



# NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 11, 2007  
Bulletin Number 5

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## It's POLAND/RUSSIA vs The NETHERLANDS in the 2007 NEC Cup Final

The higher qualifying team won only half of the quarterfinal and semifinal matches, but it's hard to argue with the qualifications of the two teams that will meet in today's final. As a quick perusal of the summaries below will reveal, the second half most matches was a higher scoring affair than the first half, indicating that fatigue may be a significant factor. Both of the teams in the final are playing four-handed so this could be an even greater factor in the final since it is played over 64 board rather than 40. But all of the players on these teams are dogged competitors and most of them have won more high-level competitions than many of us can imagine. Poland/Russia has to go in as the favorite, but we've seen the Flying Dutchmen play transcendent bridge under great pressure. So you pays your money and you takes your choice. But the one thing you may be sure of is, all eight players are gentlemen as well as worthy champions. Good luck to all. The rosters of all the teams that qualified for the KOs can be found on page 3.

### Quarterfinal Results

| Team                     | Carry | 1-20 | 21-40 | Final      |
|--------------------------|-------|------|-------|------------|
| <b>POLAND/RUSSIA</b>     | .5    | 45   | 81    | <b>126</b> |
| Shy Ant                  |       | 55   | 17    | 72         |
| <b>CHINA-Beijing</b>     | .5    | 48   | 18    | 66         |
| <b>OzOne-Bridge</b>      |       | 32   | 96    | <b>128</b> |
| <b>ENGLAND+(Hackett)</b> | .5    | 38   | 74    | <b>112</b> |
| D-MaTK                   |       | 47   | 46    | 93         |
| Israel                   | .5    | 46   | 36    | 82         |
| <b>The NETHERLANDS</b>   |       | 55   | 31    | <b>86</b>  |

### Semifinal Results

| Team                     | Carry | 1-20 | 21-40 | Final     |
|--------------------------|-------|------|-------|-----------|
| <b>POLAND/RUSSIA</b>     | .5    | 66   | 33    | <b>99</b> |
| <b>OzOne-Bridge</b>      |       | 29   | 48    | 77        |
| <b>ENGLAND+(Hackett)</b> |       | 48   | 19    | 67        |
| <b>The NETHERLANDS</b>   | .5    | 31   | 48    | <b>79</b> |

Qualifiers for Flight A of the Yokohama Srr & Swiss Teams are on p. 4

## 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 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.</p> <p>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.</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 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 (KOs): 12<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

| # | Name             | Members   |
|---|------------------|---|
| 1 | Poland/Russia:   | Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki, Andrei Gromov, Alexander Dubinin         |
| 2 | China-Beijing:   | Wang Kui, Cheng Zhe, Shi Zhengjun, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Jianxin, Fan Xinyan |
| 3 | Hackett:         | Paul Hackett, Geir Helgemo, Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett, John Armstrong |
| 4 | Israel:          | Migry Zur-Campanile, Michael Barel, Amir Levin, Yaniv Zack                |
| 5 | D-MaTK:          | Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura                   |
| 6 | The Netherlands: | Huub Bertens, Ton Bakkeren, Leon Jacobs, Maarten Schollaardt              |
| 7 | OzOne-Bridge:    | Bob Richman, Zoli Nagy, Michael Prescott, Paul Marston                    |
| 8 | Shy Ant:         | Yasuhiro Shimizu, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Ryoga Tanaka, Tomoyuki Harada       |

### Note of explanation to players from overseas: JCBL Alert and Convention Regulations

Unlike the NEC Cup, which is an international event in which almost all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the Yokohama Swiss and Asuka Cup are rated as Japanese national events, and the JCBL regulations for domestic events apply strictly. We ask for your compliance with the JCBL Alert and Convention regulations. All overseas players got copies in their complementary briefcase when they registered. If you lost or misplaced your copy ask the JCBL staff for another copy.

If you have any questions about what systems/conventions are allowed, please ask the JCBL staff. Please note that use of unauthorized conventions may be penalized. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### CONVENTION RESTRICTIONS

In the Asuka Cup, in which each round features two boards against each other pair, you are restricted to "List C" conventions, but in the Yokohama Swiss you can use "List D" conventions (which includes all "List C" conventions, as well as others such as the 2D Multi-opening). Note, however, that use of the Multi-2D (as well as other "List D" conventions) is strictly prohibited in the Asuka Cup and will be subject to penalty.

#### PRE-ALERT DUTY

If your 1NT opening includes anything outside 15-18 points, you must pre-alert the opponents before each round (before taking your cards out of the board). If you use List D conventions or if your 1NT opening includes anything outside 15-18 points, you must pre-alert the opponents before each round (before taking your cards out of the board) and you and your partner must carry two copies of the official JCBL sample defense for the opponents' use. (You got the sample defense in your briefcase; if you lost it, ask the JCBL staff for another.)

Thank you.

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

# YOKOHAMA SRR & SWISS TEAMS

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Qualifiers for Flight A in Swiss Rounds:

## Section A 9T, 8R, 120A

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# 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)**

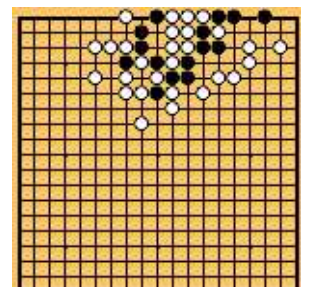
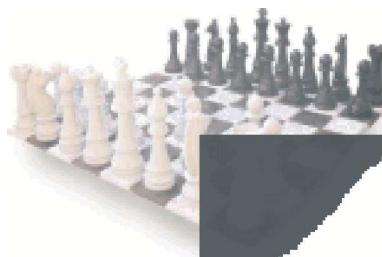
**Bridge**

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 World Mind Sports Games, to be held in Beijing, China**



# Bridge Defense - What's Going On (5)?

by Mike Lawrence

South deals, E/W vulnerable.

| West    | North | East     | South |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass    | 4♠    | All Pass | 2♠    |
| NORTH   |       |          |       |
| ♠ KQ87  |       |          |       |
| ♥ 43    |       |          |       |
| ♦ KJ107 |       |          |       |
| ♣ KJ10  |       |          |       |
| EAST    |       |          |       |
| ♠ 2     |       |          |       |
| ♥ J975  |       |          |       |
| ♦ AQ6   |       |          |       |
| ♣ A8654 |       |          |       |

West leads the ♥2 to your jack and declarer's ace. Before touching trumps declarer leads the ♣Q. West plays the two. Do you take this trick? Not yet. Partner should be giving you count. The two shows three clubs. If West had two or four clubs, he would play a higher club to show an even number. Declarer continues clubs and you take the ace. You would like to get partner in to lead diamonds. How do you do that?

Return a spade to partner's ace. For this to be right it means that declarer opened 2♠ on a jack-high suit. The clues say he did. The only way a heart return can be right is if partner has the ♥K. Remember which heart declarer won the first trick with? It was the ace. The only way partner can

have the ♥K is if he also has the queen. That holding can't exist. Partner would lead the king from that holding. The logical conclusion is that declarer has the ♥A AND ♥K. South also has the ♣Q, so unless declarer has miscounted his points, he shouldn't have the ♠A. Return your spade and partner will return a diamond as the only hope for the defense.

|           |  |         |  |
|-----------|--|---------|--|
| ♠ KQ87    |  |         |  |
| ♥ 43      |  |         |  |
| ♦ KJ107   |  |         |  |
| ♣ KJ10    |  |         |  |
| ♠ A3      |  | ♠ 2     |  |
| ♥ Q1082   |  | ♥ J975  |  |
| ♦ 9832    |  | ♦ AQ6   |  |
| ♣ 732     |  | ♣ A8654 |  |
| ♠ J109654 |  |         |  |
| ♥ AK6     |  |         |  |
| ♦ 54      |  |         |  |
| ♣ Q9      |  |         |  |

Down one. This hand points out an important fact of bridge. Your opponents don't always play the way you think the game should be played. The South hand is hardly an ideal weak two bid and many players will pass it. At the table, these things do happen and if you don't work it out you get a big fat zero. It doesn't give you much solace to think that you lost a top to a bad bid. That's what will happen if you return a heart. Declarer will win, ruff a heart in dummy, discard a diamond, and will concede a trump at his leisure.

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



"Listen, when I was your age Stayman hadn't even been invented yet."



"We're here for the honey."

# Eskimo Hospitalized By North Pole Deal

by Richard Pavlicek

Today's deal, another from the North Pole Tournament, caused havoc for many N/S pairs who bid too much with their 31 high-card points. Indeed one Eskimo was hospitalized after he bid a slam—it seems the reindeer sitting East-West celebrated the defeat with too much glee, dealing the Eskimo an antler in the ear. Latest reports indicate he is recovering.

Most of the reindeer duplicated the auction of Randolph and Raymond as shown. Randolph, South, opened 1♣ and Raymond bid his diamond suit after West's overcall. Randolph rebid 2NT to show his spade stopper and Raymond raised to four—a quantitative slam try (not Blackwood), which Randolph correctly refused with his lousy 14 points. An excellent auction, but even 4NT proved to be too high.

| West | North | East     | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |       |          | 1♣    |
| 1♠   | 2♦    | Pass     | 2NT   |
| Pass | 4NT   | All Pass |       |

West cagily led the ♥9, rather than present declarer with a spade trick, and Randolph had nine sure tricks: three in every suit but spades. The ♠A obviously was offside, so he first tested hearts, then diamonds, to see if either suit broke favorably. No luck. Randolph then cashed his club winners ending in dummy and made one last attempt by leading the ♠9. If East had played low, he would have ducked it to West who remained with AQJ6; but East alertly played the ten, and Randolph was defeated.

A discussion was held later to determine if 4NT could be made, but the reindeer failed to find a solution. Even Rudolph, with his inspired play, could win no more than nine tricks after a heart lead. Can you make it?

This was a job for Master Mouse. The reindeer chipped in for a long-distance phone call to the rodent's home, and the answer came forthwith: "Yes...your basic holdup play. Duck the ♥9 completely, then cash all your red-suit winners on which West discards one spade and two clubs (best). Cash your clubs ending in dummy and West must keep either AQJ or AQ6 in spades. Either way you can force a spade trick in the end."

|            |        |        |  |
|------------|--------|--------|--|
| Dlr: South | ♠ 987  |        |  |
| Vul: None  | ♥ K104 |        |  |
|            | ♦ AK94 |        |  |
|            | ♣ AK9  |        |  |
| ♠ AQJ65    |        | ♠ 104  |  |
| ♥ 97       |        | ♥ J865 |  |
| ♦ 105      |        | ♦ J876 |  |
| ♣ 10654    |        | ♣ 873  |  |
|            | ♠ K32  |        |  |
|            | ♥ AQ32 |        |  |
|            | ♦ Q32  |        |  |
|            | ♣ QJ2  |        |  |

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

## Looking for an Expert Partner?

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.

## Revisiting a Tough 3NT: The Art of Seppuku

Board 5 from Friday's Round Seven match had the potential to present declarers in 3NT with an interesting problem.

|            |        |        |         |
|------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Bd: 5      | North  |        | East    |
| Dlr: North | ♠ J75  |        | ♠ A103  |
| Vul: N/S   | ♥ J985 |        | ♥ K102  |
|            | ♦ 83   |        | ♦ Q9    |
|            | ♣ KQ87 |        | ♣ AJ654 |
| West       |        | South  |         |
| ♠ Q42      |        | ♠ K986 |         |
| ♥ Q73      |        | ♥ A64  |         |
| ♦ A107642  |        | ♦ KJ5  |         |
| ♣ 3        |        | ♣ 1092 |         |

Against 3NT many Souths led a spade to the jack and ace. Declarer then leads the ♦Q, ducked, and now clears diamonds. At one table Valio Kovachev, sitting South, shifted to the ♣10 to the queen and ace. Now a heart to the queen lets declarer run the diamonds. With the ♥J and ♣K well placed that was +400 to Israel. But what if Kovachev covers the ♦Q, should declarer duck?

If declarer wins the ♦Q with the ace and continues with a low diamond back to the nine, the defense can duck and disrupt his communications. East can do no better than lead a heart to the queen. South flies with the ace but now clearing spades is not good enough.

Instead he must shift to a club. Declarer must win and though he now appears to have five diamonds, a club, two hearts and a spade, there is

a problem collecting all the tricks he has coming. He is in his hand and needs two tempos: one to knock out the diamond, and one to set up the spade. Unfortunately, whichever major suit he uses to reach dummy becomes the source of his own demise.

Being in Japan this reminds us of seppuku (or hara-kiri)—a key part of bushido, the code of the samurai warriors. Seppuku is a form of suicide the samurai used to avoid falling into enemy hands, and to attenuate shame. Look at the position here:

|         |       |       |        |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|
|         | ♠ 75  |       | East   |
|         | ♥ J98 |       | ♠ 103  |
|         | ♦ —   |       | ♥ K10  |
|         | ♣ K87 |       | ♦ —    |
| West    |       | South | ♣ J654 |
| ♠ Q4    |       | ♠ K98 |        |
| ♥ Q7    |       | ♥ 64  |        |
| ♦ 10764 |       | ♦ J   |        |
| ♣ —     |       | ♣ 92  |        |

If declarer plays a heart to the queen in order to clear diamonds, South wins and leads a third heart, establishing a heart winner for partner and a fifth trick for the defense. If declarer plays a spade, the defense ducks to preserve communications and now the long spade becomes the setting trick.

Pick your poison—er, wakizashi (the small sword traditionally used for seppuku).

### 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 10th 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.



# NEC Cup Quarterfinals: China Beijing vs OzOne-Bridge

## First Half:

Both Aussie pairs play Moscito, some of its features being: 1♣ strong-ish (15+), 1♦/♥/♠ transfers (♠=♦), 1NT weak (11-14), 2♣ Precision-type, 2♦/♥/♠ weak, and 2NT for the minors. In 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seats their openings are slightly more traditional: 1♣=17+, 1♦/♥/♠ natural (4+), 1NT (13)14-16 (3<sup>rd</sup> only).

OzOne has an unhealthy tradition of starting slowly and having to claw its way back into the match. Would this theme be continued? Apparently so.

|            |         |         |  |
|------------|---------|---------|--|
| Bd: 1      | North   |         |  |
| Dlr: North | ♠ 10753 |         |  |
| Vul: None  | ♥ AQ63  |         |  |
|            | ♦ K3    |         |  |
|            | ♣ A107  |         |  |
|            | West    | East    |  |
|            | ♠ KQJ96 | ♠ A82   |  |
|            | ♥ K9542 | ♥ 8     |  |
|            | ♦ A96   | ♦ QJ74  |  |
|            | ♣ ---   | ♣ KJ842 |  |
|            | South   |         |  |
|            | ♠ 4     |         |  |
|            | ♥ J107  |         |  |
|            | ♦ 10852 |         |  |
|            | ♣ Q9653 |         |  |

| Open Room       |           |                |            |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| West            | North     | East           | South      |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i> |
|                 | 1NT       | Pass           | Pass       |
| 2♣              | Pass      | 2♠             | Pass       |
| 3♠              | Pass      | 4♠             | All Pass   |

| Closed Room  |                |             |             |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| West         | North          | East        | South       |
| <i>Cheng</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|              | 1♦             | Pass        | Pass        |
| 1♠           | Pass           | 2♥          | Pass        |
| 4♠           | All Pass       |             |             |

Both tables reached 4♠. Richman led a trump, then flew with the ♥Q to lead a second trump. Cheng now knew about the bad break. He won in hand and ruffed a heart, then came back to the ♦A to draw trumps. Now a low diamond endplayed Richman, who had to give up a club and two diamonds or set up the hearts.

In the other room Marston declared 4♠ from the West seat on a low club lead. After a lot of thought he elected to ruff and lead a low heart from the board. North flew with the ♥Q here as well to lead trumps, and Marston successfully pinned the ♥J10 by ruffing hearts twice in hand. He had to use the ♦A and a second ruff to achieve this though. When

he came to draw trumps he therefore needed the suit to split. No luck there; the defenders had a diamond and club to cash when they came in with the thirteenth trump.

In ENGLAND+(Hackett) vs JAPAN D-MaTK, Papa-Justin sat N/S in the Open Room against Masayuki Ino-Tadashi Imakura. John Armstrong-Geir Helgemo sat E/W in the Closed Room against Kazuo Furuta-Chen Dawei.

Both E/W pairs bid to 4♠. In the Open Room (1♥-X-2♥-4♠) Papa was on lead and led the ♥A and a heart to Imakura's king. Imakura tried to sneak a low diamond through but Papa alertly rose with the king and fired back his low diamond, which rode around to the ace. Now Imakura ruffed a heart and drew four rounds of trump, then took his two diamond tricks to score up +420.

In the other room 4♠ was played the other way around. Dawei led a club, which Armstrong ducked to Furuta's ace. A club went to the king and Armstrong tried a heart to the king and ace. The low trump return was won cheaply in dummy and a heart was ruffed; a diamond to the ace and a second heart ruff followed. Now Armstrong could ruff a club back to dummy and draw trumps, but when he knocked out the ♦K the defense cashed a heart for down one; -50. 10 imps to D-MaTK.

|           |          |         |  |
|-----------|----------|---------|--|
| Bd: 2     | North    |         |  |
| Dlr: East | ♠ A3     |         |  |
| Vul: N/S  | ♥ KJ64   |         |  |
|           | ♦ AJ74   |         |  |
|           | ♣ KJ4    |         |  |
|           | West     | East    |  |
|           | ♠ 1087   | ♠ KQJ54 |  |
|           | ♥ 8752   | ♥ Q9    |  |
|           | ♦ K1032  | ♦ Q95   |  |
|           | ♣ 83     | ♣ Q92   |  |
|           | South    |         |  |
|           | ♠ 962    |         |  |
|           | ♥ A103   |         |  |
|           | ♦ 86     |         |  |
|           | ♣ A10765 |         |  |

| Open Room       |           |                |            |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| West            | North     | East           | South      |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i> |
|                 |           | 1NT            | Pass       |
| Pass            | Dbl       | Pass           | Pass       |
| Rdbl            | Pass      | 2♠             | Pass       |
| Pass            | Dbl       | Pass           | 3♣         |
| Pass            | 3NT       | All Pass       |            |
| Closed Room     |           |                |            |

| West     | North   | East | South |
|----------|---------|------|-------|
| Cheng    | Richman | Wang | Nagy  |
| 1NT      | Dbl     | 1♠   | Pass  |
| All Pass |         | Pass | 2♣    |

The 1NT response by Cheng worked to perfection. Neither North nor South did anything unreasonable to play 2♣ here, for +130. Meanwhile in 3NT on repeated spade leads declarer needed to find the ♣Q and did so, and the fall of the ♥Q led to +660 and another 11imps. Beijing led 21-0.

Both tables played 3NT in Hackett vs D-MaTK and made eleven tricks.

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Bd: 3      | North      |
| Dlr: South | ♠ AQ105    |
| Vul: E/W   | ♥ 9642     |
|            | ♦ 8        |
|            | ♣ A653     |
| West       | East       |
| ♠ J87632   | ♠ 94       |
| ♥ AK5      | ♥ 10873    |
| ♦ ---      | ♦ AK974    |
| ♣ KJ97     | ♣ Q8       |
|            | South      |
|            | ♠ K        |
|            | ♥ QJ       |
|            | ♦ QJ106532 |
|            | ♣ 1042     |

#### Open and Closed Rooms

| West     | North   | East     | South |
|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| Prescott | Ju      | Marston  | Shi   |
| Cheng    | Richman | Wang     | Nagy  |
| 3♠       | Dbl     | All Pass | 3♦    |

Identical auctions and a sharp double by North yielding +200. Note that 3NT by E/W is unbreakable and 3♦x by South might not have been much fun to play. But did either East or West have a choice in the auction?

This deal represents a contrast of styles when compared with the featured match. In the Closed Room Dawei opened 3♦, Helgemo overcalled 3♠, Furuta passed, and Armstrong tried 3NT. Furuta doubled in the passout seat and when the bidding came back around, Helgemo, probably concerned about the diamonds, ran to 4♣. Armstrong, who must have been napping at this point, passed 4♣, and there they played. He had executed a rare coup: he had managed to play in his four-two club fit, down three (-300), cold for 3NT, with a side six-two fit in his partner's first-bid major that only goes down two (and might have been down one except

for the bad trump split). Good job.

In the other room Papa and Justin bid to 5♦ (you wouldn't believe the auction so we are concealing it to avoid any nasty accusations—though we do consider financial enticements) and got doubled. The defense started with ace-king and a third heart, Justin ruffing. He unblocked the ♠K, played a club to the ace, and cashed the ♠A pitching a club. When he played the ♠Q Ino ruffed with the ♦7 so Justin overruffed and got out with the ♦Q to the king, getting the bad news about trumps. He ruffed the heart return and exited with the ♣10 to Ino's queen. Ino got out with a small diamond but Justin still had to lose two trumps for down four, -800. That was 15imps to D-MaTK, leading 25-0.

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Bd: 6     | North    |
| Dlr: East | ♠ A97    |
| Vul: E/W  | ♥ 84     |
|           | ♦ A72    |
|           | ♣ 76543  |
| West      | East     |
| ♠ K103    | ♠ QJ42   |
| ♥ 102     | ♥ AQJ653 |
| ♦ J8654   | ♦ 3      |
| ♣ J92     | ♣ Q10    |
|           | South    |
|           | ♠ 865    |
|           | ♥ K97    |
|           | ♦ KQ109  |
|           | ♣ AK8    |

#### Open Room

| West     | North | East     | South |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Prescott | Ju    | Marston  | Shi   |
| Pass     | 3NT   | 1♦       | 1NT   |
|          |       | All Pass |       |

#### Closed Room

| West  | North   | East     | South |
|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| Cheng | Richman | Wang     | Nagy  |
| Pass  | 3NT     | 1♥       | 1NT   |
|       |         | All Pass |       |

Both tables found their way to 3NT easily enough. On the ♥10 lead ducked and a heart continuation East could clear the hearts but had no entry. Declarer had nine tricks once West had the long clubs. No swing and a fine start for Ju-Shi, who were all plus scores so far.

Papa and Justin bid briskly to 3NT and took ten tricks. Justin carefully ducked the ♥10 opening lead, won the continuation, and cleared clubs, the "safe" hand winning the third round. He flew with the ♠A on the spade switch and guessed the diamonds for the overtrick; +430.

In the other room Furuta and Dawei stopped in 2♣ (1♥-X-P-2♣). Ten tricks; +130. Hackett was finally on the scoreboard with 7 imps, but trailed 18-7.

Bd: 7  
Dlr: South  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ Q73  
♥ 953  
♦ K109  
♣ QJ84

West  
♠ AKJ98652  
♥ Q7  
♦ 4  
♣ K6

East  
♠ ---  
♥ J1062  
♦ Q87653  
♣ 1072

South  
♠ 104  
♥ AK84  
♦ AJ2  
♣ A953

|                 |                |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Open Room       |                |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i>      | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i>   |
| 4♠              | Dbl            | All Pass       | 1♣           |
| Closed Room     |                |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Cheng</i>    | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i>    | <i>Nagy</i>  |
| 3♠              | 3NT            | All Pass       | 1♣           |

Another healthy result for Ju-Shi as Prescott put the pedal to the metal one more time, and Ju informed him of his error. The ♣Q lead let him out for down 500, but still that was hardly a triumph with 3NT so awkward. Still, with East on lead there was no chance of a spade lead. Richman won the diamond lead in hand and took the club finesse. The defenders cashed the ♠A to find the not unexpected news and now declarer could simply build a trick with the ♠Q for +600 and OzOne's first imps.

Both West players in Hackett vs D-MaTK jumped to 4♥ over South's 1NT opening, but Helgemo got doubled. Both declarers got out for down two. (At one table North led the ♣Q; at the other the defense forgot to cash their hearts early and got endplayed.) 7 imps back to D-MaTK, ahead 25-7.

A real marksman shoots first; whatever he hits, he calls the target

Bd: 8  
Dlr: West  
Vul: None

North  
♠ K94  
♥ AJ3  
♦ 102  
♣ KJ1043

West  
♠ AJ2  
♥ Q10652  
♦ AKQ9  
♣ 9

East  
♠ Q107653  
♥ 4  
♦ 7654  
♣ 82

South  
♠ 8  
♥ K987  
♦ J83  
♣ AQ765

|                 |                |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Open Room       |                |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i>      | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i>   |
| 1♣              | 2♣             | Pass           | 4♣           |
| All Pass        |                |                |              |
| Closed Room     |                |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Cheng</i>    | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i>    | <i>Nagy</i>  |
| 1♣              | Pass           | 1♦             | Pass         |
| 2♥              | All Pass       |                |              |

One could sense that Marston-Prescott were not entirely happy with life so far. This board would not have been an advertisement for either strong clubs in general or the methods of either pair in particular. As you can see, one of the faults of using a second relay to show 20+ after a negative 1♦ response is that when you have hearts and a minimum strong club you have to distort the auction. Playing 2♥ down one with 4♣ playable was bad enough. But in the other room Marston was shut out initially and Prescott felt he did not have enough to double 4♣. Now Marston's club holding was as bad as it could be. Even so, a 4♣ bid would not have been absurd. 4♣ made +130 and Beijing had two more imps.

Imakura opened 1♥ and rebid 2♦ (Ino responded 1♠) and played there, taking nine tricks for +110. At the other table Helgemo and Armstrong were playing weak jump responses so Helgemo opened 1♥ and jumped to 4♣ over the 2♠ response. That was cold and worth 7 imps to Hackett, trailing by 11 at 25-14.

Old age and treachery will overcome youth and skill

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ QJ82  
 ♥ 94  
 ♦ 1043  
 ♣ KJ83

West  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ AQ65  
 ♦ AJ972  
 ♣ 742

East  
 ♠ 109753  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ KQ8  
 ♣ A106

South  
 ♠ AK6  
 ♥ KJ1072  
 ♦ 65  
 ♣ Q95

Open Room

|                 |              |                |              |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i>    | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i>   |
| 3♦              | Pass         | 2♠             | Pass         |
| Dbf             | All Pass     | Pass           | 3♥           |

Closed Room

|              |                |             |              |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Cheng</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
| Pass         | 1♠             | Pass        | 1♦           |
| All Pass     |                | Pass        | 2♠           |

Finally something worked for OzOne when Shi balanced over 3♦ and had his head handed to him. In the other room N/S bid unopposed to 2♠ of course and although that went two down on the bad trump break the match was starting to get a little closer.

D-MaTK picked up 3 undertrick imps when Justin failed by two tricks in 1NT in the Open Room while Dawei failed by only one trick in 2♣ in the Closed Room; D-MaTK by 14 at 28-14.

Bd: 11  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 83  
 ♥ K2  
 ♦ A10962  
 ♣ A642

West  
 ♠ KQ1064  
 ♥ AJ1063  
 ♦ 54  
 ♣ 3

East  
 ♠ J9  
 ♥ Q874  
 ♦ KJ73  
 ♣ J95

South  
 ♠ A752  
 ♥ 95  
 ♦ Q8  
 ♣ KQ1087

Open Room

|                 |              |                |              |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i>    | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i>   |
| 2♦              | Dbf          | 3♥             | 1♦           |
| Pass            | Dbf          | Pass           | Pass         |
| All Pass        |              |                | 4♣           |

Closed Room

|              |                |             |              |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Cheng</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
| 2♥           | Dbf            | 3♥          | 1♥           |
|              |                |             | All Pass     |

Another bad hand for the limited opening bid style used by OzOne (yes the Beijing team also play limited opening bids, but theirs *are* opening bids). Richman could not balance over 3♥ since his partner could have been far weaker. Both part-scores came home easily enough; 7 more imps for Beijing.

In the Closed Room Helgemo showed the majors over Dawei's 1♣ opening and Furuta tried 3NT after Ino competed in hearts. In fact, a lead of either major beats the game and so it happened here on a heart lead; -50. In the other room Papa was more circumspect about bidding notrump after Imakura showed the majors and the dynamic Pere-Fils duo settled in 4♣ and took ten tricks; +130. That was 5 imps to Hackett, cutting the deficit to 9 at 28-19.

Bd: 12  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ Q98632  
 ♥ 87  
 ♦ A4  
 ♣ 875

West  
 ♠ 105  
 ♥ AQ106532  
 ♦ J3  
 ♣ 104

East  
 ♠ J4  
 ♥ KJ4  
 ♦ K10976  
 ♣ KQJ

South  
 ♠ AK7  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ Q852  
 ♣ A9632

Open and Closed Rooms

|                 |                |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i>      | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i>   |
| <i>Cheng</i>    | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i>    | <i>Nagy</i>  |
| 3♥              | Pass           | 4♥             | Dbf          |
| Pass            | 4♠             | All Pass       |              |

Another great deal. On any lead but an early club you must duck—if you take it you may avoid going down 200 when the suit is four-one but there is essentially no lie of the cards that might succeed.

Both declarers fell from grace. Richman took the club, cashed a top spade and played a heart; when a trump came back he was dead.

Ju won the club and played a heart and West won to play back a club (a diamond was necessary now). Marston accurately switched back to hearts but declarer ruffed and led a club and the two-two trump break meant he was home. The match margin was back to 43-17 for Beijing.

D-MaTK struck back on this deal when Papa-Justin bid 4♠ over 4♥ and couldn't handle it. Ino led the ♣K. Papa won (he might have done better to duck at trick one, hoping for a continuation) and played back a club. With dummy's five-card suit exposed it was not too difficult for Ino to work out that the future lay in diamonds, and it was not to his side's advantage to attack them from his hand. So upon winning trick two he switched to a heart, Imakura winning the ace and accurately switching to a diamond. At this point discretion should have been the better part of valor, but the chance for a plus score seems to have gotten the better of Papa.

He could have escaped for one down by rising with the ♦A, ruffing his heart loser, and playing trumps. Instead, he ducked hoping the defenders had lost their minds (West could hardly have the ♦K when he preempted in hearts and showed up with the ace; plus East could have switched to a diamond two tricks earlier if it was right to attack them from that side). Ino won the king, cashed his ♣Q on which Imakura pitched his last diamond, and the diamond return for a ruff now defeated the contract two tricks; -200.

At the other table Helgemo-Armstrong were left to play 4♥ and lost the obvious four tricks for down one; -100. That was 6 imps back to D-MaTK, ahead now 44-19.

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Bd: 13     | North    |
| Dlr: North | ♠ 98     |
| Vul: Both  | ♥ K94    |
|            | ♦ 654    |
|            | ♣ Q10984 |
| West       | East     |
| ♠ QJ3      | ♠ K1062  |
| ♥ A1085    | ♥ 7632   |
| ♦ AK1072   | ♦ QJ8    |
| ♣ J        | ♣ 52     |
|            | South    |
|            | ♠ A754   |
|            | ♥ QJ     |
|            | ♦ 93     |
|            | ♣ AK763  |

|                 |              |                |              |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Open Room       |              |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i>    | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i>   |
|                 | Pass         | Pass           | 1NT          |
| Dbl             | Rdbl         | Pass           | 2♣           |
| Pass            | Pass         | Dbl            | Pass         |
| 2♦              | All Pass     |                |              |

|              |                |             |              |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Closed Room  |                |             |              |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Cheng</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
|              | Pass           | Pass        | 1♠           |
| Dbl          | Pass           | 2♥          | Pass         |
| 3♥           | Pass           | 3NT         | All Pass     |

Shi's 1NT opening might be argued to have gotten the result it deserved. Marston was able to make a take-out double to get his side to a sensible strain; not the best possible result but they would settle for it. In the other room Cheng's 3♥ bid might have been partially based on the euphoria of actually finding a fit. 3NT looks reasonable enough; all that was missing was enough high cards to attempt game. "Club stop, we don't need no stinkin' club stop." That made it 44-24.

Hackett picked up a double partscore swing when both pairs bought the hand for three of a minor and made it. Papa-Justin played 3♣ scoring up +110, while Helgemo-Armstrong competed to 3♦ on the E/W cards, which was also cold. 6 imps to Hackett, reducing the deficit to 9 again at 34-25. Hackett picked up another 4 imps on Board 15 to cut the lead to 44-29.

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Bd: 16    | North   |
| Dlr: West | ♠ 9832  |
| Vul: E/W  | ♥ 85    |
|           | ♦ AQ109 |
|           | ♣ 1086  |
| West      | East    |
| ♠ AKQ54   | ♠ 107   |
| ♥ AKQ6    | ♥ J432  |
| ♦ 3       | ♦ K762  |
| ♣ J75     | ♣ Q32   |
|           | South   |
|           | ♠ J6    |
|           | ♥ 1097  |
|           | ♦ J854  |
|           | ♣ AK94  |

|                 |              |                |              |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Open Room       |              |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i>    | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i>   |
| 1♣              | 1♦           | Dbl            | 3♣           |
| 3♠              | Pass         | 3NT            | All Pass     |

Closed Room

| West         | North          | East        | South       |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Cheng</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
| 1♣           | 1♦             | Dbl         | 3♦          |
| 3♠           | Pass           | 4♠          | All Pass    |

Yet again the interference over 1♣ seemed to cause an experienced partnership like Marston-Prescott far more trouble than it should have. Shi found a fit-jump, and when Prescott bid 3♠ he felt obliged to pass. Had Prescott bid 3♦ over 3♣ he might have missed a five-three spade fit. But that was far less likely to be catastrophic. Richman also overcalled and Nagy simply made the preemptive raise, giving Cheng an even more difficult problem. He elected to bid 3♠ and was raised to 4♠. (3NT looks reasonable here and we suppose Cheng might now have bid 4♥ on that auction.)

Both E/W pairs in Hackett vs D-MaTK bid and made 4♥ here for no swing. Still 44-29 Japan.

Bd: 17                      North  
 Dir: North                ♠ AK53  
 Vul: None                 ♥ 9654

♦ J73  
 ♣ Q9

West  
 ♠ 10  
  
 ♥ 87  
 ♦ K10952  
 ♣ K8642

East  
 ♠ 62  
  
 ♥ AKJ10  
 ♦ A64  
 ♣ AJ103

South  
 ♠ QJ9874  
 ♥ Q32  
 ♦ Q8  
 ♣ 75

Open Room

| West            | North     | East           | South      |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Ju</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Shi</i> |
|                 | Pass      | 1♣             | 2♠         |
| Dbl             | 3♠        | 4♥             | All Pass   |

Closed Room

| West         | North          | East        | South       |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Cheng</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|              | Pass           | 1♣          | 2♠          |
| Pass         | 3♠             | Pass        | Pass        |
| 3NT          | All Pass       |             |             |

The Marston-Prescott horror story continued with yet another disaster in the making. Marston assumed the double of 2♠ would deliver hearts—apparently it normally does. You might be surprised to discover that 4♥ is quite playable, and on the actual defense at the table (a spade lead and a

heart switch to the jack and queen and a heart back) all Marston had to do was draw trumps and find the ♣Q. What about best defense? Game is still cold, and as Monsieur Fermat would say, “I have an interesting proof of this but not enough room to write it in my margin.”

(Well all right, on best defense of two rounds of spades you ruff in dummy and play three rounds of clubs, unblocking from hand. If South ruffs the ♥Q comes down so North ruffs. If South pitches a diamond declarer can finesse in diamonds when that suit is played. And if a third spade is led declarer ruffs in dummy, crosses to the ♦A and plays out three rounds of hearts.)

No matter how much you hate the bidding in the Open Room, you'd probably prefer it to what happened in the Closed Room. Wang's pass of 3NT suggests it did not occur to him that this call might be the minors; oh well. Sadder but wiser, or at least better informed, he moved on to the next deal. The match margin was now 44-38 to Beijing.

In Hackett vs D-MaTK both E/W pairs played in 5♣ making for no swing. D-MaTK picked up 3 imps on Board 18 to increase their lead to 12 at 47-29.

Bd: 19                      North  
 Dir: South                ♠ J106  
 Vul: E/W                 ♥ K10983

♦ QJ2  
 ♣ AJ

West  
 ♠ AQ983  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ 109  
 ♣ Q9642

East  
 ♠ K742  
 ♥ AJ4  
 ♦ K4  
 ♣ K873

South  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ Q765  
 ♦ A87653  
 ♣ 105

Justin opened the South hand with a weak 2♦ and Papa raised to 3♦ on general principles. It is easy to see how well this worked since E/W are cold for 4♠ and the Hacketts were allowed to play in 3♦. To add insult to injury (or to heap injury upon injury, depending on your perspective) Imakura led his singleton heart and when Justin played the ten Ino covered with the jack, not able to imagine that N/S were playing in their five-three diamond fit with a five-four heart fit on the side—cold for 4♥! Justin won the queen and decided it was time to get the children off the street before anything bad happened. He played ace and another diamond to Ino's king. Ino returned a spade to Imakura's queen

and Imakura accurately switched to a club before Justin could knock out the ♥A to set up a pitch for his club loser. Justin did his best by rising with the ♣A and playing the ♥K from dummy, but the defense cashed their tricks to hold him to +110.

At the other table Furuta-Dawei competed to 5♥ over Helgemo-Armstrong's 4♠, a good decision with 4♠ making and 5♥ having only three sure losers. Armstrong led a spade to Helgemo's ace and the Norseman accurately switched to a club. Furuta rose with the ace, played the ♦Q to the king and ace, then exited with the ♣10 in an attempt to find out more about the trump suit. Armstrong won the ♣K and played back a third club, giving Furuta an unhelpful ruff-sluff. After some thought Furuta pitched a diamond from dummy and ruffed in his hand, then misguessed trumps by playing a heart to

the queen and a heart back. Down two, -300. 9imps to Hackett, who trailed now by 9 at 47-38.

Based on the play over the first 20 boards, the second half of this quarterfinal match between England and Japan figured to be a real dogfight.

The last three deals did not produce much action in the featured match in terms of imps but they were not unexciting. Prescott removed his partner from a six-three fit to a five-two fit (there being some dispute as to whether transfers were on over 1NTx), then played well to limit the damage. Then both E/W pairs missed a terrible but laydown Grand Slam. It would be 48-38 to Beijing and all to play for the next day.

## NEC Cup Quarterfinals: Shy Ant vs Poland/Russia

by Barry Rigal

### Second Half:

Shy Ant, the sentimental favorite, entered the second half of their quarterfinal leading Poland/Russia ("the Alliance") by 10 imps. The nature of the two sides' very different approaches was quite clear on the first three deals, where the degree of competition on each was different.

On the first deal Shimizu passed in third chair—non-vulnerable yet!—with what looked like a normal opening bid...

Bd: 1  
Dlr: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ 10632  
♥ J98  
♦ AK862  
♣ 4

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| West   | East     |
| ♠ AJ84 | ♠ Q75    |
| ♥ K107 | ♥ Q62    |
| ♦ 74   | ♦ 10     |
| ♣ AK73 | ♣ Q98652 |

South

♠ K9  
♥ A543  
♦ QJ953  
♣ J10

...and sold out to 3♣, whereas opening 1♦ would have pushed his opponents to 4♣, as happened in the Closed Room. 4♣ is not cold—at least not in theory—but the friendly lie of the cards meant ten tricks were a formality. This was not a significant board anywhere except in Hackett-D-MaTK, where Helgemo-Armstrong sold out to 3♦. 6 imps to Japan; ahead by 15.

On the next board the pendulum swung the other way.

Bd: 2  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ QJ4  
♥ AJ4  
♦ J986  
♣ K105

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| West      | East     |
| ♠ 76      | ♠ A10    |
| ♥ KQ10976 | ♥ 3      |
| ♦ AQ2     | ♦ K10754 |
| ♣ 92      | ♣ QJ764  |

South

♠ K98532  
♥ 852  
♦ 3  
♣ A83

Open Room

|                 |                 |                |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Shimizu</i> |
|                 |                 | 1♦             | 1♠             |
| Dbl             | 1NT             | Pass           | 2♣             |
| 2♥              | 2♠              | 3♣             | Pass           |
| 4♥              | All Pass        |                |                |

Closed Room

|               |               |               |              |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>   | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Tanaka</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Harada</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|               |               | 1♦            | Pass         |
| 1♥            | Pass          | 2♦(1)         | 2♠           |
| 3♥            | All Pass      |               |              |

(1) Minors, minimum

Dubin did not overcall directly with the North cards; he backed in in a far more dangerous

position at his next turn (a very common approach in France but not one I've observed elsewhere). No harm was done: Shy Ant played 3♥ down 100. Not a bad result for the Alliance but in the other room Zmudzinski's delayed heart bids showed a hand too good to bid a non-forcing 2♥ at his first turn, and now the 3♣ bid by Balicki suggested to West that East had a well-fitting hand not an ill-fitting hand. 4♥, mercifully undoubled, drifted down 150 and Shy Ant led 57-45.

You would not expect Justin Hackett to pass the South cards initially, would you? After a simple overcall he ended up in 3♠. The defense led hearts; he won and drove out the ♠A. The defenders crossed in diamonds to take the ruff, so he could ruff the next diamond and draw the trump to ruff a diamond, run the trumps, and squeeze East in the minors. A shift by East to a top club after the heart ruff breaks the communications for this line but the fall of the ♣9 allows declarer to play the clubs for no loser.

In OzOne vs Beijing the Chinese climbed all the way to 5♦ and were doubled for their pains. That was 500 and 9 imps to OzOne, down 7 imps now.

Bd: 3  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ A2  
 ♥ K763  
 ♦ 10986  
 ♣ A92

|         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| West    | East      |
| ♠ Q63   | ♠ KJ10984 |
| ♥ Q954  | ♥ 82      |
| ♦ 72    | ♦ A53     |
| ♣ KQ104 | ♣ J6      |

South  
 ♠ 75  
 ♥ AJ10  
 ♦ KQJ4  
 ♣ 8753

Open Room

|             |              |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| Zmud'ski    | Nakamura     | Balicki     | Shimizu      |
| Pass        | Pass         | 2♦(Multi)   | Pass         |
| 2♥          | Pass         | 2♠          | All Pass     |

Closed Room

|             |              |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| Tanaka      | Gromov       | Harada      | Dubinina     |
| Pass        | 1♦           | 1♠          | 2♠           |
| 2NT(♠)      | Pass         | 3♠          | All Pass     |

The divergence in the level of competition

continued on Board 3. I can understand why one would be reluctant to open the North hand in third chair—the anti lead-directing nature of 1♦ is obvious. But passing allowed E/W to steal the pot in 2♠, while in the other room Dubinin raised to the three level in diamonds (remember N/S's Precision includes a wide-ranging notrump so 1♦ normally delivers diamonds). 3♠ was down in top tricks so the Alliance had halved the margin to 57-51.

Both tables in OzOne-Beijing entered the auction, the difference being that OzOne played 2NT as South and were allowed to make on a non-spade lead, while Beijing found their way to 3♣, down 150. The match was level.

After a quiet 3NT contract resulted in no swing, another 3NT deal had far more potential.

Bd: 5  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ 106  
 ♥ K8532  
 ♦ K1054  
 ♣ 53

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| West     | East   |
| ♠ K52    | ♠ J98  |
| ♥ J109   | ♥ Q764 |
| ♦ Q98732 | ♦ A6   |
| ♣ 6      | ♣ J942 |

South  
 ♠ AQ743  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ AKQ1087

Open Room

|             |              |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| Zmud'ski    | Nakamura     | Balicki     | Shimizu      |
|             | Pass         | Pass        | 1♣(STR)      |
| Dbl         | 1♦(♥)        | 1♥          | 2♥           |
| Pass        | 2NT          | Pass        | 3♣           |
| Pass        | 3♦           | Pass        | 3♠           |
| Pass        | 3NT          | All Pass    |              |

Closed Room

|             |              |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| Tanaka      | Gromov       | Harada      | Dubinina     |
|             | Pass         | Pass        | 1♣(STR)      |
| Dbl         | 1♥           | Pass        | 2♠           |
| Pass        | 2NT          | Pass        | 3♠           |
| Pass        | 3NT          | All Pass    |              |

Both tables declared 3NT from the North seat after declarer showed a black two-suiter (though the explanation in the Open Room suggested South had only four spades). Both defenders led a spade, but while Tanaka took the ♠K and shifted to the ♦Q, Zmudzinski ducked the ♠9. Declarer for Japan played on spades, and Zmudzinski won his



king and switched to hearts. Tanaka won in dummy, ran his black-suit winners and exited with the fourth club to ensure he collected a red winner at the end. Gromov covered the  $\diamond Q$  at trick two and essentially played in identical fashion to achieve the same result. No swing; it was still Shy Ant by 6—for a short while; but a subsequent—Director ruling gave the Alliance 12 imps here—to lead by 6.

Elsewhere the board did not produce a swing; both tables went down in game in OzOne-Beijing (the Chinese in  $4\spadesuit$ , the Australians in  $5\clubsuit$ ) while each of those contracts made in Hackett-D-MaTK and  $5\clubsuit$  went down at both tables in Israel-The Netherlands.

|           |                    |  |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Bd: 6     | North              |  |                    |
| Dlr: East | $\spadesuit$ 96    |  |                    |
| Vul: E/W  | $\heartsuit$ 1062  |  |                    |
|           | $\diamond$ AKJ32   |  |                    |
|           | $\clubsuit$ A97    |  |                    |
|           | West               |  | East               |
|           | $\spadesuit$ AJ107 |  | $\spadesuit$ KQ3   |
|           | $\heartsuit$ 98    |  | $\heartsuit$ J743  |
|           | $\diamond$ Q9854   |  | $\diamond$ 6       |
|           | $\clubsuit$ 82     |  | $\clubsuit$ K10654 |
|           | South              |  |                    |
|           | $\spadesuit$ 8542  |  |                    |
|           | $\heartsuit$ AKQ5  |  |                    |
|           | $\diamond$ 107     |  |                    |
|           | $\clubsuit$ QJ3    |  |                    |

| Open Room       |                 |                |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| West            | North           | East           | South          |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Shimizu</i> |
| Pass            | $1\diamond$     | Pass           | $1\clubsuit$   |
| Pass            | $1\spadesuit$   | Pass           | $1\heartsuit$  |
| Pass            | 3NT             | All Pass       | $2\spadesuit$  |
| Closed Room     |                 |                |                |
| West            | North           | East           | South          |
| <i>Tanaka</i>   | <i>Gromov</i>   | <i>Harada</i>  | <i>Dubinín</i> |
| Pass            | 3NT             | Pass           | 1NT            |
|                 |                 | All Pass       |                |

Both tables played 3NT here, the Alliance on an uninformative auction, Japan on a revealing one where dummy had shown diamonds. Zmudzinski still led a diamond; declarer could win cheaply and repeat the diamond finesse but when diamonds did not split declarer elected to play on clubs without taking all the hearts, and the defenders cashed out for down one.

In the other room (where a diamond lead was more clear-cut) Dubinín elected to cash the hearts after finding the bad news. Since Harada had discarded three clubs on the diamonds, now a

losing club finesse let the defenders cash out for down two. The visitors' margin was down to 4 imps.

Marston-Prescott play the former's system and follow his rather inflexible approach to leading against notrump contracts (canape leads rather than the longest suit). Marston could point with some pride to the fact that on a spade lead they managed to set 3NT three tricks while in the other room the blind low diamond lead against 3NT saw Nagy run four diamonds. East pitched a heart, and that was the ninth trick.

The next deal saw the Alliance's lead increase.

|            |                    |  |                   |
|------------|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| Bd: 7      | North              |  |                   |
| Dlr: South | $\spadesuit$ 76532 |  |                   |
| Vul: Both  | $\heartsuit$ J832  |  |                   |
|            | $\diamond$ ---     |  |                   |
|            | $\clubsuit$ KJ105  |  |                   |
|            | West               |  | East              |
|            | $\spadesuit$ KQJ8  |  | $\spadesuit$ A94  |
|            | $\heartsuit$ Q94   |  | $\heartsuit$ A107 |
|            | $\diamond$ Q9752   |  | $\diamond$ AK4    |
|            | $\clubsuit$ 3      |  | $\clubsuit$ Q742  |
|            | South              |  |                   |
|            | $\spadesuit$ 10    |  |                   |
|            | $\heartsuit$ K65   |  |                   |
|            | $\diamond$ J10863  |  |                   |
|            | $\clubsuit$ A986   |  |                   |

| Open Room       |                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| West            | North           | East            | South          |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Balicki</i>  | <i>Shimizu</i> |
| Pass            | Pass            | 1NT             | Pass           |
| $2\clubsuit$    | Pass            | $2\diamond$     | Pass           |
| 3NT             | All Pass        |                 |                |
| Closed Room     |                 |                 |                |
| West            | North           | East            | South          |
| <i>Tanaka</i>   | <i>Gromov</i>   | <i>Harada</i>   | <i>Dubinín</i> |
| Pass            | Pass            | $1\clubsuit(1)$ | $1\diamond$    |
| $1\heartsuit$   | Pass            | $1\spadesuit$   | Pass           |
| $2\spadesuit$   | Pass            | 3NT             | All Pass       |

(1) Strong

If you are so inclined, you might feel a pang of sympathy with the Japanese who for the second consecutive deal led their long suit on a blind auction and found that it was fourth highest of dummy's longest and strongest. Meanwhile, in the other room an informative auction tipped Dubinín off to the idea that a diamond lead was a bad idea. Four rounds of clubs was going to squeeze dummy. So there would be no pressure on South, even though he apparently controlled the red-suits. Once dummy discarded two hearts, South could

bare the ♥K and North's ♥J would take trick 13.

In the other room the diamond lead meant declarer had nine tricks before the play began. And that was what he ended with, but it was 63-59 to the Alliance.

(Consider kindly the Japanese player sitting South who led a club against John Armstrong's 3NT, and the defense arranged to cash four rounds of the suit ending in North while dummy pitched one diamond and two hearts. North now thoughtfully shifted to the ♥J. That set up Armstrong's ten as a menace against South; 3NT made.)

Richman-Nagy defended 5♦ after an ambitious unopposed sequence by the Chinese had sniffed at slam. That was two down, and since Prescott had made 3NT as West on a defensive error, the Australians suddenly had a 23-imp lead.

Both tables in Israel-The Netherlands made 3NT on a diamond lead. The score in the set there was 6-2 The Netherlands, now in front by 13.

There was more to come for the Alliance:

Bd: 8  
Dlr: West  
Vul: None

|         |
|---------|
| North   |
| ♠ Q76   |
| ♥ 1064  |
| ♦ 103   |
| ♣ AQJ87 |

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| West    | East   |
| ♠ K1098 | ♠ J2   |
| ♥ KQ5   | ♥ J873 |
| ♦ 8742  | ♦ KJ95 |
| ♣ 54    | ♣ K103 |

|        |
|--------|
| South  |
| ♠ A543 |
| ♥ A92  |
| ♦ AQ6  |
| ♣ 962  |

Open Room

| West     | North    | East     | South   |
|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Zmud'ski | Nakamura | Balicki  | Shimizu |
| Pass     | Pass     | 1♦       | Dbl.    |
| 1♠       | 2♣       | Pass     | Pass    |
| 2♦       | 3♣       | All Pass |         |

Closed Room

| West   | North  | East     | South    |
|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| Tanaka | Gromov | Harada   | Dubin'in |
| Pass   | Pass   | Pass     | 1♦       |
| Pass   | 2♣     | All Pass |          |

For what felt like the eighth board in succession the Poles opened a hand that the Japanese had passed. It led to the Japanese buying the hand in

3♣ as opposed to 2♣. On the indicated lead of the ♠J declarer should surely duck; even if you run into a ruff the trick may come back. No. Nakamura put up the ♠A and finessed in clubs, and the spade ruff left declarer with a trump, two spades and two hearts to lose. Since 2♣ made +110 in the other room the Alliance's lead was up to 8imps.

Both tables in OzOne-Beijing played 3NT by South on a spade lead—and that was nine tricks. Elsewhere, partscores were the order of the day, with no real excitement anywhere, though 3NT by Jacobs for The Netherlands went down on the ♠J lead to the king for a heart switch.

The way the match was going, would you be surprised to know that on the next deal the 1NT opening bid by the Alliance was worth a game swing? Neither am I.

Bd: 9  
Dlr: North  
Vul: E/W

|         |
|---------|
| North   |
| ♠ AK7   |
| ♥ Q93   |
| ♦ KQ832 |
| ♣ 86    |

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| West     | East    |
| ♠ Q10952 | ♠ ---   |
| ♥ 8642   | ♥ AKJ75 |
| ♦ 4      | ♦ A95   |
| ♣ KQ2    | ♣ AJ973 |

|         |
|---------|
| South   |
| ♠ J8643 |
| ♥ 10    |
| ♦ J1076 |
| ♣ 1054  |

Open Room

| West     | North    | East    | South    |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Zmud'ski | Nakamura | Balicki | Shimizu  |
|          | 1♦       | 2NT     | Pass     |
| 4♥       | Pass     | 6♥      | All pass |

Closed Room

| West   | North    | East   | South    |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| Tanaka | Gromov   | Harada | Dubin'in |
|        | 1NT      | 2♥     | Pass     |
| 4♥     | All Pass |        |          |

Balicki showed his two-suiter, then drove to slam when he found a fit. Harada bid only 2♥ over the weak notrump, quite a shock, and then passed 4♥ on an auction where he might well have bid again. That was yet another 13imps to the alliance who had scored 47imps while conceding 2 in the space of six deals. It was time for Shy Ant to demonstrate that opening the bidding was a good way to scoreimps.

At the other six tables slam was bid only by

Armstrong-Helgemo, giving Hackett a 69-54 lead. The Netherlands missed slam against Israel, but after a 1NT opening by Jacobs E/W elected to play for penalties which, despite the vulnerability, looks overly trusting with the East cards. Plus 300 was a poor return on investment leaving The Netherlands leading 70-53.

Bd: 10 North  
 Dir: East ♠ ---  
 Vul: Both ♥ A43  
 ♦ Q876  
 ♣ QJ10432

|  |   |
|--|---|
| West<br>♠ AQ942<br>♥ J107<br>♦ A932<br>♣ 8 | East<br>♠ KJ10<br>♥ 952<br>♦ KJ104<br>♣ K97 |
|--|---|

South  
 ♠ 87653  
 ♥ KQ86  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ A65

Open Room

| West            | North           | East           | South          |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Shimizu</i> |
|                 |                 | Pass           | 2♥(1)          |

All Pass  
 (1) Majors, weak  
 Closed Room

| West          | North         | East          | South           |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Tanaka</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Harada</i> | <i>Dubinina</i> |
|               |               | 1♦            | Pass            |
| 1♠            | 2♣            | Dbf(1)        | 2♠              |
| 3♠            | Pass          | Pass          | Dbf             |
| Pass          | 4♣            | Pass          | 5♣              |
| Dbf           | All Pass      |               |                 |

(1) Support

Shimizu picked off his opponents' suit with a 2♥ opening for the majors. Zmudzinski led clubs; declarer won in dummy and continued the suit, letting the defenders get two ruffs but presenting West with an insoluble problem in the process. If he shifted to trumps declarer would take three rounds ending on the board and score four heart and three club tricks. If he shifted to a spade as he did, declarer would cross ruff for seven trumps and a club.

In the other room Dubinin knew he would be facing a spade void and elected to drive to game. Yes, the cards were fitting but you still need the odd high-card or two. The defenders doubled and Harada led a spade, ruffed. Declarer crossed to a top heart to lead a diamond, ducked by Tanaka, and Harada shifted to a trump. At this point

declarer does best to finesse, draw trumps and cash out for down one. In fact he went up with ♣A and ruffed two diamonds but now gave up a trump rather than play on hearts, and that was down 500. The margin was 47-16 on the set, and 21 overall to the Alliance.

While Paul Hackett made 5♣x on repeated spade leads (declarer ruffed three diamonds in dummy and three spades in hand, then cashed three top hearts leaving himself with ♣QJ10 for two tricks). That was worth 10 imps, since 4♠ undoubled went down 300 in the other room. Hackett led 79-54.

In Israel-The Netherlands both tables stopped in 4♣, the difference being that Barel was doubled. The easy way to make it on a spade lead, diamond ducked, and club shift, is to play for hearts three-three. Barel played for trumps to split (he had been doubled for no reason by the man with a singleton club) so followed Gromov's line to go down. That was only 3 undertrick imps since Jacobs did the same. The Netherlands led 73-53, while OzOne, who had given Beijing only their second and third imps of the set, led 72-51 at the half.

Bd: 11 North  
 Dir: South ♠ K863  
 Vul: None ♥ AQ85  
 ♦ 1087  
 ♣ K4

|  |  |
|--|--|
| West<br>♠ 10742<br>♥ 632<br>♦ KQ2<br>♣ Q92 | East<br>♠ 5<br>♥ J10974<br>♦ 643<br>♣ A853 |
|--|--|

South  
 ♠ AQJ9  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ AJ95  
 ♣ J1076

Open Room

| West            | North           | East           | South          |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Shimizu</i> |
|                 |                 |                | 1♣             |
| Pass            | 1♥              | Pass           | 1♠             |
| Pass            | 2♦              | Pass           | 3NT            |
| Pass            | 4♠              | All Pass       |                |

Closed Room

| West          | North         | East          | South           |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Tanaka</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Harada</i> | <i>Dubinina</i> |
|               |               |               | 1♦              |
| Pass          | 1♥            | Pass          | 1♠              |
| Pass          | 4♠            | All Pass      |                 |

Both tables reached 4♠ here. On a heart lead Dubinin won the trick in hand and played a club to

the king and ace for a diamond return. Declarer hopped up with the ace, envisioning five spade tricks, three heart tricks and one in each minor. When he drew trumps and found the bad news it was too late to do anything except heave a sigh of relief when both diamond honors turned up offside.

This was especially unfortunate for Japan since on a trump lead Shimizu also immediately misguessed clubs. But he was going to make his game by taking two diamond finesses since he played low on the diamond switch and thus had time to find out about the bad trump break. No swing but a moral victory for Shy Ant; still 92-71 for the visitors.

Both tables made 4♠ in Israel-The Netherlands. Both Bertens and Zack led the unbid suit, the ♦K, and that made declarer's life easy. And both tables in OzOne-Beijing made 4♠ by guessing clubs. Well done. Since Hackett made the overtrick in 4♠ in one room and beat it two tricks in the other, they had moved to 36 imps in front.

Do you want to be in slam on the cards below? I guess the answer is yes if you can persuade the opponents not to lead a diamond, when your chances of success will be approximately zero.

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| West    | East    |
| ♠ Q9732 | ♠ KJ86  |
| ♥ 65    | ♥ AKQ83 |
| ♦ J103  | ♦ A96   |
| ♣ AQJ   | ♣ 6     |

Both tables in our featured match avoided slam, but there was a double-digit swing in each of our other three matches. Armstrong declared slam from the East seat for Hackett, Chen declared it for D-MaTK from the West seat. Bakkeren declared slam as East while Zack-Levin played 4♠, and Prescott for OzOne played slam as West while Beijing played 4♠. Since South has the ♦KQ while North has a more attractive club lead, this was a big swing to the Australians, D-MaTK, and Israel.



"I'm not writing one more page of these bulletins until I get my name on the masthead."

Bd: 13 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ 864  
 Vul: Both ♥ J1052  
 ♦ 763  
 ♣ Q96

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| West   | East   |
| ♠ A2   | ♠ K97  |
| ♥ A63  | ♥ KQ94 |
| ♦ Q852 | ♦ J94  |
| ♣ AK85 | ♣ J32  |

South  
 ♠ QJ1053  
 ♥ 87  
 ♦ AK10  
 ♣ 1074

|                 |                 |                |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Open Room       |                 |                |                |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Shimizu</i> |
|                 | Pass            | Pass           | 1♠             |
| DbI             | 2♠              | 3♥             | Pass           |
| 4♥              | All Pass        |                |                |
| Closed Room     |                 |                |                |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b>   |
| <i>Tanaka</i>   | <i>Gromov</i>   | <i>Harada</i>  | <i>Dubin</i>   |
|                 | Pass            | Pass           | 1♠             |
| 1NT             | Pass            | 3NT            | All Pass       |

The world is divided into those who double with hands like West's when the opponents open 1♠ and those who overcall. I'm not sure that anyone would claim there is a right answer but put me firmly in the "F for flexible" camp of the doublers. The positional element of the call plus the fact that you can't hold up in spades, not to mention the general safety factor, all argue that way for me.

I'm not sure the result proves anything; if you were told that partner had a spade stop and the consequence of your double was to get to a four-three heart fit, you might not be convinced you had done the right thing. But let the record show how well B-Z judged this. Note that Zmudzinski did not try to get back to notrump via the back-door route of a 3♠ cue-bid. He just raised to 4♥—even if the defenders took a diamond ruff it would probably be with their trump trick, and would have set up the diamond for a club discard.

Only a club lead threatens declarer, and Shimizu led a top diamond (believing, as I do that a benign providence deals us an ace-king so that we will have a problem as to what to play to trick two—not to trick one) and shifted to a spade. Declarer set up the diamonds, ruffed a spade, drew trumps, and conceded a heart. Ten tricks made, for a game-swing when in the other room 3NT had five black-suit winners but only three heart tricks unless

you were psychic—and Tanaka was not.

Of course he had timed the hand to leave the heart guess if any till the end, and if South had held the doubleton jack or ten, then by cashing the ♠K, then crossing to the ♠A, he would have been able to finesse. No dice. It was 59-17 on the set, and the Alliance's 32-imp lead was not only mounting, the boards were running out.

In The Netherlands vs Israel, Bakkeren-Bertens duplicated the unsuccessful result of Shy Ant in both the bidding and play. Zack as West doubled 1♠ and over Levin's jump to 3♥ he probed with 3♠ and passed 3NT; by no means unreasonable. And when Schollaardt led a top diamond (partner had not raised nor doubled 3♠) declarer was home. Israel was the new leader, 76-73.

Both tables went down in 3NT in OzOne-Beijing, while Helgemo made 3NT as West—South never bid spades so North led a heart and Helgemo had time to play on diamonds to make game. D-MaTK missed game when Furuta elected to respond 2♥ to the double as East. Hackett led 100-68.

Bd: 14                      North  
 Dir: East                    ♠ 652  
 Vul: None                    ♥ 76542  
                                   ♦ AQ8  
                                   ♣ A4

West  
 ♠ J10983  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ J762  
 ♣ K83

East  
 ♠ AQ  
 ♥ AJ103  
 ♦ K53  
 ♣ J1062

South  
 ♠ K74  
 ♥ K98  
 ♦ 1094  
 ♣ Q975

Open and Closed Rooms

| West            | North           | East           | South          |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Shimizu</i> |
| <i>Tanaka</i>   | <i>Gromov</i>   | <i>Harada</i>  | <i>Dubin</i>   |
|                 |                 | 1NT            | Pass           |
| 2♥              | Pass            | 2♠             | All Pass       |

Both tables played 2♠ here from the East after a transfer. On a diamond lead, ducked to the king, Harada played ♥AJ, ruffed out the ♥K, and started to draw trumps, running into a club ruff when he misguessed the club position; down one. Balicki led a low heart from hand at trick two, figuring this would be hard for the defenders to read. So it proved. South took his ♥K and returned a diamond. North won and played trumps. Balicki

hopped up with the ♠A, ran the hearts throwing clubs, and when South ruffed in he pitched the last club from dummy. He lost two diamonds, two trumps, and a heart. The lead was up to 38.

The same pair of swings left Israel up 7 imps on The Netherlands and Beijing trailing OzOne 83-55.

Bd: 15                      North  
 Dir: South                    ♠ Q965  
 Vul: N/S                      ♥ AK83  
                                   ♦ AK6  
                                   ♣ AJ

West  
 ♠ A103  
 ♥ J76  
 ♦ 752  
 ♣ Q1032

East  
 ♠ K42  
 ♥ Q1095  
 ♦ J1093  
 ♣ 76

South  
 ♠ J87  
 ♥ 42  
 ♦ Q84  
 ♣ K9854

Open Room

| West            | North           | East           | South          |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Shimizu</i> |
| Pass            | 2NT             | Pass           | 3♣             |
| Pass            | 3♦              | Pass           | 3NT            |
| All Pass        |                 |                |                |

Closed Room

| West          | North         | East          | South        |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Tanaka</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Harada</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|               | 1♣            | Dbl.(1)       | 1♦           |
| Pass          | 2NT           | Pass          | 3NT          |
| All Pass      |               |               |              |
| (1) Colors    |               |               |              |

Both tables played 3NT on a diamond lead. Gromov won in dummy and finessed in clubs, hoping to find the ♠10 onside. That led to down one. Nakamura won in hand and played the ♣AJ overtaking, and needed three-three clubs or a significant doubleton club honor—about a 66% line by my estimation and a better play than Gromov's, though the opponents' bidding may affect the true odds. So much for the percentages. Nakamura simply ended up losing an undertrick and 3 imps. The visitors led by 29, and it felt like they had certainly had the best of the luck this far and they had utilized it to the full.

Is Nakamura's play the best line? Not according to Helgemo, who was watching his declarer succeed by winning the diamond lead and playing a spade to the jack. He suggests the right line is a low spade to the eight at trick two. If it loses, you can

play on clubs. Hackett duplicated Nakamura's line—he had no time to play on spades since the defenders had led hearts not diamonds. Hackett still by 18imps.

Barel followed Helgemo's suggestion, Jacobs tried Nakamura's line. No swing; still Israel by 7imps. And the carnage in OzOne-Beijing continued when Nagy made 3NT as South on a club lead, while Ju went down as North on a diamond lead.

The one-way traffic in Shy Ant-Poland continued:

Bd: 16  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 1064  
 ♥ J75  
 ♦ AQJ3  
 ♣ K75

West  
 ♠ AQ5  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ K9852  
 ♣ AQ103

East  
 ♠ KJ32  
 ♥ AK10432  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ 94

South  
 ♠ 987  
 ♥ Q98  
 ♦ 1076  
 ♣ J862

Open Room

| West     | North    | East    | South   |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Zmud'ski | Nakamura | Balicki | Shimizu |
| 1♦       | Pass     | 1♥      | Pass    |
| 2♣       | Pass     | 3♥      | Pass    |
| 4♥       | All Pass |         |         |

Closed Room

| West   | North    | East   | South   |
|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| Tanaka | Gromov   | Harada | Dubinik |
| 1♣     | 1♦       | 1♥     | Pass    |
| 1♠(1)  | Pass     | 1NT(2) | Pass    |
| 2♣(1)  | Pass     | 2♥     | Pass    |
| 2♠(1)  | Pass     | 2NT(3) | Pass    |
| 3♣(1)  | Pass     | 3♥(4)  | Pass    |
| 3NT    | All Pass |        |         |

(1) Relay; (2) Spades; (3) Short ♦; (4) 4=6=1=2

In 4♥ Balicki won the spade lead and drew two rounds of trumps, led a diamond up (no luck), ruffed the diamond return, and played a third heart (ah!). The club finesse lost, so he had 620.

In the other room Gromov's 1♦ overcall was not a favorite to create a swing, but the Shy Ant methods wrong-sided 3NT. They were in with a chance on the opening lead of the ♦10, covered all around. Back came a heart. Now, instead of setting up hearts, declarer rose with the ♥A and played the ♣9, covered all around. A second heart

came back and now declarer could not afford the finesse. He rose with ♥K and ran his winners, expecting that North with a 3-2-5-3 shape would have to give him a diamond at the end. But he only had eight tricks before Gromov could cash one heart one club and three diamonds.

This board proved more difficult to bid to game than you might think; Wang-Cheng missed game, playing 2♥, while their teammates were wandering into a strong club auction and being taken for 500 in 2♦. It was 55-103 now to OzOne. Helgemo-Armstrong played 2♥, losing 10imps to West's 3NT in the other room (Hackett still in front but only by 8imps now). Israel picked up two overtrickimps to lead by 9imps with four deals to play.

Bd: 17  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ 653  
 ♦ AQJ632  
 ♣ AJ8

West  
 ♠ AQ975  
 ♥ Q8  
 ♦  
 ♣ K76543

East  
 ♠ KJ4  
 ♥ AK1092  
 ♦ 1085  
 ♣ Q9

South  
 ♠ 10863  
 ♥ J74  
 ♦ K974  
 ♣ 102

Open Room

| West     | North    | East    | South   |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Zmud'ski | Nakamura | Balicki | Shimizu |
|          | 1♦       | 1♥      | Dbl     |
| Rdbl     | 2♦       | Dbl     | 3♦      |
| All Pass |          |         |         |

Closed Room

| West   | North    | East   | South   |
|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| Tanaka | Gromov   | Harada | Dubinik |
|        | 1♦       | 1♥     | 2♣(♦)   |
| 2♠     | 3♦       | 3♠     | Pass    |
| 4♠     | All Pass |        |         |

Where would you like to play this hand? Game in hearts, spades, or clubs all have their attractions. It was a major goal for Nakamura-Shimizu to buy the hand in 3♦—my Polish is not great but I can report that a free and frank exchange of views took place as to what was or was not forcing. Not to worry. In 4♠ declarer rejected the cross-ruff. On a diamond lead he ruffed, played a club to the queen and ducked a club. He ruffed the diamond return, ruffed a club high, and drew trumps. Oops! South claimed the last three tricks with a trump and two diamonds. 3imps to the Alliance which should

have been 10 the other way. I'm not sure what the Japanese for "I shoulda stood in bed" is, but it sounded as if that was what West was staying.

OzOne gave up their first serious imps of the set here; Marston-Prescott climbed to 5♠ and could not make it while Wang-Cheng played 4♥ and could not be defeated. Hardly seems fair. Furuta-Chen played a part-score as E/W (another forcing/non-forcing issue) and went for 500 in the other room in 5♦. Hackett led by a more comfortable 14 imps now.

This board proved to be crucial In Israel vs The Netherlands, where each table played 4♠. Bertens received a diamond lead, followed by a club to the queen, a club ducked, and a diamond to force declarer again. Now he cashed three hearts and cross-ruffed high, and had 11 tricks. Zack ruffed the low (!) diamond lead and cashed ♠AK. When trumps turned out to be four-one he drew trumps and took a heart finesse, and that was 11 imps away. The Netherlands by 2 imps.

Bd: 18  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ KJ52  
 ♥ A763  
 ♦ K1086  
 ♣ J

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| West     | East    |
| ♠ Q10976 | ♠ A     |
| ♥ 4      | ♥ KJ102 |
| ♦ A      | ♦ J742  |
| ♣ AQ7532 | ♣ K1094 |

South  
 ♠ 843  
 ♥ Q985  
 ♦ Q953  
 ♣ 86

If you could bid those E/W cards to 6♣ you'd be happy to do so, particularly if looking for a swing. Mind you, if you respond 1♠ to 1♦ with the West cards (as happened at both tables in our featured match) do you deserve to go plus at all? Not that I'm prejudiced—majors first is all very well—but you can only go so far.

Zack-Levin had their chances. After 1♦-2♣-3♣-4♥ surely East should cooperate with 4♠, or does that show extras? Levin signed off and Zack had to pass now.

Only Marston-Prescott managed the feat of reaching slam: they had a full relay auction in which Marston showed his precise shape by 2NT. Now his partner used Key Card for clubs and jumped to slam. Maybe I need to consult my

Symmetric Relay again...

Bd: 19  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AQJ43  
 ♥ 32  
 ♦ Q64  
 ♣ Q63

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| West   | East    |
| ♠ K109 | ♠ 8752  |
| ♥ J104 | ♥ Q75   |
| ♦ AK85 | ♦ 32    |
| ♣ K74  | ♣ AJ108 |

South  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ AK986  
 ♦ J1097  
 ♣ 952

This was a tough hand for N/S to go plus on. Poland/Russia and Shy Ant flattened the deal at -150 in the red-suits at the two-level. But Richman-Nagy managed to bring home 2♦ from the South seat, taking their set score to 86-18. Hackett scored another 5 imps here by setting partscores in both rooms and was finally comfortable at 19 imps in front.

All the matches were decided except for Israel-The Netherlands, where The Netherlands led by 2 imps with two deals to play. This hand gave N/S a chance. 1NT is down only one, but both tables played 2♥. The defense was merciless against Zur-Campanile, playing the hand from South. After three diamonds and three clubs, the thirteenth club and another diamond completed the misery. Down three and 2 imps for The Netherlands. (Jacobs played the hand as North. After three rounds of diamonds Levin played the ♣A, not a small club, so a winner in that suit got away.)

One board to go; 4 imps was the margin.

Bd: 20  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 108543  
 ♥ K53  
 ♦ 84  
 ♣ 1063

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| West   | East     |
| ♠ Q9   | ♠ K72    |
| ♥ Q964 | ♥ AJ82   |
| ♦ Q96  | ♦ KJ1053 |
| ♣ A842 | ♣ K      |

South  
 ♠ AJ6  
 ♥ 107  
 ♦ A72  
 ♣ QJ975

This was not the board Israel wanted. Unless The Netherlands missed game, there was no way to gain imps. Levin-Zack opened 1NT and had a Stayman auction to 4♥. Might Bakkeren open 1♦ and raise 1♥ to only 2♥? No, he opened 1NT and

flattened the board a moment later.

It would be The Netherlands-Hackett and Poland/Russia-OzOne in the semi-finals.

## Plot and Counter-Plot

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 13  
Dlr: North  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ J6  
♥ Q10753  
♦ QJ95  
♣ 42

West  
♠ Q73  
♥ AK86  
♦ 742  
♣ K53

East  
♠ A82  
♥ J92  
♦ AK63  
♣ J96

South  
♠ K10954  
♥ 4  
♦ 108  
♣ AQ1087

Geir Helgemo is allowed to play one partscore a day; otherwise it is games and slams only.

On this hand he managed to stop in 2NT (after 1♦-(1♠)-Dbl; 1NT-2NT). Yasuhiro Shimizu for Shy Ant decided to lead clubs, and his choice of ♣Q was inspired. Obviously a low club lead produces nine tricks for Helgemo. The latter resisted the temptation to cover the club—had he done so seven tricks are the limit. Instead he ducked and won the next club, drove out the ♠K, and when the defenders cashed out the clubs North was squeezed in the red-suits. Note that even if Shimizu shifts to a heart after leaving a club winner uncashed, Helgemo can throw North in with a diamond to lead hearts around to dummy.

## Too much sex makes your eyes shortsighted

One of your editors espied the usual beautiful young lady advancing towards him, and was interested to discover that her t-shirt referred to "Mind sports carnal." Imagine his disappointment to discover that it actually said Mind Sports carnival.

When he mentioned this to the crack reporting team it put your other editor in mind of the joke (unfortunately not suitable for this column) about Ludo or Llandudno. Details upon request.



**9:45 am:** "It's taken me an hour to get this set up but I'm finally entering the last few items and then we can start play."



**9:50 am:** "Let's see, if I move this one over here, change these, reverse the positions of these, and double this one..."



# NEC Cup Semifinal: POLAND/RUSSIA vs OzOne-Bridge

by Barry Rigal

Both Aussie pairs play Moscito. Some of its features are: 1♣ strong-ish (15+), 1♦/♥/♠ transfers (♠=♦), 1NT weak (11-14), 2♣ Precision-type, 2♦/♥/♠ weak, and 2NT for the minors. In 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seats their openings are slightly more traditional: 1♣=17+, 1♦/♥/♠ natural (4+), 1NT (13)14-16 (3<sup>rd</sup> only).

The Poles play Polish Club, the Russians play Precision. We have been used to seeing OzOne start slowly (yesterday losing 21 imps on the first two deals) but here they started more quietly, and managed to avoid loss altogether on deal one.

Bd: 1  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ KQ92  
 ♥ J976  
 ♦ AJ9  
 ♣ 105

West  
 ♠ 86  
 ♥ K85  
 ♦ 87  
 ♣ Q87632

East  
 ♠ J10543  
 ♥ Q2  
 ♦ KQ64  
 ♣ A4

South  
 ♠ A7  
 ♥ A1043  
 ♦ 10532  
 ♣ KJ9

## Poland/Russia vs OzOne Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 | Pass          | 1♥(♠)          | Dbf          |
| 1NT(♣)          | Pass          | 2♣             | Pass         |
| Pass            | 2♥            | All Pass       |              |

## Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|                 | 1NT            | Dbf            | Pass        |
| 2♣              | Dbf(T/O)       | All Pass       |             |

## Hackett vs The Netherlands

### Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                | 1♥            | 1♠              | 2♠           |
| Pass           | 3♥            | Pass            | 4♥           |
| All Pass       |               |                 |              |

### Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                | 1♦            | 1♠               | Dbf                |
| Pass           | 2♥            | Pass             | 4♥                 |
| All Pass       |               |                  |                    |

Gromov's initial silence is remarkable, and his decision not to do more than bid 2♥ is equally strange. Presumably he devalued the ♠KQ but as a passed hand I would have thought a 2♣ cue-bid at his first turn might have been more appropriate. 2♥ made only three on a club lead, Gromov playing it very cautiously. Meanwhile Richman opened Gromov's hand, then bid again freely. 2♣x was down one trick when the defenders led hearts early, then got around to trumps to stop the ruff in dummy.

Both tables in Hackett-The Netherlands declared 4♥; a diamond lead sets the game—declarer must duck to avoid the ruff, and now a trump shift provides a sort of Morton's fork; when declarer finesses as he must, a second diamond dooms the game. But both Easts led a low spade, and declarer had a trick and a tempo and an entry to play trumps to best advantage.

Bd: 2  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ K98  
 ♥ J962  
 ♦ 543  
 ♣ A84

West  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ A1054  
 ♦ AK86  
 ♣ K632

East  
 ♠ AJ3  
 ♥ KQ8  
 ♦ J1072  
 ♣ 975

South  
 ♠ Q107542  
 ♥ 73  
 ♦ Q9  
 ♣ QJ10

## Poland/Russia vs OzOne Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 | Pass          | Pass           | 2♦(Multi)    |
| Pass            | 2♥            | Pass           | 2♠           |
| Dbf             | Pass          | 3♦             | All Pass     |

### Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|                 | Pass           | Pass           | 2♠          |
| Dbf             | Pass           | 3NT            | All Pass    |

When the plane you are on is late, the plane you want to transfer to is on time.

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

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

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               | Pass             | Pass               |
| 1♣             | Pass          | 1♦               | 1♠                 |
| 3♦             | Pass          | 3NT              | All Pass           |

It was too good to last: the second deal showed OzOne reverting to charitable mode. In 3NT you can only take nine tricks by taking a double-dummy line in hearts. Even when South turns up with an apparent 6-2-2-3 shape once the ♦Q falls, he is almost as likely to have the doubleton ♥J as two small. Balicki ducked the opening club lead in both hands, won the spade shift, and ran four diamonds then three hearts. Nagy threw a club away, for no particularly good reason, so declarer led a low club and Richman forgot to rise with ♣A and cash out. He ducked and Nagy won but was enplaned to lead spades to Balicki for the ninth trick. Oh dear.

That meant that Marston's excellent judgment in not only passing initially but only showing moderate values at his second turn was wasted. Perhaps that'll warn him not to bid game on every hand.

In the second semifinal both tables played game; on a spade lead 3NT went four down when declarer led a club to the king at trick two. 4♥, reached after a truly roundabout auction, attracted a spade lead and lost three clubs and a heart. 4-0 to The Netherlands.

|            |         |  |           |
|------------|---------|--|-----------|
| Bd: 3      | North   |  | East      |
| Dlr: South | ♠ AKJ3  |  | ♠ 8       |
| Vul: E/W   | ♥ Q4    |  | ♥ A65     |
|            | ♦ AQJ   |  | ♦ K109763 |
|            | ♣ QJ87  |  | ♣ A94     |
|            | West    |  | South     |
|            | ♠ Q9762 |  | ♠ 1054    |
|            | ♥ K982  |  | ♥ J1073   |
|            | ♦ 82    |  | ♦ 54      |
|            | ♣ 62    |  | ♣ K1053   |

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 |               |                | Pass         |
| Pass            | 1♣            | 2♦             | Dbf          |
| Pass            | 2NT           | Pass           | 3♣           |
| Pass            | 3♠            | Pass           | 3NT          |
| All Pass        |               |                |              |

Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|                 |                |                | Pass        |
| Pass            | 1♣             | 2♦             | Pass        |
| Pass            | 3NT            | All Pass       |             |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                |               |                 | Pass         |
| Pass           | 2NT           | Pass            | 3♣ (5C St.)  |
| Pass           | 3♦            | Pass            | 3NT          |
| All Pass       |               |                 |              |

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               |                  | Pass               |
| Pass           | 1♣            | 2♦               | Pass               |
| Pass           | 2NT           | Pass             | 3♣                 |
| Pass           | 3♠            | Pass             | 3NT                |
| All Pass       |               |                  |                    |

It was Marston-Prescott's turn to let through 3NT. On a diamond lead to the queen Gromov played clubs. Marston took the third and got out with a low heart. Declarer played low from dummy—rather a give-away—and Prescott put in the eight. Gromov won and took a spade finesse for nine tricks.

Balicki defended 3NT by leading a diamond, taking the second club, and returning the third. When declarer advanced the ♠10 he lost any chance, his main possibilities of a swindle coming from playing a low heart and having West duck. Once the spade was covered the ♥Q lost to the king and a diamond back spelled curtains for declarer. It was *deja vu* all over again. The Alliance led 17-0.

In the all-European match both tables played 3NT and let it through. Armstrong led a diamond, took the second club, and returned a club. Jacobs sneaked the ♥J past Helgemo (shock! Horror!) and had nine tricks. Bakkeren led an intermediate diamond, won the third club, and exited with a low diamond, playing his partner for the ♦J. No swing; still The Netherlands 4-0.

Bd: 4 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ AJ1098  
 Vul: Both ♥ J  
 ♦ KQJ9864  
 ♣ ---

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>West</b><br>♠ 642<br>♥ A106<br>♦ 2<br>♣ QJ10974 | <b>East</b><br>♠ K7<br>♥ 984<br>♦ A753<br>♣ 8652 |
|--|--|

**South**  
 ♠ Q53  
 ♥ KQ7532  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ AK3

Poland/Russia vs OzOne  
 Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 | 1♠            | Pass           | 2♥           |
| Pass            | 3♦            | Pass           | 3♠           |
| Pass            | 5♣(1)         | Pass           | 5♥(2)        |
| Pass            | 5♠            | All pass       |              |

(1) Exclusion Blackwood; (2) No Key cards

Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
| Pass            | 1♥(♠)          | Pass           | 1♠(1)       |
| Pass            | 1NT(2)         | Pass           | 2♣(1)       |
| Pass            | 2NT(3)         | Pass           | 3♣(1)       |
| Pass            | 3♦(4)          | Pass           | 3♥(1)       |
| Pass            | 3♠             | Pass           | 4♠          |
| Pass            | 5♣             | Pass           | 6♠          |

All Pass

(1) Relay; (2) Canape or 4441 pattern  
 (3) ♠ and longer ♦; (4) singleton heart

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
| Pass           | 1♦            | Pass            | 1♥           |
| Pass           | 1♠            | Pass            | 2♣           |
| Dbl            | 2♠            | Pass            | 3♠           |
| Pass           | 4♣            | Pass            | 4♠           |

All Pass

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
| Pass           | 1♦            | Pass             | 1♥                 |
| 2♣             | 2♠            | Pass             | 3♣                 |
| Pass           | 4♠            | All Pass         |                    |

One can hardly blame N/S for getting too high here. After all, 5♠ was unlucky to go down—in a sense. After the ♦A the defenders continued with a second diamond. Declarer ruffed high and pitched his heart loser on the clubs. But he could not shut out the ♠6

from ruffing the third diamond whatever he did. Down one.

In the other room they were even more unlucky, playing 6♠ on a club lead. Had the spade finesse been on 6♠ would have made and 5♠ gone down. Poland/Russia now led 20-0.

By contrast, in our other match both N/S pairs exercised almost supernatural restraint to stop at four. Push at 650, still The Netherlands by 4 imps.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ AJ54  
 Vul: N/S ♥ 952  
 ♦ KQJ4  
 ♣ K10

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>West</b><br>♠ Q<br>♥ AKQJ4<br>♦ 8652<br>♣ AQ3 | <b>East</b><br>♠ K7<br>♥ 1073<br>♦ 109<br>♣ J87654 |
|--|--|

**South**  
 ♠ 1098632  
 ♥ 86  
 ♦ A73  
 ♣ 92

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 | 1NT           | Pass           | 2♥           |
| Dbl.            | Pass          | 3♣             | Pass         |
| 3♥              | All Pass      |                |              |

Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|                 | 1♥(♠)          | Pass           | 4♠          |
| Dbl.            | All Pass       |                |             |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                | 1NT           | Pass            | 2♥           |
| Dbl            | 2NT           | Pass            | 3♥(♠)        |
| Pass           | 3♠            | All Pass        |              |

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                | 1NT           | Pass             | 2♥                 |
| Dbl            | Rdbl          | Pass             | 2♠                 |
| Dbl.           | Pass          | 3♥               | Pass               |
| Pass           | 3♠            | All Pass         |                    |

Nagy decided to preempt to the maximum, which at this vulnerability might be 3♠ or 4♠ depending

upon the amount of hair on your chest. Australians like a laugh, and Nagy thought 4♠ was right. Zmudzinski, without much of a sense of humor, doubled 4♠, Balicki passed it out and hoped his partner could beat it. I guess it pays to live right. Down 200 was worth only 2 more imps for the Alliance thanks to the fine result from the Closed Room but the match score had moved to 22-0.

In our other match both Norths drove the hand to the three level and bought just the right cards opposite to make their decision look brilliant. No swing; still 4-0 The Netherlands.

|           |         |           |         |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Bd: 6     | North   |           |         |
| Dir: East | ♠ 7642  |           |         |
| Vul: E/W  | ♥ 42    |           |         |
|           | ♦ QJ875 |           |         |
|           | ♣ 107   |           |         |
|           |         | West      | East    |
|           |         | ♠ A9      | ♠ J83   |
|           |         | ♥ 985     | ♥ KQ    |
|           |         | ♦ 10432   | ♦ A96   |
|           |         | ♣ 9843    | ♣ AQJ65 |
|           |         |           |         |
|           |         | South     |         |
|           |         | ♠ KQ105   |         |
|           |         | ♥ AJ10763 |         |
|           |         | ♦ K       |         |
|           |         | ♣ K2      |         |

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

|                 |               |                |              |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Open Room       |               |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 |               | 1♣(STR)        | 1♥           |

|                 |                |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| All Pass        |                |                |              |
| Closed Room     |                |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
|                 |                | 1NT            | Dbl          |
| Pass            | 2♦             | Pass           | 2♥           |

All Pass

Hackett vs The Netherlands

|                |               |                 |              |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Open Room      |               |                 |              |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                |               | 1NT             | 2♦(♥)        |

Pass 2♥ All Pass

|                |               |                  |                    |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Closed Room    |               |                  |                    |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>      | <b>South</b>       |
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               | 1NT              | 2♣(MAJ)            |
| Pass           | 2♠            | Pass             | 3♥                 |
| Pass           | 3♠            | All Pass         |                    |

In our featured match both N/S pairs managed to stop low and make +110 on normal defense. It is far from clear that this discretion would be

duplicated everywhere, and of course as the cards lie East might make nine tricks in clubs.

Schollaardt's thoughtful approach with the South cards got him to spades, albeit a level higher than necessary, while getting his shape and values across pretty well. In 3♠ on the ♣A lead might Armstrong have found the defense of cashing his winners and getting out with a heart? Now when Helgemo gets in he can play a third heart for the trump promotion. He did not do so, and Jacobs notched up +140 when he guessed spades, for one sweaty imp, to lead 5-0.

|            |          |           |         |
|------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Bd: 7      | North    |           |         |
| Dir: South | ♠ AQ2    |           |         |
| Vul: Both  | ♥ AQ9732 |           |         |
|            | ♦ J1042  |           |         |
|            | ♣ ---    |           |         |
|            |          | West      | East    |
|            |          | ♠ 1064    | ♠ K9753 |
|            |          | ♥ 5       | ♥ K1084 |
|            |          | ♦ AK973   | ♦ 86    |
|            |          | ♣ J1043   | ♣ A9    |
|            |          |           |         |
|            |          | South     |         |
|            |          | ♠ J8      |         |
|            |          | ♥ J6      |         |
|            |          | ♦ Q5      |         |
|            |          | ♣ KQ87652 |         |

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

|                 |               |                |              |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Open Room       |               |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 |               |                | Pass         |
| Pass            | 1♥            | 1♠             | 1NT(♣)       |
| 2♥              | Dbl.          | 2♠             | 3♣           |
| Pass            | 3♥            | All Pass       |              |

|                 |                |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Closed Room     |                |                |              |
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
|                 |                |                | 2♣           |
| Pass            | 2♥             | Pass           | 3♣           |
| Pass            | 3♥             | All Pass       |              |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

|                |               |                 |              |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Open Room      |               |                 |              |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                |               |                 | Pass         |
| Pass           | 1♥            | 1♠              | 2♣           |
| 2♥             | 3♥            | Pass            | 4♥           |
| Pass           | Pass          | Dbl.            | All Pass     |

|                |               |                  |                    |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Closed Room    |               |                  |                    |
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>      | <b>South</b>       |
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               |                  | 3♣                 |
| Pass           | 3♥            | Pass             | 4♥                 |
| All Pass       |               |                  |                    |

OzOne finally got on the board with an overtrick, then both tables could not find a way to stop low with a huge misfit, playing 3♥ down a trick. In the second match the teams did even less well, both getting to 4♥. Bakkeren, sitting behind the trumps and with the ♣A, shrewdly doubled the limited auction and collected his 500 on a spade lead (even on a diamond lead this looks to be the maximum the defense can manage).

Another 7 imps to The Netherlands, since 4♥ also went down two in the other room. It was 12-0 now.

Bd: 8 North  
 Dir: West ♠ A6532  
 Vul: None ♥ AK9  
 ♦ AKJ4  
 ♣ K

West  
 ♠ K109  
 ♥ Q52  
 ♦ 1063  
 ♣ AQ96

East  
 ♠ Q74  
 ♥ 8764  
 ♦ Q7  
 ♣ 7532

South  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ J103  
 ♦ 9852  
 ♣ J1084

Poland/Russia vs OzOne  
 Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
| Pass            | 1♣ (STR)      | Pass           | 1♦(WK)       |
| Pass            | 1♠            | Pass           | 1NT          |
| Pass            | 2♦            | All pass       |              |

Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
| Pass            | 1♣ (STR)       | Pass           | 1♦(WK)      |
| Pass            | 1♥             | Pass           | 1♠          |
| Pass            | 2NT            | Pass           | 3NT         |
| All pass        |                |                |             |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
| Pass           | 1♠            | Pass            | Pass         |
| 1NT            | Dbl           | All Pass        |              |

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
| 1♣             | Dbl           | 2♣               | Pass               |
| Pass           | 2♠            | All Pass         |                    |

The Russian auction was a marginal underbid but Gromov down-valued the ♣K, and showed a hand that was short of a game-force. With suit-lengths

undefined. 2♦ made 130, while Richman showed a near game-forcing balanced hand and received a heart lead in 3NT, which was covered all around. Richman's choice was to play for the doubleton ♦Q or spades three-three plus some other nice things. I believe he followed the percentages by using the former approach. He won the opening lead and advanced the ♣K—sometimes they duck—and won the next heart in hand to lay down the ♦AK ("Thanks!"). Then he set up a club winner using the diamond and heart entries. It was 22-7 now.

In our other match both N/S pairs did very well. Warned by the auction that his ♣K was worthless Jacobs took a calculated underbid of 2♠ (maybe doubling and then 2♠ is more flexible, though). 2♠ fetched 110 when Jacobs cashed the top diamonds early and gave up a ruff to maintain control. Meanwhile, Justin hit the bull's eye by opening 1♠ and tempting Bertens in. 1NTx on four rounds of diamonds took four tricks; 500 to Hackett, and 8 imps, to trail 12-8.

Bd: 9 North  
 Dir: North ♠ AQ54  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 65  
 ♦ AQ52  
 ♣ 1083

West  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ AQJ108  
 ♦ J94  
 ♣ J764

East  
 ♠ K8632  
 ♥ 743  
 ♦ 76  
 ♣ Q95

South  
 ♠ J107  
 ♥ K92  
 ♦ K1083  
 ♣ AK2

Poland/Russia vs OzOne  
 Open and Closed Rooms

| West            | North          | East           | South        |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i>  | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
|                 | 1NT            | Pass           | 3NT          |
| All Pass        |                |                |              |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                | 1♠            | Pass            | 2♦           |
| Pass           | 3♦            | Pass            | 3♠           |
| Pass           | 4♦            | Pass            | 5♦           |
| All Pass       |               |                 |              |

| Closed Room    |               |                  |                    |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| West           | North         | East             | South              |
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                | 1♦            | Pass             | 1♥                 |
| Pass           | 1♠            | Pass             | 3NT                |
| All Pass       |               |                  |                    |

| Closed Room    |               |                  |                    |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| West           | North         | East             | South              |
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               | Pass             | Pass               |
| 1♣             | 4♥            | All Pass         |                    |
| All Pass       |               |                  |                    |

In the previous set we remarked on how well the boards were coming up for the Alliance's notrump range. Here they played 3NT on a blind auction and received a spade lead (only a heart will set the game) and wrapped up nine tricks. Not to worry; Richman's weak notrump achieved the same result. Somewhere we could hear the disembodied voice of Eric Kokish saying "Told you so."

By contrast, the two auctions in the other match demonstrate the other side of the coin. Nothing was wrong with the Dutch auction except finding the hearts on lead; everything was wrong with the Hacketts' auction, and the final result of down one looks very cheap at the price. No swing anywhere.

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Bd: 10    | North     |
| Dlr: East | ♠ 96      |
| Vul: Both | ♥ AKQJ432 |
|           | ♦ 9       |
|           | ♣ 1082    |
| West      | East      |
| ♠ A107    | ♠ KJ532   |
| ♥ 98      | ♥ 1065    |
| ♦ K532    | ♦ QJ76    |
| ♣ AK65    | ♣ J       |
|           | South     |
|           | ♠ Q84     |
|           | ♥ 7       |
|           | ♦ A1084   |
|           | ♣ Q9743   |

It is surprising how often doubling for penalties with a long suit like North's catches the opponents napping. On this occasion E/W's escape methods were weighed in the balance and found wanting. When South discarded on the second round of hearts the writing was really on the wall. The defenders cashed out their hearts and declarer claimed five tricks. Since 3♥ was down a trick, that was 14 imps to Poland. They led 39-7.

4♥ was down two at both tables in our second match. No swing; still 12-8.

And there was more bad news to come for OzOne.

|            |          |           |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| Bd: 11     | North    |           |
| Dlr: South | ♠ A10643 |           |
| Vul: None  | ♥ 74     |           |
|            | ♦ Q976   |           |
|            | ♣ 76     |           |
|            | West     | East      |
|            | ♠ 7      | ♠ K952    |
|            | ♥ AJ862  | ♥ KQ10953 |
|            | ♦ 83     | ♦ A4      |
|            | ♣ AJ853  | ♣ 9       |
|            | South    |           |
|            | ♠ QJ8    |           |
|            | ♥ ---    |           |
|            | ♦ KJ1052 |           |
|            | ♣ KQ1042 |           |

| Poland/Russia vs OzOne |               |                |              |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Open Room              |               |                |              |
| West                   | North         | East           | South        |
| <i>Prescott</i>        | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                        |               | Pass           | Pass         |
| 1NT                    | Dbl           | Rdbl           | All Pass     |

| Closed Room     |                |                |             |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| West            | North          | East           | South       |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|                 |                | Pass           | Pass        |
| 1♣              | 3♥             | All Pass       |             |

| Hackett vs The Netherlands |               |                 |              |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Open Room                  |               |                 |              |
| West                       | North         | East            | South        |
| <i>Bertens</i>             | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                            |               | Pass            | Pass         |
| 1♦                         | 3♥            | All Pass        |              |

| Poland/Russia vs OzOne |                |                |              |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Open Room              |                |                |              |
| West                   | North          | East           | South        |
| <i>Prescott</i>        | <i>Gromov</i>  | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                        |                |                | 1♦           |
| 1♥                     | 1♠             | 2♠             | 3♣           |
| 4♥                     | Pass           | 4NT            | Pass         |
| 5♥                     | Pass           | 6♥             | All Pass     |
| Closed Room            |                |                |              |
| West                   | North          | East           | South        |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i>        | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
|                        |                |                | 1♠(minors)   |
| Pass                   | 3♦             | 3♥             | 4♦           |
| 4♥                     | 5♦             | Dbl            | Pass         |
| 5♥                     | All Pass       |                |              |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                |               |                 | 1♦           |
| 1♥             | 1♠            | 2♠              | Dbl          |
| 4♥             | 4♠            | 5♦              | Pass         |
| 6♥             | All Pass      |                 |              |

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               |                  | 1♦                 |
| 1♥             | Dbl           | 4♣               | Pass               |
| 4♦             | Pass          | 4NT              | Pass               |
| 5♥             | Pass          | 6♥               | All Pass           |
| All Pass       |               |                  |                    |

6♥ is not nearly as good as it looks on a diamond lead. Four-three clubs is not enough: you have to use trump entries to get back to hand so you run out of trumps in the six-card suit. The five-two split left Prescott absolutely no play once diamonds were led. Well done, Gromov. Of course on any other lead declarer can establish the ♠K for a discard.

In the Closed Room N/S offered their opponents the fielder's choice of defending 5♦ or collecting their game. Zmudzinski accurately removed his partner's double and Balicki recorded 450 for a further 11imps. It was 50-7 now.

The Hackett team did well all around here. Justin led a diamond against 6♥, Helgemo produced a temporizing/last-train/fake 4♦ cue-bid that worked to perfection when Jacobs led a trump against the small slam—and when was the last time you ever saw that lead work? Hackett led 22-12 now.

Bd: 12  
Dir: West  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ KQ  
♥ A63  
♦ 9842  
♣ AQ102

West  
♠ J983  
♥ K87  
♦ A1065  
♣ 93

East  
♠ 10654  
♥ J4  
♦ KQ73  
♣ K86

South  
♠ A72  
♥ Q10952  
♦ J  
♣ J754

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
| Pass            | 1NT           | Pass           | 2♦           |
| Pass            | 2♥            | All Pass       |              |

Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
| Pass            | 1♣(STR)        | Pass           | 1♦          |
| Pass            | 1NT            | Pass           | 2♦(♥)       |
| Pass            | 2♥             | Pass           | 2NT         |
| Pass            | 4♥             | All Pass       |             |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
| Pass           | 1NT           | Pass            | 2♦           |
| Pass           | 2♥            | All Pass        |              |

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
| Pass           | 1NT           | Pass             | 2♦                 |
| Pass           | 2♥            | All Pass         |                    |
| All Pass       |               |                  |                    |

Here the slight range difference in notrump created the potential for a swing in either direction. The Russians use 12-15 (which is the fundamental flaw in any Precision system that wants to keep 1♦ as 'natural'; maybe it's a price you are prepared to pay). Meanwhile, in the closed Room Richman showed 15-17 and Nagy invited game and Richman accepted.

Both defenses led the ♦K, overtaken for a club shift. Gromov, protecting his partscore, rose with the ♣A and led ace and another heart for +140. Richman ducked the low club (low from doubleton) and passed the first hurdle. He won the club return in hand and now had the choice of a low heart from hand to the 10, losing when East began with ♥Kxx, or ace and another heart, losing to West's ♥KJx, or even ruffing a diamond to advance the ♥Q, losing to the actual layout. Richman got it right after a couple of minutes thought; well done. That was a much needed swing for OzOne; down 50-17 now.



"Y'see mate, I always carry this here spare hand around with me."

Both tables in our second match played 2♥; an imp to The Netherlands, trailing 22-13.

Bd: 13 North  
 Dir: North ♠ K6  
 Vul: Both ♥ 9752  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ 98642

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| West    | East     |
| ♠ 832   | ♠ AJ1095 |
| ♥ KJ108 | ♥ 63     |
| ♦ K953  | ♦ J764   |
| ♣ KJ    | ♣ Q5     |

South  
 ♠ Q74  
 ♥ AQ4  
 ♦ Q82  
 ♣ A1073

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

|                 |               |                |              |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 | Pass          | 2♠             | All Pass     |

Closed Room

|                 |                |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
|                 | Pass           | Pass           | 1♦           |
| Pass            | 1♥             | 1♠             | 2♥           |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

|                |               |                 |              |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                | Pass          | Pass            | 1♣           |
| Pass           | 1♥            | 1♠              | Dbl          |
| 2♠             | 3♣            | All Pass        |              |

Closed Room

|                |               |                  |                    |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>      | <b>South</b>       |
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                | Pass          | Pass             | 1NT                |
| Pass           | Pass          | 2♠               | Pass               |
| Pass           | Dbl.          | Pass             | 3♣                 |
| All Pass       |               |                  |                    |

While Marston's 2♠ opening stole the pot, and collected +110, the (natural in third seat) 1♦ coupled with the three-card raise also stole the pot, and the strange-looking 2♥ contract was hard to beat. Balicki led a trump, and after a spade to the queen, a spade to the king, and a second trump through, Richman went up with the ♥A, ruffed a spade and exited with ace and a second club. Zmudzinski found the only defense when he won his ♣K, cashed the ♥K, and shifted to the ♦K; three kings in a row. Now he ruffed the fourth club and exited with a low diamond to take trick 13 with the curse of Scotland, the ♦9. Very nicely defended

In the European match both tables found a route to 3♣. This is a fascinating contract, and it appears it can always be made given that the defenders may be forced to lead a red-suit at an inopportune moment. Both defenders led spades. Bertens led the ♠8 and Bakkeren went up with the ♠A to lead a heart; no good. Declarer pitched the diamond loser on the spades and had nine easy tricks. In the other room Armstrong let Schollaardt score the ♠Q at trick one. After two rounds of clubs, a spade through for a heart shift left the defenders able to exit in the majors, and declarer had to lose a diamond now. Down one, and Hackett led 27-13.

(Declarer must win the spade and return the suit, duck the heart shift, and ruff the third spade. Now the ♣A forces West to decide whether to unblock or not. If he does declarer cashes the ♥A, if not, declarer simply exits with a small club.)

Bd: 14 North  
 Dir: East ♠ ---  
 Vul: None ♥ J1084  
 ♦ K109742  
 ♣ AJ5

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| West       | East    |
| ♠ AKQ10874 | ♠ J9652 |
| ♥ Q9       | ♥ 6532  |
| ♦ J83      | ♦ A6    |
| ♣ 4        | ♣ 92    |

South  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ AK7  
 ♦ Q5  
 ♣ KQ108763

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

|                 |               |                |              |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 |               | Pass           | 2♣           |
| 3♠              | Dbl           | 4♠             | 5♣           |
| All Pass        |               |                |              |

Closed Room

|                 |                |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
|                 |                | Pass           | 2♣           |
| 2♠              | 5♣             | Dbl            | All Pass     |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

|                |               |                 |              |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b> |
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                |               | Pass            | 1♣           |
| 4♠             | 4NT           | 5♠              | 6♣           |
| All Pass       |               |                 |              |



Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               | Pass             | 2♣                 |
| 2♠             | Dbl.          | 4♠               | 5♣                 |
| 5♠             | 6♣            | Pass             | Pass               |
| 6♠             | Dbl           | All Pass         |                    |

There are more ways to kill a cat than by choking it with cream. The Aussies' preempting style caused them to miss their laydown slam, but the fringe benefit was that Balicki thought he was being stolen from (maybe he was looking at his hand from Board 15?) and for some reason or other thought he had enough to double. A redouble might have taught him a sharp lesson but a spade sacrifice is cheap against a slam—besides, Nagy probably expected to be going down in 5♣x. Plus 650 was worth 6 imps; OzOne trailed 23-50.

Both N/S pairs did much better in the other match where the auctions contrasted sharply with those above. Both got to 6♣, but Helgemo very bravely sacrificed when getting out for 500 might have been better than he might have expected. No one sacrifices against a Hackett slam, and Bertens had soft red-suit cards that might easily have been tricks. 9 more imps; the score was 36-13.

Bd: 15  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ 93  
 ♥ AJ65432  
 ♦ K10  
 ♣ 65

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| West     | East     |
| ♠ 8      | ♠ A10765 |
| ♥ KQ     | ♥ 108    |
| ♦ Q8432  | ♦ J9     |
| ♣ Q10982 | ♣ KJ43   |
| South    | East     |
| ♠ KQJ42  | ♠ 653    |
| ♥ 97     | ♥ K6     |
| ♦ A765   | ♦ AJ3    |
| ♣ A7     | ♣ QJ875  |

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 |               |                | 1♠           |
| 2NT             | 3♥            | 5♣             | Dbl.         |
| All Pass        |               |                |              |

Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|                 |                |                | 1♥(♠)       |
| Pass            | 3♥             | All Pass       |             |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                |               |                 | 1♠           |
| 2NT            | 3♥(NF)        | 4♣              | 4♥           |
| Pass           | Pass          | 5♣              | Dbl          |
| All Pass       |               |                 |              |

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               |                  | 1♠                 |
| Pass           | 2♦(♥)         | Pass             | 2♥                 |
| Pass           | 3♥            | Pass             | 4♥                 |
| All pass       |               |                  |                    |

The preempting style giveth, the preempting style taketh away; blessed be Moscito. Here the limited transfer opening kept Zmudzinski quiet (2NT would have been a better, different hand) but the preemptive 3♥ response meant that although Nagy would have liked to raise he had no assurances, even at this vulnerability, that his side could make anything. Plus, his spade holding was likely to be facing shortage. Indeed, 4♥ on a diamond lead is nothing special, and Richman settled for +140. 4 imps to Poland/Russia, leading 54-23.

In the European clash Bertens found the 2NT bid, Helgemo did not. Bakkeren walked the dog a little, to see if his opponents would bid 4♥, and trusted them when they did. The sacrifice cost 300, good for 8 imps, and tightening the match to 36-21.

Bd: 16  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ 543  
 ♦ Q9764  
 ♣ K432

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| West     | East    |
| ♠ KQ1084 | ♠ 653   |
| ♥ AJ102  | ♥ K6    |
| ♦ 1082   | ♦ AJ3   |
| ♣ 6      | ♣ QJ875 |
| South    | East    |
| ♠ AJ97   | ♠ 653   |
| ♥ Q987   | ♥ K6    |
| ♦ K5     | ♦ AJ3   |
| ♣ A109   | ♣ QJ875 |

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
| 1♥(♠)           | Pass          | 2♥(♠)          | Pass         |
| 2♠              | All Pass      |                |              |

Closed Room

| West     | North   | East    | South    |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Zmud'ski | Richman | Balicki | Nagy     |
| Pass     | Pass    | 1♣      | Dbl      |
| 1♠       | 2♦      | Pass    | Pass     |
| Dbl.     | Pass    | 2♠      | All Pass |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West    | North    | East     | South |
|---------|----------|----------|-------|
| Bertens | Justin   | Bakkeren | Jason |
| 1♠      | Pass     | 1NT(F)   | Pass  |
| 2♥      | Pass     | 3♠       | Pass  |
| 4♠      | All Pass |          |       |

Closed Room

| West    | North    | East      | South       |
|---------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Helgemo | Jacobs   | Armstrong | Schollaardt |
| 1♠      | Pass     | 2♣        | Pass        |
| 2♥      | Pass     | 2♠        | Pass        |
| 4♠      | All Pass |           |             |

Yes, the bulletin editors are getting old, but it would take a lot of persuading for us to believe that there is any merit in a style where West has an opening bid and—in that style—East has enough to force to game facing one of those opening bids. While Marston showed a constructive near-limit raise facing a 9-14 opening, Bertens and Helgemo each pretended they had a vulnerable opening bid. Then Bertens accepted an invitation, and Armstrong thought he had enough to drive to game as East. O tempora, o mores (well, maybe tempura is more appropriate given our tournament's location).

Enough of these Philippics; Balicki-Zmudzinski had a perfectly sensible auction, and both E/W pairs in that match achieved an honorable +110. Both pairs in the other match achieved a less honorable -200. No swing.

Bd: 17  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A76  
 ♥ KQJ6  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ AKQJ5

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| West     | East     |
| ♠ K5     | ♠ Q1082  |
| ♥ 9875   | ♥ 103    |
| ♦ 94     | ♦ KQJ765 |
| ♣ 109872 | ♣ 4      |

South  
 ♠ J943  
 ♥ A42  
 ♦ A1032  
 ♣ 63

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

Open Room

| West     | North  | East     | South   |
|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Prescott | Gromov | Marston  | Dubinin |
| Pass     | 1♣     | 3♦       | Pass    |
| Pass     | Dbl    | All Pass |         |

Closed Room

| West     | North   | East     | South |
|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| Zmud'ski | Richman | Balicki  | Nagy  |
| Pass     | 1♣      | 1♥(1)    | 1♠    |
| Pass     | 2♣      | 2♦       | 2NT   |
| Pass     | 3♥      | Pass     | 3NT   |
| Pass     | 4♠      | All Pass |       |

(1) Two suits same color

Hackett vs The Netherlands

Open Room

| West     | North  | East     | South |
|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Bertens  | Justin | Bakkeren | Jason |
| 2♦       | 1♣     | 1♦       | Pass  |
| All Pass | Dbl    | 3♦       | Dbl   |

Closed Room

| West     | North  | East      | South       |
|----------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| Helgemo  | Jacobs | Armstrong | Schollaardt |
| Pass     | 1♣     | 3♦        | Dbl         |
| All Pass | 4♦     | Pass      | 4♠          |

After a strong club on his right Marston did what any self-respecting Moscito player does: think of a number to preempt, and add one. The Russians have already shown that they can take a joke with the best of them. Gromov doubled for takeout and Dubinin knew what he wanted to do. In 3♦x on a club lead and trump shift Dubinin ducked, letting declarer lead a spade to the king and ace. Back came a heart and Dubinin exited with a low trump to dummy's nine. A spade to the ten lost to the jack and now a club return would have re-promoted a second trump trick for Dubinin if East had been, e.g., 3-2-6-2. No luck; East could ruff and draw trumps but that was still 500.

In the other room Richman-Nagy played an awkward contract, but one that fetched 10 tricks when Nagy played on clubs and let Balicki ruff in. He lost only three trump tricks but the Alliance had 2 imps and led 56-23.

Strange things happened in the other match. Defending 3♦x Jason led a club, took the first trump and returned a club. When declarer played a spade to the king, best might have been to cash two hearts and lead another club. The defense actually led top clubs and declarer pitched, then ruffed high, then ruffed a spade to dummy and led the winning club to throw his second heart. Still

down 500, good for 12 imps when Schollaardt totally misjudged the play in 4♠. On Helgemo's club lead he won in dummy and led a low spade to West's king. Back came a club, ruffed, and now on a diamond to his ace declarer passed the ♠J to the queen, letting the defense lead a second diamond to promote the ♠10 to the setting trick. The score was 48-21.

Bd: 18  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥ 10843  
 ♦ QJ108743  
 ♣ ---

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| West   | East    |
| ♠ KQ95 | ♠ A863  |
| ♥ K65  | ♥ AQJ92 |
| ♦ AK   | ♦ ---   |
| ♣ KQ86 | ♣ 5432  |

South  
 ♠ J102  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ 9652  
 ♣ AJ1097

Poland/Russia vs OzOne  
 Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 |               | 1♦(♥)          | Pass         |
| 1♥(1)           | Pass          | 1♠             | Pass         |
| 2♣(1)           | Pass          | 2♦(2)          | Pass         |
| 2♥(1)           | Pass          | 3♣(3)          | Dbl          |
| Rdbl            | 3♦            | Pass           | Pass         |
| 4♠              | All Pass      |                |              |

(1) Relay (2) three-suiter both majors (3) 4-5-0-4

Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|                 |                | 1♥             | Pass        |
| 1♠              | Pass           | 2♠             | Pass        |
| 2NT             | Pass           | 4♦             | Pass        |
| 4NT             | Pass           | 5♥             | Pass        |
| 6NT             | All Pass       |                |             |

Hackett vs The Netherlands  
 Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                |               | 1♥              | Pass         |
| 1♠             | Pass          | 2♠              | Pass         |
| 2NT            | Pass          | 4♦              | Pass         |
| 4NT            | Pass          | 5NT             | Pass         |
| 6NT            | All Pass      |                 |              |

Closed Room

| West           | North         | East             | South              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
|                |               | 1♥               | Pass               |
| 1♠             | Pass          | 2♠               | Pass               |
| 3♣             | Pass          | 4♦               | Pass               |
| 4NT            | Pass          | 5NT              | Pass               |
| 6NT            | All Pass      |                  |                    |

6♠ by East (which is the side Marston would have declared it from) makes only 11 tricks because of the club ruff. 6♠ by West is very good, and happens to be cold. And 6NT is best of all by some margin. Well bid by the Poles and both the other teams too. The Europeans led 67-23, it was still 48-21 to Hackett.

Bd: 19  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ A1087  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ 63  
 ♣ KQJ642

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| West      | East    |
| ♠ J93     | ♠ KQ52  |
| ♥ AK10976 | ♥ J82   |
| ♦ A8      | ♦ Q1072 |
| ♣ A9      | ♣ 87    |

South  
 ♠ 64  
 ♥ Q53  
 ♦ KJ954  
 ♣ 1053

Poland/Russia vs OzOne  
 Open Room

| West            | North         | East           | South        |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Prescott</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
|                 |               |                | Pass         |
| 1♣              | 2♣            | Dbl            | Pass         |
| 2♥              | All Pass      |                |              |

Closed Room

| West            | North          | East           | South       |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Zmud'ski</i> | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i> |
|                 |                |                | Pass        |
| 1♥              | 2♣             | 2♥             | Pass        |
| 4♥              | All Pass       |                |             |

Hackett vs The Netherlands  
 Open Room

| West           | North         | East            | South        |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
|                |               |                 | 2♦           |
| Dbl            | 3♣            | Pass            | Pass         |
| 3♥             | Pass          | 4♥              | All Pass     |

Closed Room

| West                         | North         | East             | South              |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Helgemo</i>               | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
| 1♥                           | 1NT(1)        | 2♥               | Pass               |
| 3NT                          | All Pass      |                  | Pass               |
| (1) Four spades plus a minor |               |                  |                    |

Finally a less than perfect decision from the Poles; Zmudzinski played 4♥ on a top club lead. He ducked, won the continuation, cashed one top trump, led the ♠9 to dummy, then a trump back, misguessing. Now he had to lose a trick in each suit. Marston's pass of 2♥ looks a little surprising but since Prescott also took only nine tricks one should maybe not cavil too much. That made the match score 67-29 and an overtrick imp left the Alliance in front 68-29 at the half.

Both pairs misguessed in our other match. Had Helgemo been in 4♥ he would have known what to do—it was really rather unlucky that he bought a dummy with no entry to take that marked finesse. Bertens, by contrast, had no indications not to follow the normal line. He still gained 3 imps; it was 48-24.

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Bd: 20    | North    |
| Dlr: West | ♠ AK1093 |
| Vul: Both | ♥ 1083   |
|           | ♦ Q      |
|           | ♣ AJ63   |
| West      | East     |
| ♠ 865     | ♠ QJ74   |
| ♥ A95     | ♥ QJ62   |
| ♦ A3      | ♦ J9842  |
| ♣ Q10952  | ♣ ---    |
| South     |          |
| ♠ 2       |          |
| ♥ K74     |          |
| ♦ K10765  |          |
| ♣ K874    |          |

Poland/Russia vs OzOne

| Open and Closed Rooms |                |                |              |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| West                  | North          | East           | South        |
| <i>Prescott</i>       | <i>Gromov</i>  | <i>Marston</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
| <i>Zmud'ski</i>       | <i>Richman</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nagy</i>  |
| Pass                  | 1♠             | Pass           | 1NT          |
| Pass                  | 2♣             | All Pass       |              |

Hackett vs The Netherlands

| Open Room      |               |                 |              |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| West           | North         | East            | South        |
| <i>Bertens</i> | <i>Justin</i> | <i>Bakkeren</i> | <i>Jason</i> |
| Pass           | 1♠            | Pass            | 1NT          |
| Pass           | 2♠            | All Pass        |              |

| Closed Room    |               |                  |                    |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| West           | North         | East             | South              |
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Jacobs</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Schollaardt</i> |
| Pass           | 1♠            | Pass             | Pass               |
| 2♣             | All Pass      |                  |                    |

The normal club contracts fetched nine or ten tricks, which meant that the truly abnormal club contract (a bidding box accident?) was also due to register only four tricks, and so it did. A random 7 imps to The Netherlands, closing the margin to 48-31. Justin's 2♠ bid was a function of the Gazilli-influenced methods; 2♣ would have shown 16+.



"Run me through that double squeeze one more time, would ya?"



"My partner is s-l-o-w."



"My partner is S-L-O-W-E-R"

# Good Luck, or Bad?

by Barry Rigal

Sylvia Moss is not known to be backwards about coming forward in the auction. On this deal (hands rotated) from the A/X Pairs at the Hawaii NABC last fall, Sylvia, as North, decided to respond to a 15-17 1NT opening by showing five-five in the majors and a game-forcing hand with a jump to 3♠.

Dir: North      ♠ K10762  
 Vul: None      ♥ J9832  
                   ♦ Q  
                   ♣ Q10

♠ QJ43  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ K875  
 ♣ 8763

♠ A8  
 ♥ 1054  
 ♦ AJ96  
 ♣ AK54

♠ 95  
 ♥ AKQ7  
 ♦ 10432  
 ♣ J92

| West     | North       | East | South        |
|----------|-------------|------|--------------|
|          | <i>Moss</i> |      | <i>Radin</i> |
| Pass     | Pass        | Pass | 1NT          |
| All Pass | 3♠          | Pass | 4♥           |

Sylvia to feel that she had been a little fortunate that 4♥ was declared from the South seat. If North were declaring, three rounds of trumps leaves you short of tricks.

Not so, said Sylvia: imagine that the defense cashes three hearts and shifts to a diamond. Since East is a passed hand, you rise with the ace, ruff a diamond and draw the last trump, pitching a diamond from dummy. Remarkably, despite the fact that both minor-suit menaces are badly placed, there is a repeating triple squeeze. In this position,

|        |          |       |  |
|--------|----------|-------|--|
|        | ♠ K10762 |       |  |
|        | ♥ ---    |       |  |
|        | ♦ ---    |       |  |
|        | ♣ Q10    |       |  |
| ♠ QJ4  |          | ♠ 95  |  |
| ♥ ---  |          | ♥ --- |  |
| ♦ K    |          | ♦ 104 |  |
| ♣ 8763 |          | ♣ J92 |  |
|        | ♠ A8     |       |  |
|        | ♥ ---    |       |  |
|        | ♦ J      |       |  |
|        | ♣ AK54   |       |  |

Judi Radin bid 4♥ and played there, wrapping up ten tricks on a non-trump lead: she was able to cash plain-suit winners and crossruff spades and diamonds. Afterwards, you would have expected

West still has to discard on the last trump. A discard in either minor suit lets declarer cash the winner there and repeat the squeeze—and a spade discard is immediately fatal.

## Images of Our Game



"Redouble? You've GOT to be kidding."



Kibitzer's Hill



"Th-th-that's all for today, gang."



"I think he fell asleep 10 minutes ago."

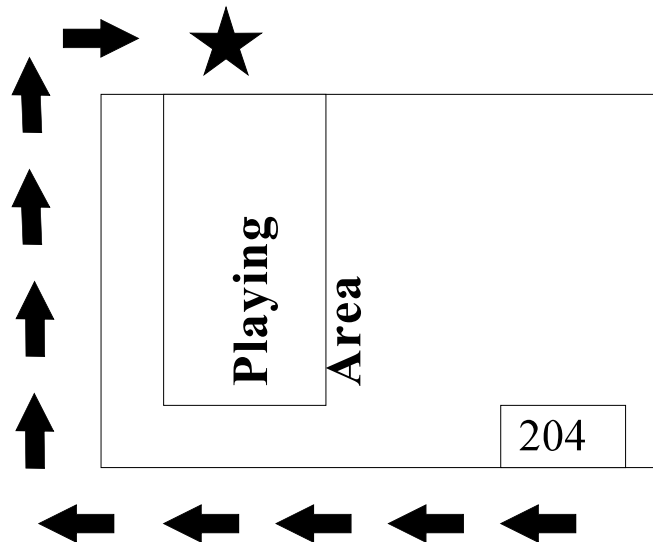
## 12<sup>th</sup> NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

| Day/Date         | Time        | Event                    | Venue    |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Sunday (Feb. 11) | 10:00-12:20 | NEC Cup Final (1)        | E204     |
|                  | 12:30-14:50 | NEC Cup Final (2)        |          |
|                  | 14:50-16:00 | Lunch Break              |          |
|                  | 16:00-18:20 | NEC Cup Final (3)        |          |
|                  | 18:30-20:50 | NEC Cup Final (4)        | F203-206 |
|                  | 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 & 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.



### 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.