥ AJ64 ♦ 52 ♣ 876	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Buras</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass

3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Jag'ski</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠(2)	Pass

4♥ All Pass

(1) Balanced minimum; (2) Heart raise

A series of relatively unexciting games turned nothing more than overtricks so that Poland led 21-10 when Kwiecien-Jagniewski had an accident on a deal where the auction from the Closed Room suggested that the board was not exactly a bidding challenge. Kwiecien's 2♥ call was intended as a probe for no-trump but it persuaded Jagniewski to go past 3NT. With trumps not splitting nine tricks were the limit. The Latin had tied up the match at 21-21.

Ireland-Israel likewise went quiet; the score: 43-15.

Maybe challenging deals are like number 73 buses in London; you wait two days for one, then three turn up at once...

Bd: 18 North  
 Dir: East ♠ A1086  
 Vul: N/S ♥ J105  
 ♦ K75  
 ♣ 1054

West	East
♠ K95	♠ J732
♥ AQ987642	♥ ---
♦ 9	♦ AQJ102
♣ J	♣ Q976

South  
 ♠ Q4  
 ♥ K3  
 ♦ 8643  
 ♣ AK832

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>Buras</i>
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Jag'ski</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣

4♥ All Pass

Both Wests bounced to 4♥. Narkiewicz guessed to lead a diamond—not nearly as bad as it might appear. Declarer finessed, pitched his club loser on the diamonds, then led a spade to the king and ace. He ruffed a club, (see below for a better alternative defense), cashed the ♥A on which North dropped the obligatory false-card of an honor, and now Frontaura misguessed what to do. His thinking was that he needed South to have an original holding of ♠Qx. That made it far more likely that he would have three hearts. When Frontaura also misread the ending he was down two; -100.

In the Closed Room Ravenna led a club; Brenner won the king—a subtle error—and returned a low spade. Surely if you are going to switch to a spade you should win the ♣A at trick one. Kwiecien guessed right (nicely done) and when he got in laid down the ♥A, then guessed trumps despite Ravenna's false-card. Well done all around; 11 imps to Poland, up 27-24.

Zack was declarer against the Irish on a club lead to the king. South won and played the ♣A. Zack ruffed, played the ♥A and despite McGann's false-card he continued with a low heart to the king. When South exited with a low spade Zack guessed the spades right too; well done! That was worth a game swing when Carroll misguessed spades at the other table. The score was 53-15. Thanks to a huge set from Zack-Levin Israel would be comfortably ensconced in fourth place, ready to try to win the tournament for the third straight year.

Bobby Richman defended 4♥ after Marston had opened to show both minors, 9-12. He led a diamond; declarer finessed and pitched his club, then led a spade to the king and ace. Richman knew what to do now; he returned the ♦K! Declarer ruffed and could no longer make it. If he guessed hearts and played ♥A and a low heart to South's king, the fourth diamond would set up the trump promotion. Very nicely defended.

Overall, game was made rather more often than not. The datum was +260 to E/W. As it turned out, with two deals to come, Poland had a 17-13 lead and needed one more swing to be invited to the ball. But the last two boards provided no opportunities, and Poland just missed out.

# Tourney Dominated By Hooves and Antlers

by Richard Pavlicek

Today's deal occurred at the annual North Pole Regional, an unusual tournament in that local reindeer are invited to attend. This has caused complaints from the Eskimos who cite "hoofings" and "antler gougings" as reasons for barring the reindeer; but the truth is that no Eskimo has won since the reindeer were admitted in 1976.

At one table Mush, the top Eskimo player, opened the South hand with 4NT, Blackwood. (Eskimo bidding left a lot to be desired.) His partner, Slush, showed no aces (what a surprise) and Mush continued with 5NT to ask for kings. When Slush showed one king, Mush still had no idea what to bid and he took a stab at 6NT.

Dir: South      ♠ KQ105432  
 Vul: E/W      ♥ 32  
                   ♦ 5 4  
                   ♣ 109

♠ J987 ♥ 987 ♦ 876 ♣ 765	♠ 6 ♥ J654 ♦ J932 ♣ J432
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

♠ A  
 ♥ AKQ10  
 ♦ AKQ10  
 ♣ AKQ8

West	North	East	South
			4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

West led a spade and Mush was...well, in the slush. He had 10 top tricks in his hand and two in dummy, but there was no way to reach the dummy. He played skillfully (endplaying East) to escape for down one. After the session he asked some of the reindeer what they had done on this annoying deal.

"Oh, we bid 7♠," said Randolph, "and I made it on a trump coup. After ruffing three times in the North hand, I ended with South on lead and West's ♠J was trapped in the end position. Not much to it really."

"We bid 7♥," exclaimed Raymond. "West led a spade and I had to hope for miracles. I ruffed the third round of diamonds in dummy then, fearing a bad spade break, I led the ♣10 for a finesse. When this held I took the heart finesse and all of a sudden my hand was good. Making seven!"

"How about that!" echoed Ralph. "We bid 7♦ and I made it the same way."

"Guess what?" chimed Rudolph. "We bid 7♣...some kind of Gerber malfunction as I recall. I won the spade lead, cashed all my red-nosed...er, red-suit winners, and ruffed a heart. The ♠K was ruffed and overruffed, then a diamond ruff gave me 13 tricks. Rather easy."

*For more of Richard Pavlicek on bridge, visit his web site at: [www.rpbridge.net](http://www.rpbridge.net)*

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If you are looking for a professional partner for the Yokohama Swiss Teams or the Asuka Cup, please contact the Secretariat in Room E206. We will try to make up a partnership with an expert from abroad. Please negotiate with your partner about the fees.

**Experts:** Do you want to offer professional service to local players? If you are willing to play with local players (on a paid basis or not) in the Yokohama Swiss Teams (2-day team match) on the 10<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and 11<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) or the Asuka Cup (2-session Open Pairs) on the 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday), please contact the Secretariat in Room E206. Please negotiate with your partner about the fees.

# Lateral Thinking

by Barry Rigal

A BBO vugraph of the 2007 NOT (Australian Open Teams) witnessed these two auctions:

1. 5♦-All Pass
2. 1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass  
1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

Would you believe it was the same board? Impossible, I would think (in an expert game), but Michael Courtney opened 5♦ on the same hand that Espen Erichson (playing with Boye Brogeland) opened 1♥ and rebid 1NT. The auction was entirely natural at both tables. Is that a record for differing viewpoints? And can you explain it?

**Answer:** Opener's hand was ♠4 ♥QJ93  
♦AQJ10764 ♣5.

Michael Courtney's 5♦ opening looks as normal as any action that Michael ever takes, Espen's action rather less normal. But the explanation is simple; Erichsen had the ♦A in with his hearts, a fact he only discovered before his second call. Having found out his mistake he decided to cut his losses by limiting his hand via the 1NT rebid rather than risking 2♦ and getting put back to hearts.

And right he was! 3NT was a makeable game, 5♦ was down in top tricks.

## If It Duck's Like a Quack...

In Wednesday's Round Three match-up of Helman (Bridge magazine) vs JAPAN TAJIMA, Vladislav Isporski-Valio Kovachev perpetrated an inspired defense against Kyoko Shimamura-Mitsue Tajima's "cold" 4♠ contract. This was the situation.

Bd: 13 North  
Dir: North ♠ 9652  
Vul: Both ♥ Q8  
♦ QJ43  
♣ 542

West  
♠ J8743  
♥ ---  
♦ A98  
♣ QJ1093

East  
♠ AK10  
♥ KJ1095  
♦ 105  
♣ A86

South  
♠ Q  
♥ A76432  
♦ K762  
♣ K7

West	North	East	South
<i>Tajima</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Shimam'ra</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Isporski led the ♦Q against the "unbreakable" game. Declarer won the ace and immediately took the club

finesse ♣Q, 2, 6, 7! She then passed the ♣J to Kovachev's king, and he led a diamond to Isporski to obtain his club ruff. When Kovachev exited with the ♥A (the ♦K works as well) declarer was finished. She could ruff the heart in hand, but then could not find a way to extricate her remaining tricks. If she played on clubs Isporski could pitch his last heart to prevent her from enjoying the ♥K. And if she crossed to dummy with a trump, cashed the ♥K and the remaining high trumps, she would find herself in dummy in the three-card ending below...

♠ 9		
♥ ---		
♦ 43		
♣ ---		
♠ J		♠ ---
♥ ---		♥ J109
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ 93		♣ ---

irrelevant

... and would not be able to return to hand to draw Isporski's last trump. In fact this is what happened at the table. In the diagramed position declarer ruffed a heart to hand and tried to cash a club, but North ruffed and took the last trick with a diamond. Down two, +200, was worth 13imps (4♠ made at the other table) and Helman went on to win the match 49-30.

## Horton Hears a Clue

In Thursday's Round Five match between Helman (Bridge Magazine) and Poland, Mark Horton, playing with Victor Aronov, practiced one of the most important yet difficult tactics a bridge player has at his disposal: listening.

Bd: 17	North		
Dlr: North	♠ A9864		
Vul: None	♥ A75		
	♦ 54		
	♣ AK9		
		East	
West		♠ 5	
♠ 103		♥ QJ1032	
♥ K864		♦ K98	
♦ QJ632		♣ Q874	
♣ 102			
	South		
	♠ KQJ72		
	♥ 9		
	♦ A107		
	♣ J653		

N/S bid briskly to slam as Horton listened for a clue that might tell him the best lead against 6♠. His LHO had shown a singleton heart, four or more spades, and two Key Cards (one of which figured to be the ♦A for his 4♦ cue-bid) plus the ♠Q. South's sign off in 4♠ over 4♥ suggested that his other Key Card would be the ♠A or ♠K. That meant that North, who had launched into a slam-invitational sequence with only one top trump honor and was known to hold the two round-suit aces for his 4♣ and 4♥ cue-bids, must have some other features (distribution or control cards) to justify his aggression. Looking at the ♦K and the ♣Q in his own hand, Horton reasoned the only other significant side-suit card North could have was the ♣K, which made the club lead slightly more dangerous than a diamond. And if partner was going to provide some help to beat the contract, The ♦Q seemed a better bet than a higher honor in some other suit. Besides, one might just as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. So he tabled the ♦8 and now the slam could not be made; +50 for E/W.

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Buras</i>
	1♠	Pass	3NT(1)
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT(2)	Pass	5♠(3)
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

(1) ♥ splinter, 4+ ♠; (2) RKCB; (3) 2 KCs + ♠Q

At the other table Horton's counterpart (sorry, no insult intended) led the ♥Q from the heart sequence against slam and the contract rolled home; +980 for Horton's teammates. That was a 14-imp swing to Helman who lost the match narrowly, 34-37, to remain competitive for the KO phase.

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### 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.

## Give us a little Winkhaus: Meet Team Poland



Rafal Jagniewski

**Rafal Jagniewski**, 34, belongs to the Unia Winkhaus Leszno bridge club. He is a Polish International Grand Master and WBF World Master. He was a bronze medalist at the European Junior Teams Championships in Arnheim in 1994 and the gold medal at the World Junior Individual Championship in Lille in 1998.



Michal Kwiecien

**Michal Kwiecien**, 49, belongs to the Unia Winkhaus Leszno bridge club. He is a Polish International Grand Master and WBF World Grand Master. He won the gold medal at the European Junior Teams Championships in Salsomaggiore in 1982, a silver medal at the European Open Teams Championship in Montecatini in 1997, and a bronze medal at the World Transnational Teams Championships in Hammamet in 1997. With Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola he won the gold medal at the World Open Pairs Championship in Lille in 1998. He was a silver medalist at the Bridge Olympiad Open Teams in Maastricht in 2000, a bronze medalist at the European Open Teams Championship in Tenerife in 2001, a bronze medalist in the 2001 Bermuda Bowl in Paris, a silver medalist at the IOC Open Teams in Salt Lake City in 2002, and a bronze medalist in the World Transnational Teams in Montreal in 2002.



Krzysztof Buras

**Krzysztof Buras**, 26, belongs to the Unia Winkhaus Leszno bridge club. He is a Polish International Grand Master and WBF World Master. He was a bronze medalist at the European School Teams Championship in Vienna in 1998 and a gold medalist at the European School Teams Championship in Antalya in 2000, the European Junior Teams Championship in Prague in 2004, the World University Teams Championship in Istanbul in 2004, and the European Junior Teams Championship in Riccione in 2005. He was also a silver medalist at the World Junior Teams Championship in Sydney in 2005.



Grzegorz Narkiewicz

**Grzegorz Narkiewicz**, 30, belongs to the Unia Winkhaus Leszno bridge club. He is a Polish International Grand Master and WBF World Master. He was a gold medalist at the World University Teams Championship in Istanbul in 2004.



## Datum Rankings (Pairs 3 Matches or more)

Rank	IMPs/Bd	Pair	Team	Matches Played
1	1.52	Paul Hackett-Justin Hackett	HACKETT	3
2	1.37	Shi Zhengjun-Ju Chuancheng	CHINA - Beijing	8
3	1.01	Adam Zmudzinski-Cezary Balicki	POLAND/RUSSIA	8
4	0.93	Yang Lixin-Dai Jianming	CHINA SMEG	6
5	0.85	Teruko Nishimura-Jun Cheng	LAS FLORES	3
6-7	0.83	Michael Prescott-Paul Marston	OzOne-Bridge	8
6-7	0.83	Yasuhiro Shimizu-Yoshiyuki Nakamura	Shy Ant	8
8	0.79	Amir Levin-Yaniv Zack	ISRAEL	8
9-10	0.78	Maarten Schollaardt-Leon Jacobs	The NETHERLANDS	8
9-10	0.78	Huub Bertens-Ton Bakkeren	The NETHERLANDS	8
11-12	0.75	Mark Horton-Victor Aronov	HELMAN	6
11-12	0.75	Katsumi Takahashi-Eiji Otaka	YAMADA	5
13	0.70	Kazuo Furuta-Chen Dawei	D-MaTK	8
14	0.55	Mark W. LaForge-Hideto Yamaguchi	WOMBAT+	4
15-16	0.53	Wayne Burrows-Michael Ware	VEGA*	6
15-16	0.53	Ryo Matsubara-Michio Goto	WOMBAT+	5
17	0.52	Andrei Gromov-Alexander Dubinin	POLAND/RUSSIA	8
18-19	0.47	Motoaki Shiga-Hiroki Yokoi	JAPAN Youth	3
18-19	0.47	Hiroshi Kaku-Masaaki Takayama	momocchi	6
20-21	0.45	Frankie Frontaura-Carlos Pellegrini	THE LATIN	8
20-21	0.45	Kazuhisa Kojima-Kei Nemoto	KOJIMA	4
22-23	0.43	Paul Hackett-John Armstrong	HACKETT	5
22-23	0.43	Valio Kovachev-Vladislav Isporski	HELMAN	8
24	0.42	Kazuhisa Kojima-Kazuo Saeki	KOJIMA	3
25-26	0.41	Yukiko Umezu-Etsuko Naito	makko	4
25-26	0.41	Wang Xiaojing-Sun Shaolin	CHINA SMEG	5
27	0.37	Wang Kui-Cheng Zhe	CHINA-Beijing	8
28	0.36	Mamiko Odaira-Yumiko Kichise	Kimura@Yokohama	5
29	0.34	Fu Zhong-Zhao Jie	CHINA SMEG	5
30	0.33	Makoto Hirata-Takashi Maeda	HANA	3
31	0.32	Masaru Yoshida-Makoto Kono	momocchi	3
32	0.31	Krzysztof Buras-Grzegorz Narkiewicz	POLAND	8
33	0.30	Junko Nishimura-Jun Cheng	LAS FLORES	3
34-35	0.28	Tadashi Teramoto-Shunsuke Morimura	TAJIMA	8
34-35	0.28	Tsuneo Sakurai-Atsushi Kikuchi	SKOTII	8
36	0.27	Rafal Jagniewski-Michal Kwiecien	POLAND	8
37-38	0.25	Kenji Miyakuni-Hiroaki Miura	NAITO	3
37-38	0.25	Taeko Kuratani-Reiko Fukuda	SunFlowers	5
39	0.24	Yuichi Ikemoto-Shugo Tanaka	JAPAN Youth	4
40	0.23	Migry Zur-Campanile-Michael Barel	ISRAEL	8
41-42	0.22	Masayuki Ino-Tadashi Imakura	D-MaTK	8
41-42	0.22	Masaharu Takatori-Toshiko Nishi	Friends	3
43	0.21	Junko Arai-Haruyo Iiyama	Symmetry	7
44	0.19	Ryoga Tanaka-Tomoyuki Harada	Shy Ant	8
45-46	0.18	Tom Hanlon-Hugh McGann	IRELAND	5
45-46	0.18	Shunichi Haga-Kazuo Takano	CHARADE	8
47-48	0.16	Takeshi Hanayama-Sei Nagasaka	HANA	8
47-48	0.16	Diego Brenner-Pablo Ravenna	THE LATIN	8
49	0.15	Tommy Garvey-John Carroll	IRELAND	6
50-52	0.13	Ramawatar Agrawal-Archelius Sequeira	INDIA	8
50-52	0.13	Kenji Miyakuni-Keisuke Akama	NAITO	3
50-52	0.13	Nick FitzGibbon-Adam Mesbur	IRELAND	5
53	0.12	Yasuyo Iida-Atsuko Katsumata	MINK	3
54	0.08	Kazuhiko Yamada-Takahiko Hirata	YAMADA	5
55	0.07	Geir Helgemo-Jason Hackett	HACKETT	3

Rank	IMPs/Bd	Pair	Team	Matches Played
56-58	0.06	Kiyoko Fushida-Hideko Shindo	2x4	6
56-58	0.06	Michiko Oono-Yayoi Sakamoto	Symmetry	7
56-58	0.06	Hideyuki Sango-Nobuko Matsubara	ESPERANZA	5
59	0.05	Kyoko Ohno-Akihiko Yamada	YAMADA	6
60	0.04	Atsuyo Miyake-Ayako Matsubara	makko	5
61-63	0.01	William Hirst-John Hassett	ENGLAND	8
61-63	0.01	Alexander F. Lewis-Anal Shah	INDIA	8
61-63	0.01	Chung Isub-Park Jungyoon	KOREA CACTI	8
64	-0.03	Kikuo Ito-Takehiko Tada	SKOTII	8
65	-0.04	John Holland-Michelle Brunner	ENGLAND	8
66	-0.05	Geir Helgemo-Justin Hackett	HACKETT	3
67-68	-0.06	Miho Sekizawa-Megumi Takasaki	MARUYAMA	5
67-68	-0.06	Osami Kimura-Akio Yamasuge	Kimura@Yokohama	6
69	-0.07	Mitsue Tajima-Kyoko Shimamura	TAJIMA	8
70	-0.10	Kyoko Sengoku-Masako Sakurai	MARUYAMA	5
71-72	-0.11	Sachiko Yamamura-Taeko Kawamura	GIRASOL	8
71-72	-0.11	Takashi Sumita-Yoko Fukuyama	MY-Bridge	5
73	-0.13	Toru Nishiwaki-Hitoshi Hojo	KOJIMA	5
74	-0.16	Miyako Miyazaki-Kazuko Okamoto	2x4	5
75	-0.18	Sonoko Namba-Noriko Takami	Kinki	3
76	-0.20	Kuniko Kito-Yoko Yagasaki	Kuzunun Karas	5
77-79	-0.23	Noriko Yoshizawa-Masafumi Yoshizawa	MY-Bridge	6
77-79	-0.23	Bob Richman-Zoli Nagy	OzOne-Bridge	8
77-79	-0.23	Kei Nemoto-Yumiko Oda	KOJIMA	4
80	-0.27	Kyoko Toyofuku-Yoko Nenohi	Kitty's	3
81	-0.28	Makiko Sato-Hiroko Sekiyama	Kitty's	3
82-83	-0.30	Kimi Makita-Keiko Matsuzaki	GIRASOL	8
82-83	-0.30	Yasuko Kosaka-Emiko Tamura	BIRD	6
84	-0.32	Shugo Tanaka-Hiroki Yokoi	JAPAN Youth	3
85-86	-0.33	Sung Kyunghae-Seo Neongwook	KOREA CACTI	8
85-86	-0.33	Etsuko Matsuki-Kikuyo Yamamura	Friends	3
87	-0.37	Makiko Hayashi-Natsuko Sugimoto	makko	5
88-89	-0.38	Valerie Gardiner-Peter Gill	VEGA*	4
88-89	-0.38	Atsuko Kurita-Yoshiko Murata	Honey Hunt	6
90	-0.39	Akiko Miyata-Yoko Shimominami	progress	5
91-93	-0.40	Kimiko Kamakari-Misae Kato	MINK	3
91-93	-0.40	Minako Takahashi-Mariko Matsukawa	Rhein	5
91-93	-0.40	Shoko Somemiya-Setsuko Neya	progress	5
94	-0.43	Betty Tajiri-Etsuko Hasegawa	SunFlowers	5
95	-0.44	Hiroko Sekiyama-Kumiko Matsuo	Kitty's	3
96	-0.46	Michiko Iwahashi-Misuzu Ichihashi	ESPERANZA	4
97	-0.49	Hideko Hasegawa-Kayoko Kubota	BIRD	5
98	-0.51	Michiko Ono-Toyoko Saito	Rhein	5
99-100	-0.52	Sonoko Namba-Chizuko Sugiura	Kinki	3
99-100	-0.52	Fumiko Kimura-Junko Tsubaki	Rhein	6
101	-0.54	Hiroko Kobayashi-Chizuko Tsukamoto	Kimura@Yokohama	5
102-103	-0.60	Nobuyuki Hayashi-Takashi Maeda	HANA	3
102-103	-0.60	Seiya Shimizu-Makoto Kono	momocchi	5
104	-0.62	Michiko Shida-Kotomi Asakoshi	LAS FLORES	8
105	-0.63	Chieko Ichikawa-Junko Den	Honey Hunt	5
106	-0.64	Motoaki Shiga-Satoshi Imai	JAPAN Youth	4
107	-0.69	Toru Tamura-Mimako Ishizuka	Kinki	8
108	-0.77	Ayako Amano-Sakiko Naito	NAITO	6
109	-0.79	Kuniko Miyauchi-Yoshitaka Agata	MY-Bridge	5
110	-0.82	Haruko Koshi-Mieko Nakanishi	ESPERANZA	3
111-112	-0.87	Takako Nakatani-Sachiho Ueda	SunFlowers	5
111-112	-0.87	Yoko Maruyama-Megumi Takasaka	MARUYAMA	6

Rank	IMPs/Bd	Pair	Team	Matches Played
113	-0.89	Michiko Furumoto-Emiko Noda	Kuzunun Karas	5
114	-0.93	Misako Fukazawa-Sumiko Sugino	CHARADE	8
115	-0.95	Tomoko Sakai-Yumiko Ishibashi	progress	4
116	-0.96	Chieko Ichikawa-Kuniko Saito	Honey Hunt	3
117	-0.98	Kyoko Toyofuku-Toshiko Kaho	Kitty's	3
118	-1.10	Yoko Saito-Masaharu Takatori	Friends	5
119	-1.11	Yasuyoshi Toriumi-Hiroko Yanagisawa	BIRD	5
120	-1.17	Akiko Kawabata-Harumi Shibano	PS-Jack	4
121	-1.23	Fumiko Kubo-Machiko Sekiya	2x4	4
122	-1.24	Yoko Mitsuhashi-Sachiko Kunitomo	Kuzunun Karas	6

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

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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)	F203-206
Sunday (Feb. 11)	10:00-12:20	NEC Cup Final (1) & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Playoff (1)	E204
	12:30-14:50	NEC Cup Final (2) & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Playoff (2)	
	14:50-16:00	Lunch Break	
	16:00-18:20	NEC Cup Final (3)	
	18:30-20:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams (2)	F203-206
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 & 3<sup>rd</sup> place playoff segments = 16 boards

## ALERT: New Venue for VuGraph

The VuGraph for the KO phase of the NEC Cup is in a new location this year. To access it one must go outside and around to the rear of the building (the side facing the harbor), as shown in the diagram below.

