



# NEC Bridge Festival

Thursday, February 7, 2008  
Bulletin Number 2

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## Not the Empire Leads 2008 NEC Cup

With two big wins and a tie to their credit, Not the Empire (Paul Hackett, John Armstrong, Eric Kokish, Gerry Charney, Sue Picus), with 65 VPs, holds a narrow 1-VP lead over last year's winners The Netherlands (Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen, Jeanne van den Meiracker, npc) and Fu-Zhao (Tadashi Teramoto, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata, Fu Zhong, Zhao Jie), both of whom finished Day One with 64 VPs. In fourth place, just 2 VPs back, sits the dangerous team from Israel (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Zur-Campanile—beware the monkey) with 62 VPs. And in fifth place with 60 VPs is Mahaffey (Fredrik Nystrom, Peter Bertheau, Peter Fredin, Bjorn Fallenius, Jim Mahaffey, npc). Eleven more teams are queued up with VP scores in the fifties, with four more teams right behind them with scores in the high forties—all within 9 VPs of the final (8<sup>th</sup>) qualifying spot. The complete Day One rankings are shown below while individual results for the first three matches may be found on pages 4-5.

### NEC Cup: Standings After Day One (Three Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Not the Empire	65	13/16	Losier	50	26/27	BIRD	39
2/3	The Netherlands	64	13/16	AQUA	50	28/29	Kitty's	37
2/3	Fu-Zhao	64	13/16	KinKi	50	28/29	MINK	37
4	Israel	62	17	ESPERANZA	49	30	makko	36
5	Mahaffey	60	18	Sun Flowers	48	31/32	Hong Kong	34
6	Canada	57	19	SCOTII	47	31/32	SOLARIS	34
7	Lithuania	56	20	ROSEWOOD	46	33	MY-Bridge	32
8	NAITO	55	21	Geller	42	34	Fairy Tale	31
9	GIBS	53	22/23	LAS FLORES	41	35	Masters Senior	30
10	YOI Returns	52	22/23	ikkyu-3	41	36/37	Charmant	29
11/12	The Latin	51	23/25	KURITA	40	36/37	Kimura@Yokohama	29
11/12	HANA	51	23/25	Open SESAME!	40	38	PS-Jack	25
13/16	VEGA*	50	26/27	JAPAN OPEN	39	39	GIRASOL	15

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Match will feature Lithuania (9) vs NAITO (18)

## NEC Cup 2008: 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 2007 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 2007 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.
Screen Hesitations	When a delay in the return of the tray is suspected, a player on the <b>opposite</b> side of the screen must be the first to call attention to it (by summoning the TD). If the screenmate of the player responsible for the delay first calls attention to it, the TD will rule that no UI is present. In other words, for the TD to rule that UI is present the delay must be clearly noticeable to the players on the other side of the screen without prompting, as evidenced by one of them being the first to call attention to it.

## Team Rosters: 13<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	Israel:	Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Zur-Campanile
2	The Latin:	Frankie Frontaura, Federico Goded, Gonzalo Goded, Diego Brenner
3	Mahaffey:	Fredrik Nystrom, Peter Bertheau, Peter Fredin, Bjorn Fallenius, Jim Mahaffey (npc)
4	Canada:	Gordon Campbell, Keith Balcombe, Judith Gartaganis, Nicholas Gartaganis
5	Not the Empire:	Paul Hackett, John Armstrong, Eric Kokish, Gerry Charney, Sue Picus
6	The Netherlands:	Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen, Jeanne van den Meiracker (NPC)
7	Hong Kong:	Alexander Li, K.W. Tam, C.H. Wu, K.F. Tung, Eugene Chan, Eurydice Nours
8	VEGA*:	Valerie Gardiner, Peter Gill, Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Brian Callaghan
9	Lithuania:	Vytautas Vainikonis, Wojtek Olanski, Andrey Arlovich, Valentin Zhuravel
10	JAPAN OPEN:	Hiroyuki Noda, Hidenori Narita, Eiji Otaka, Yoichi Ito, Yasushi Kobayashi, Masaru Yoshida
11	YOI Returns:	Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Chen Dawei, Hiroki Yokoi
12	HANA:	Sei Nagasaka, Takeshi Hanayama, Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada
13	Fu-Zhao:	Tadashi Teramoto, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata, Fu Zhong, Zhao Jie
14	Geller:	Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Hiroya Abe, Chieko Yamazaki
15	Kitty's:	Yoko Nenohi, Hiroko Sekiyama, Kyoko Toyofuku, Kumiko Matsuo, Makiko Sato, Toshiko Kaho
16	ESPERANZA:	Haruko Koshi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Misuzu Ichihashi, Michiko Iwahashi
17	Losier:	Michiko Ono, Yayoi Sakamoto, Etsuko Hasegawa, Betty Tajiri, Terumi Kubo, Shimako Yaji
18	NAITO:	Sakiko Naito, Kenji Miyakuni, Janssen Hiroko, Yoko Maruyama, Ryoga Tanaka, Keisuke Akama
19	Fairy Tale:	Kazunori Sasaki, Ryo Okuno, Shunsuke Morimura, Takeshi Higashiguchi, Kyoko Shimamura, Zhang Shudi
20	GIRASOL:	Sachiko Yamamura, Taeko Kawamura, Kimi Makita, Keiko Matsuzaki
21	GIBS:	Yasuhiro Shimizu, Makoto Hirata, Takashi Maeda, Nobuyuki Hayashi
22	Charmant:	Takako Fujimoto, Teruo Miyazaki, Hideo Togawa, Sumiko Sugino, Kazuko Takahashi, Kazuko Kawashima
23	Kimura@Yokohama:	Osami Kimura, Hiroko Kobayashi, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Mamiko Odaira, Yumiko Kichise, Setsuko Kimura
24	SKOTII:	Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Takehiko Tada
25	MINK:	Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Kimiko Kamakari, Misae Kato, Midori Sakamoto, Natsuko Nishida
26	BIRD:	Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Yasuko Kosaka, Harue Iemori, Emiko Tamura, Kayoko Kubota, Hideko Hasegawa
27	ikkyu-3:	Kazuhisa Kojima, Kei Nemoto, Yumiko Oda, Kazuo Saeki, Kazuo Takano, Yuichi Masamura
28	ROSEWOOD:	Yoko Fukuyama, Takashi Sumita, Hiromu Nishida, Yoshie Nishida
29	LAS FLORES:	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Ryo Matsubara, Mark LaForge
30	SunFlowers:	Takako Nakatani, Sachiho Ueda, Taeko Kuratani, Reiko Fukuda, Yumi Yanagida, Kenichi Ito
31	KURITA:	Atsuko Kurita, Yoshiko Murata, Junko Den, Chieko Ichikawa, Kuniko Saito
32	AQUA:	Shoko Somemiya, Tomoko Sakai, Yoko Shimominami, Akiko Miyata, Kazuko Okamoto, Miyako Miyazaki
33	SOLARIS:	Naomi Terauchi, Akiko Miura, Natsuko Asaka, Sachiko Ueno, Kiyoko Fushida, Hideko Shindo
34	PS-Jack:	Masakatsu Sugino, Akiko Miwa, Masako Otsuka, Shoko Imai, Eriko Ito, Mari Mitani
35	makko:	Atsuyo Miyake, Makiko Hayashi, Ayako Matsubara, Midori Ito, Yukiko Umezue, Etsuko Naito
36	Masters Senior:	Hiroshi Morimoto, Hikoe Enomoto, Masaru Naniwada, Hisami Kataoka, Toshiro Nose
37	Kinki:	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Noriko Takami, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka
38	MY-Bridge:	Masafumi Yoshizawa, Iwao Oishi, Kuniko Miyauchi, Shigeyuki Murano, Aiko Nabeshima, Noriko Yoshizawa
39	Open SESAME!:	Megumi Takasaka, Kyoko Sengoku, Hiroyuki Taguchi, Ryo Namiki, Mariko Matsukawa, Shunsuke Gotoda

PCs with Internet access (but no printing capability) are available for player use in the Secretariat (E206), to your left as you enter.



Your "friendly" bulletin staff

## Wednesday's Match Results

### Match 1

ISRAEL (47)	19-11	(29) GIBS
THE LATIN (57)	25-5	(9) KURITA
MAHAFFEY (58)	22-8	(23) Charmant
CANADA (44)	18-12	(29) Masters Senior
Not the Empire (82)	25-3	(19) PS-Jack
THE NETHERLANDS (62)	25-4	(7) SKOTII
HONG KONG (24)	10-20	(46) SOLARIS
VEGA* (56)	21-9	(27) LAS FLORES
LITHUANIA (101)	25-3	(37) GIRASOL
JAPAN OPEN (49)	16-14	(43) AQUA
YOI Returns (64)	24-6	(22) BIRD
HANA (56)	24-6	(11) MINK
Fu-Zhao (99)	25-0	(10) Kimura@Yokohama
GELLER (83)	25-2	(12) Fairy Tale
Kitty's (32)	9-21	(59) Sun Flowers
ESPERANZA (53)	16-14	(45) ROSEWOOD
Losier (53)	20-10	(30) makko
NAITO (54)	21-9	(23) ikkyu-3
KinKi (56)	21-	(26)
MY-Bridge (30)	9-	(59)
Open SESAME! (37)	15 -	(38)

### Match 2

THE LATIN (27)	5-25	(76) Not the Empire
THE NETHERLANDS (67)	22-8	(35) LITHUANIA
Fu-Zhao (68)	24-6	(24) GELLER
YOI Returns (55)	16-14	(48) HANA
MAHAFFEY (58)	25-5	(5) VEGA*
NAITO (45)	17-13	(34) Sun Flowers
KinKi (32)	16-14	(29) Losier
SOLARIS (21)	3-25	(84) ISRAEL
CANADA (63)	16-14	(59) JAPAN OPEN
ESPERANZA (35)	12-18	(51) Open SESAME!
ROSEWOOD (38)	13-17	(48) AQUA
Masters Senior (10)	0-25	(95) GIBS
HONG KONG (37)	13-17	(48) makko
Kitty's (38)	10-20	(64) ikkyu-3
LAS FLORES (70)	25-4	(12) MY-Bridge
Charmant (29)	10-20	(55) MINK
BIRD (50)	14-16	(53) KURITA
SKOTII (87)	25-1	(12) GIRASOL
PS-Jack (29)	6-	(76)
Fairy Tale (44)	17-	(34)
Kimura@Yokohama (68)	23-	(31)

## NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 13<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)

### Match 3

Not the Empire (51)	15-15	(51) Fu-Zhao
MAHAFFEY (35)	13-17	(44) THE NETHERLANDS
ISRAEL (60)	18-12	(45) YOI Returns
NAITO (50)	17-13	(38) HANA
KinKi (37)	13-17	(46) GIBS
LAS FLORES (22)	7-23	(59) CANADA
Losier (34)	16-14	(28) Sun Flowers
Open SESAME! (18)	7-23	(57) LITHUANIA
AQUA (49)	19-11	(30) GELLER
JAPAN OPEN (48)	9-21	(76) THE LATIN
SKOTII (59)	18-12	(43) ikkyu-3
ESPERANZA (76)	21-9	(45) makko
ROSEWOOD (35)	19-11	(18) MINK
VEGA* (72)	24-6	(29) Kimura@Yokohama
HONG KONG (24)	11-19	(45) KURITA
SOLARIS (28)	11-19	(45) BIRD
Fairy Tale (32)	12-18	(47) Kitty's
Charmant (41)	11-19	(58) MY-Bridge
Masters Senior (39)	18-	(26)
PS-Jack (34)	16-	(28)
GIRASOL (19)	11-	(38)

## Bridge Defense—What's Going On (9)?

by Mike Lawrence

West deals, no one vulnerable.

told you to. Listen to him.

♠ 954  
♥ KQJ10872  
♦ Q  
♣ KQ

♠ A3  
♥ 953  
♦ 643  
♣ AJ853

♠ 954  
♥ KQJ10872  
♦ Q  
♣ KQ

♠ QJ10876  
♥ A4  
♦ 98  
♣ 1042

♠ A3  
♥ 953  
♦ 643  
♣ AJ853

West	North	East	South
2♠(weak)	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

♠ K2  
♥ 6  
♦ AKJ10752  
♣ 976

West leads the ♠Q. You take your ace and return the three. South wins the king. At trick three declarer leads a club. You win your ace and return...?

You can't answer this question until you ask one of your own. Which question is that?

To know the right return now you need to know which spade partner played at trick two. I will tell you that he played the jack. This is a standard suit-preference situation. It is not an information situation. You already know exactly what partner has in spades. His ♠J is trying to tell you that his entry is in hearts. It looks strange to return a heart but partner

I have said that suit preference takes a secondary role in defense to other signals. They are an important part of good defense, though, as long as they are used without confusion. There are two or three common situations. This is one of them. West wants to tell East that he has a heart entry. As you can see, West has to get the message across right away. West doesn't have time to waste. This is an unusual hand in that declarer has a hidden seven-card suit.

Normally, East could return a diamond or even a club and survive. But not this time. Better have your signals in order.

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

# Deterioration of Pyramids Linked to Ancient Deal

by Richard Pavlicek

Today's deal occurred about 3,400 years ago. Trust me. It was etched into the walls of the tomb of Tutankhamen, and only last week did I manage to decipher it after many frustrating attempts. (The ancient Egyptians wrote so scribbly that it looked like hieroglyphics.)

King Amenhotep IV, North, opened one amenclub and East, a local pyramid contractor, jumped to four amenhearts. This later cost him his life, as "preempting against the King" was ruled a capital offense by the Egyptian tribunal. Too bad; his business successor turned out to be a crook, substituting chalk for granite—which is said to have caused the modern-day deterioration of the pyramids.

Enough history. Tutankhamen, South, refused to be shut out and bid four amenspades. "Amendouble!" shouted West, who proceeded to lead the ♣K—an act for which he also would be put to death. (The tribunal ruled that "doubling and leading the King's suit" was tantamount to treason.)

A short pause followed; then Tutankhamen, anxious to play the hand, reminded Amenhotep that he was the dummy. This was not taken kindly—the King did not like the word "dummy"—so Tutankhamen was warned he must make his contract to save his own life. Tough game.



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

Dlr: North ♠ A876  
Vul: E/W ♥ A3  
♦ 765  
♣ A 8 7 6

♠ K5	♠ 32
♥ 2	♥ KQJ10987654
♦ KQJ1098	♦ —
♣ KQJ10	♣ 9
♠ QJ1094	
♥ —	
♦ A432	
♣ 5432	

West	North	East	South
	1♣	4♥	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

The etchings state that Tutankhamen succeeded with a "rare kind of amenruffensqueeze" (as opposed to the ordinary kind, I guess) but the specific play was not given. It seems to be impossible to win 10 tricks, so the secret may remain hidden for eternity...unless you can figure it out. Good luck!

Give up? Well, you're in luck. I found the solution on a clay tablet titled, "Card Play Tutnique." Win the ♣A; ruff the ♥A with the ♠9; lead the ♠Q and draw two rounds of trumps ending in dummy. Lead the ♥3 and throw a diamond as East must win. On the next two heart leads discard diamonds from your hand and clubs from the dummy. Ruff the next heart lead in your hand (throwing dummy's last club), and West is squeezed. Declarer can establish a trick in whichever minor suit West shortens.

Amencredible.

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## NEC Bridge Festival Smoking Policy

### NEC Cup:

Once play in a qualifying-round match or a KO-round session starts, smoking is not permitted (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom), except with permission from the TD.

### 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:

Smoking is only permitted outside the building. Penalties for violations may be assessed by the Director.

# Match One: The Netherlands vs SCOTII

by Barry Rigal

The Netherlands are the defenders, with Bertens-Bakkeren returning to the scene of last year's triumph and Verhees-van Prooijen playing as a partnership for the first time. Both pairs play a natural system but with relays after 1♣ openings and some relays in 2/1 auctions.

Both tables began with an auction that exemplifies modern bidding at its best. An aceless 11-count opened the bidding and a 12-count in response drove to game. The 4♠ contract has four top losers and a trump guess but as the defenders discovered, there was many a slip between cup and lip.

Bd: 1 North  
 Dir: North ♠ K8  
 Vul: None ♥ 8763  
 ♦ A1087  
 ♣ 1097

West  
 ♠ J52  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ Q965  
 ♣ AKQ52

East  
 ♠ Q9764  
 ♥ KQ954  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ 3

South  
 ♠ A103  
 ♥ AJ2  
 ♦ 432  
 ♣ J864

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

In the Open Room a diamond lead saw the defenders sit back and wait for their top tricks; a spade misguess then led to two down.

In the Closed Room Kikuchi led a club and Bakkeren hastened to pitch his diamonds on the clubs, then led and passed the ♥10. Kikuchi now had to underlead in spades to set the contract by force with three rounds of trumps; ace and another spade did not get the job done since the defenders had cleared up the spade guess and could not get the third round of trumps in

anymore. The Netherlands had 11 imps in the bag.

Only four tables were allowed to make 4♠ on Board 1. Special kudos to Yoshiyuki Nakamura of Team Fu-Zhao who made 4♠ on a diamond lead. Two E/W pairs managed to stop in a spade partscore; well done, Kazuo Furuta-Hiroki Yokoi and Takashi Sumita-Yoko Fukuyama.

Both tables reached a marginal game on the second deal as well; both Easts eventually built an entry to dummy to take a trump finesse to lose to a singleton king—some days it just does not pay to get up in the morning. The Netherlands managed to create a swing on the third deal as well when Verhees picked up:

♠ 93 ♥ KJ7 ♦ KJ4 ♣ 108763.

Would you invite facing a 15-17 notrump? And would your choice be affected by whether you had to conduct an informative auction via Stayman to 2NT or whether you could uninformatively raise to 2NT directly? Verhees could bid 2NT and did so, raised to 3NT. This was the full story:

Bd: 3 North  
 Dir: South ♠ AQ10  
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q98  
 ♦ 73  
 ♣ AKJ54

West  
 ♠ J85  
 ♥ 10654  
 ♦ AQ1085  
 ♣ 2

East  
 ♠ K7642  
 ♥ A32  
 ♦ 962  
 ♣ Q9

South  
 ♠ 93  
 ♥ KJ7  
 ♦ KJ4  
 ♣ 108763

This is not the worst contract you've ever seen, but as the cards lie you'd need East to lead a spade to give you your ninth trick. Cometh the hour cometh the innocent man. East led a spade...Tada! (Yes, I guess you're impressed by my restraint in having delayed myself till Board 3 to make that awful pun.) In the Closed Room Kikuchi did not move facing a strong notrump, hardly unreasonable given the weak five-card suit, and The Netherlands led 17-0. (Would it only be Zia who would double 3NT with the West cards after a slow route to game? Not one pair beat 3NT.)

After both tables had done well to stop in 1NT with a combined 24 HCP (these days 14 facing 10 is so much

easier than 15 facing 9: the failure to open a strong notrump slows down responder). The Netherlands exercised restraint on the next deal as well, and this time they were rewarded with some imps.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ AJ  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K643  
 ♦ 1085  
 ♣ A763

West  
 ♠ Q2  
 ♥ AQ7  
 ♦ KJ62  
 ♣ KQJ9

East  
 ♠ K108643  
 ♥ 852  
 ♦ Q97  
 ♣ 4

South  
 ♠ 975  
 ♥ J109  
 ♦ A43  
 ♣ 10852

Both Wests heard their partner overcall 1♣ with 2♠; Bertens passed, Asaoka raised to 4♠. Against the game contract Verhees led the ♥J and the defenders got all their winners and eventually a trump promotion with the 13<sup>th</sup> heart. Verhees was not tempted to lead a club since the opening bid was nebulous. At the other table the club lead against 2♠ placed the defenders a vital tempo behind; Sakurai took the ♣A and shifted to a diamond for the heart shift, but Bakkeren could pitch his heart losers on the clubs and ended up with a comfortable +170. The Netherlands led 25-0 now.

Of course 3NT is far harder to defeat; on a heart lead the defenders can duck one spade, take the next, and continue the attack on hearts. This is an excellent deal for Smith Echos, as South can signal possession of the ♥J. But the problem is rather more complex than that, in that N/S may want to keep the plays in spades for count and not for Smith. For the record, 3NT was attempted at 17 of the 39 tables; 16 times by West. It was allowed to make six times (although on at least one of those occasions a club was led initially).

The next deal saw SKOTII with their first real chance for imps; it failed to materialize, but it was surely not the fault of Briggida, the Goddess of Bridge and Fate, who dealt out the cards in a way that cannot have pleased the Dutch N/S pair.



“Can’t hear a thing with these bid boxes.”

Bd: 6 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ AJ  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 2  
 ♦ Q109542  
 ♣ AK42

West  
 ♠ 9873  
 ♥ A10764  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ 1073

East  
 ♠ K10  
 ♥ QJ985  
 ♦ A76  
 ♣ Q85

South  
 ♠ Q6542  
 ♥ K3  
 ♦ KJ8  
 ♣ J96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Asaoka	v Prooijen	Tada	Verhees
		1♥	1♠
4♥	Dbf	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertens	Sakurai	Bakkeren	Kikuchi
		1♥	Pass
3♥(Weak)	3NT	All Pass	

How would you like your chances in 4♥ doubled on the auction shown, just looking at the E/W cards? When dummy came down you’d settle for –200, right? Declarer won the diamond lead, ruffed a diamond, then led a club to the king (good) and South’s nine. Back came ace and another spade. Tada won, finessed in hearts (better), drew the last trump, and led a club to... his eight and South’s jack. Down one and 7 imps away instead of 12 imps in, since the 3NT contract reached in the other room (after some ambiguity about the nature of whether North’s bid was natural or artificial) led to –100 in that contract.

Five pairs racked up 790 with the E/W cards, one pair managing to collect 800 against 5♣x; equally, one E/W pair elected to play 5♣x here, which cost 1700. I could tell you how it happened, but then I’d have to kill you.

The different approaches of the two teams was nicely summed up on Board 9.



Kenichi Asaoka



Bd: 9  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ Q762  
 ♥ Q62  
 ♦ A63  
 ♣ 1065

West  
 ♠ KJ109  
 ♥ AK8  
 ♦ J9  
 ♣ AK43

East  
 ♠ A84  
 ♥ 74  
 ♦ Q10852  
 ♣ J97

South  
 ♠ 53  
 ♥ J10953  
 ♦ K74  
 ♣ Q82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♦(1)
Dbl.	2♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Multi			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Kikuchi passed the South hand and did not act at his second turn, letting Bertens play 3NT, making 11 tricks on a spade lead. Verhees opened a Multi 2♦ in third seat and got van Prooijen off to the essential heart lead. The best declarer can do is to duck, win the second heart, and go after diamonds. The defenders must let North take the first diamond (if they duck declarer can take nine tricks in the side-suits) and clear hearts.

West can guess spades, cross back to the ♣A and run the spades to squeeze South. An alternative approach would be to win the heart, guess spades at once, then go after clubs for three tricks—there are number of approaches and they all seem to work. Verhees short-circuited these concerns by being allowed to win the first heart and promptly shifting to spades. This dislodged dummy's entry but at the cost of clarifying the spade position and giving Asaoka a straightforward route to +600 by setting up clubs.

Where Michael Barel was declarer against GIBS, Takeshi Maeda led a heart in response to his partner's Multi 2♦. Barel ducked and won the second heart, then led a diamond up. Maeda took it and played a third heart, and Barel drove out the missing diamond honor, letting Hayashi cash his heart winners for down one.

Almost everyone else passed the South cards and ended up defending 3NT with partner leading a spade. Is there a message there? I'm not sure.

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ K1086  
 ♥ AQJ85  
 ♦ Q5  
 ♣ A7

West  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ K73  
 ♦ J1074  
 ♣ Q10654

East  
 ♠ A753  
 ♥ 942  
 ♦ AK86  
 ♣ J3

South  
 ♠ J942  
 ♥ 106  
 ♦ 932  
 ♣ K982

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		1♦	Pass
1NT	Dbl	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
		1♦	Pass
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

The advantage of playing a nebulous club is that opening 1♦ always delivers diamonds. On this deal Bakkeren could raise diamonds directly, giving Sakurai a problem; he settled for 3♥ as opposed to doubling, and there the matter rested. The defenders can arrange to cash the first six tricks, but only with the inspired lead of the ♠A. Bakkeren made a valiant try; he led a top diamond and then realized he needed extra spade tricks. But North's failure to double 3♦ persuaded him to underlead the ♠A at trick two; nice try, but no cigar.

In the other room van Prooijen had room to double 1NT, and when Verhees could not do more than bid 2♠ he was not good enough to make a try for game. An overtrick imp meant that SKOTII had got off the schneid, but they certainly needed more thrust. (And yes, I'm sure you can't believe I waited till board 10 to get that one in.)

The next deal saw Bertens with his finger on the pulse.

Bd: 11  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AJ74  
 ♥ 43  
 ♦ KQ4  
 ♣ Q1063

West  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ K109  
 ♦ A10653  
 ♣ J874

East  
 ♠ KQ8532  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ J872  
 ♣ 92

South  
 ♠ 109  
 ♥ QJ87652  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ AK5

Bd: 14  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AKQ5  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ 63  
 ♣ AQ10754

West  
 ♠ 83  
 ♥ AQ105  
 ♦ J10852  
 ♣ J2

East  
 ♠ 107  
 ♥ J864  
 ♦ AKQ4  
 ♣ K96

South  
 ♠ J9642  
 ♥ K972  
 ♦ 97  
 ♣ 83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♠(1)	2♠	Pass
3♦	DbI	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Relay

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
Pass	1♠	2♠	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♥	DbI	1♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	2♥	2♠
		All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
1♥	2♣	1♦	Pass
4♥	4♠	2♥	Pass
		All Pass	

Defending against 3NT after North had indicated his preparedness for a spade lead Bakkerens accurately fished out the 3rd/5th ♦7. Bertens correctly continued the attack on diamonds and declarer had only eight tricks. Things were more interesting in the other room, where the 1♠ response was artificial, and there was some confusion between E/W as to whether 2♠ was natural or artificial (it seems to be almost standard these days to play the bid as natural even when 1♠ shows spades). Verhees pulled the double of 3♦ to 3♥ but elected to sit for 3NT—a rather surprising choice to me. In a sense he had done remarkably well: 3NT would make on a spade lead, as we have seen, but at this table the auction was not one where Tada was going to do anything but lead a diamond. No swing; still 34-1, The Netherlands.

Our first statistical curiosity: not a single pair made a contract on this deal. 4♥ down one or two tricks (doubled and down 300 where the Godeds were defending) was the norm. Meanwhile, E/W attempted 4♠ a few times when South opened 4♥. Hiromu and Yoshie Nishida collected 800 against that contract for the best N/S result.

Then both tables had a chance to demonstrate their competitive judgment.

Bakkeren drove to 4♥ when he found the double fit, perhaps in an attempt to keep the spades out. No, you cannot stop Sakurai, you can only hope to contain him. His 4♠ bid (well judged, since 4♥ is going to come very close to making) bought a very suitable dummy. But when the club finesse lost he was down one. It was considerably easier for the Dutch where van Prooijen's double of 1♥ let Verhees bid spades voluntarily, and now van Prooijen was bidding 4♠ to make. No swing here and still 36-1 to The Netherlands.

Only one pair were allowed to make 4♥x; special kudos to Hideo Togawa of Charmant who achieved this feat against Mahaffey. As you can see, the trump position is such that even against best defense (three black-suit winners and a third spade for a ruff and discard) declarer ruffs in the East hand with the ♥6 and runs the ♥J, covered all around. Then a diamond to the East hand for the ♥8, again covered all around, allows a diamond back to the queen for a third and final trump finesse. Bravo!



Atsushi Kikuchi

Bd: 15  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ QJ  
 ♥ 87653  
 ♦ KQ93  
 ♣ 105

West  
 ♠ A5  
 ♥ J1092  
 ♦ A4  
 ♣ QJ973

East  
 ♠ 9862  
 ♥ KQ4  
 ♦ J105  
 ♣ AK4

South  
 ♠ K10743  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ 8762  
 ♣ 862

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
3♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Bertens-Bakkeren achieved another swing when their normal auction got them to 3NT the right way up, having bid spades to put North off the lead. (You can make 3NT by winning the first spade to leave the suit blocked, and probably should, but it would be an easy mistake to make not to do so.) In the other room Asaoka passed the West hand and now was prepared to play a partscore when Tada passed the response of 1♥ to 1♣. Verhees balanced with 1♠ and Asaoka jumped to 3♣ to end the auction. It was 43-1 now.

Only one West went down in 3NT on a spade lead; four Easts fell from grace. Of course if the five-card spade suit is not with the ♥A you want to duck the first trick, so it really depends on the auction as to how you should play it.



Takehiko Tada

Bd: 16  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ QJ107  
 ♥ A7  
 ♦ 9864  
 ♣ 1043

West  
 ♠ A84  
 ♥ K109853  
 ♦ 1053  
 ♣ A

East  
 ♠ K963  
 ♥ 62  
 ♦ AQ  
 ♣ KJ652

South  
 ♠ 52  
 ♥ QJ4  
 ♦ KJ72  
 ♣ Q987

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT(1)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Choice of games

Board 16 saw another chance to score imps for the Japanese team. Defending 4♥ (the 3NT bid showed heart tolerance) Sakurai led a diamond to the queen and king. Back came a low heart and declarer decided his best shot to make was to find the ♥A inside. Reasonable enough but unsuccessful today.

The damage was entirely assuaged when in the other room Tada decided not to drive to game facing a 1♥ opening—a strange decision. Verhees did remarkably well, to my mind, to lead a club and not a diamond. That had the effect of dislodging an entry from dummy without costing a trick. Tada should perhaps have won and led a low heart from dummy but he tried a spade; van Prooijen won the queen and continued with the ♣10. Declarer ducked (concealing the two) but when Verhees followed with the eight van Prooijen worked out the position and shifted to the ♦8 to the queen and king. Now Verhees quite reasonably shifted to a top heart, though maybe a small heart is a better play. Had declarer ducked, the defenders would have needed to revert to diamonds, but he covered and now a diamond through ensured one spade, two hearts, three diamonds, and a club. 3 imps to The Netherlands, leading 46-1.

Incidentally, the field was split nearly 50-50 between those making game, and those going down.

On this next deal SCOTII finally got on the score board in a most unlikely fashion: playing the same strain in both rooms is rarely a good decision, although notrump at a low level is the most likely way for such a decision not to cost.

Bd: 18  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ K1073  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ 1085  
 ♣ J10542

West  
 ♠ 96542  
 ♥ QJ96  
 ♦ K632  
 ♣ ---

East  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ K853  
 ♦ AQ4  
 ♣ A9863

South  
 ♠ AQJ  
 ♥ A742  
 ♦ J97  
 ♣ KQ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Dbl
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
		1♣	1NT

All Pass

What happened was that Verhees could (did) not overcall 1♣ with 1NT and an uncontrolled auction by the Japanese got them to 2NT. The unfortunate lead by Verhees of the unbid suit let Tada take eight tricks. Meanwhile, Kikuchi in 1NT was favored with a fourth-highest spade lead by Bertens and he could now clear the clubs and set up +120 the “other” way. Whoever said leading to notrump partscores was the hardest thing to do at bridge was right. (Well, strictly speaking, leading *accurately* is the hard thing.)



Tsuneo Sakurai

Bd: 19  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ KJ1083  
 ♥ 104  
 ♦ J1043  
 ♣ J8

West  
 ♠ A75  
 ♥ AQ2  
 ♦ 95  
 ♣ 109765

East  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ KJ9853  
 ♦ AK876  
 ♣ KQ

South  
 ♠ Q9642  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ Q2  
 ♣ A432

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
Pass	2♠	4♦	5♠
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The Japanese revival ended as soon as it had started. Bertens-Bakkeren used a tool that most modern pairs have in their bag (Leaping Michaels—known as Li Ping Michaels on the other side of the East China Sea). When the opponents seized all the space available, Bertens guessed to bid 5NT—pick-a-slam—and that got his side to 6♥. The cards cooperated better than could reasonably be expected and that was a quick 1430.

In the other room Asaoka followed a slightly cautious route to invite in hearts, and then when his partner made two slam tries he rejected both. I think when looking at two trump honors one has to make some sort of forward going move at some point.

Four E/W pairs went minus here (one in 6♥, one in 7♥, two in 5♦) but quite a few pairs defended spades. Two indomitable N/S pairs bid up to 6♠ for –1100. Well done Betty Tajiri-Etsuko Hasegawa and Yasuyoshi Toriyumi-Harue Iemori.



“My G-d, he pitched!?”

Bd: 20 North  
 Dir: West ♠ 3  
 Vul: Both ♥ 107653  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ AK1053

West  
 ♠ J8754  
 ♥ QJ42  
 ♦ Q62  
 ♣ 6

East  
 ♠ K92  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ AKJ104  
 ♣ J82

South  
 ♠ AQ106  
 ♥ 98  
 ♦ 973  
 ♣ Q974

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Asaoka</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Tada</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl(1)	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	3♣
3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

(1) Major-minor two-suiter

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sakurai</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Kikuchi</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT(1)	Pass	4♠	All Pass
(1) 5♠, 4♥			

On the final deal the Japanese again had some hope of a swing in their favor. Bakkeren reached 4♠ from the East seat on a heart lead. The right play now is truly unclear but he chose to ruff a club to dummy to play spades to his hand and now repeated club leads established a force for the defenders. Down one, but still a loss of 3 imps when Tada initially miscounted his points, attempted to catch up later, and ended in 5♦, down 200 on a club lead and spade shift.

Gerry Charney played 4♠ on a diamond lead, and immediately led a low trump from hand. When South followed small smoothly he decided to cover the six with the seven, and was immediately home in some comfort. South could force declarer twice when he got in with the ♠A and ♠Q but had to follow to three diamonds and thus could never score the small trump. He was one of only six declarers to bring home a game here. One of the other successful declarers was Yasuhiro Shimizu against the Yadlin brothers. Doron had opened 2♥ showing hearts and a minor, and that meant Israel, on lead to 3NT, had to select a minor. He guessed wrong when he led a diamond, and declarer had the first nine tricks instead of the defenders taking the first seven. Those who live by the sword...

The match ended with The Netherlands leading 62-7, 25-4 in VPs.

## Weighed in the Balance (and Found Wanting)

by Barry Rigal

Yet again with the *mea culpas*, you say? Yes, but this time it was an *interesting* mistake.

Dir: East ♠ 43  
 Vul: Both ♥ AKJ87  
 ♦ Q2  
 ♣ Q1093

♠ 10875  
 ♥ Q102  
 ♦ AK984  
 ♣ A

♠ AQJ962  
 ♥ 43  
 ♦ J53  
 ♣ 86

At both tables on this deal from the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams at the Fall 2006 NABC in Hawaii, West overcalled a weak 2♠ opening with 3♦

(not recommended for those with weak stomachs) and played there. Declarer at both tables went down 100 for a flat board.

I had my chances to be a hero. I led the ♥A and shifted to a spade to the king and ace. Back came a heart, and I cashed a third round of the suit for South to pitch the ♣8. At this point, I should have put on my counting hat. West almost certainly had four spades, three hearts, five diamonds and thus the singleton ♣A. So leading a club, as I did, accomplishes nothing. Best is to lead a fourth heart to let South pitch his second club. Declarer does best to ruff in dummy and pitch his ♣A, but when South ruffs the ♣K, all declarer can do is overruff and start a crossruff. North ruffs the third spade with the ♦Q and returns a trump, and now declarer has only seven tricks.

## Match Two: Fu-Zhao vs Geller

Fu-Zhao (Tadashi Teramoto, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata, Fu Zhong, Zhao Jie), having dispatched their first-round opponents with the only true Round-One blitz (25-0), found themselves matched in Round Two against Geller (Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Hiroya Abe, Chieko Yamazaki), who had achieved the second most lopsided Round One win by a score of 25-2.

The match began with Fu-Zhao catching Geller-Ogihara speeding and lowering the boom.

Bd: 1            North  
 Dlr: North     ♠ A5  
 Vul: None      ♥ J107432  
                    ♦ KQ7  
                    ♣ 54

<p>West          ♠ J3          ♥ KQ          ♦ J10983          ♣ A976</p>	<p>East          ♠ KQ108          ♥ A9865          ♦ 64          ♣ K10</p>
<p>South          ♠ 97642          ♥ ---          ♦ A52          ♣ QJ832</p>	

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

(1) Flannery: 11-15 HCP, 4♠+5♥

Geller's 3♥ was aggressive though not unreasonable, while if Ogihara's hand is a game acceptance one can only wonder what a minimum 2♥ opener looks like. Having resisted opening a Multi 2♦ at his first turn, Fu took exception to E/W's decision to play game in his "best" suit and led the ♦K, switching to a trump at trick two as Zhao pitched a discouraging ♠6. Geller won in hand, led the ♠J to Fu's ace, won the trump return, and played a second diamond. Fu rose with the queen and led the ♥J to dummy's ace. Geller cashed two high spades but Fu ruffed, cashed the ♥10, and led a third diamond to promote his last trump for down three, +500 for N/S.

The auction in the Closed Room was shorter but not as sweet for N/S when Abe chose a bad time to open 2♥, all pass. The defense was unerring, declarer scoring only the four tricks he was entitled to (one spade, two diamonds and a trump) for down four, -200 for N/S. 12 imps to Fu-Zhao.

Bd: 2            North  
 Dlr: East      ♠ KQ7  
 Vul: N/S        ♥ AQ  
                    ♦ K732  
                    ♣ Q842

<p>West          ♠ J10865          ♥ 107          ♦ 95          ♣ AK63</p>	<p>East          ♠ A94          ♥ 865          ♦ AJ864          ♣ 107</p>
<p>South          ♠ 32          ♥ KJ9432          ♦ Q10          ♣ J95</p>	

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
		Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣(2)
Dbl	3♥	All Pass	

(1) Multi: a weak 2♥ or 2♠  
 (2) Weak 2♥, minimum

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both sides managed to find their heart fit, but Fu-Zhao settled for a partscore—perhaps aided by Geller's double of 3♣—while Abe-Yamazaki bid the aggressive game, which was not so bad a contract as unlucky. In the Open Room Ogihara led the ♣10, won the ♠J return (♠Q, ♠A, ♠2), and continued with a second club to obtain her ruff. At trick five she cashed her ♦A and 3♥ was down one, -100 for N/S.

In the Closed Room the defense was effectively the same and 4♥ ended down two, -200 for N/S; 3 more imps to Fu-Zhao, leading now 15-0.

While 4♥ failed every time it was bid, 3NT made five of the seven times it was bid (once with an overtrick).



"Really, it won't bite."

Board 5 produced the third swing of the match.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dir: North ♠ 96  
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q72  
 ♦ AKJ74  
 ♣ 843

West  
 ♠ AK8542  
 ♥ AJ1043  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ Q

East  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ Q1053  
 ♣ AJ7652

South  
 ♠ QJ103  
 ♥ K96  
 ♦ 862  
 ♣ K109

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Geller's 3♥ bid in the Open Room launched his side into the poor 4♠ game and when he could not avoid five losers (in this case two spades, one heart and two diamonds) he was down two, +100 for N/S.

In the Closed Room Yamada chose a more sensible 2♥ rebid and Hirata wisely let him play there. Abe led the ♦K and at trick two switched to a trump: five, nine, jack. Yamada played ♠A, spade ruff, diamond ruff, ♥A, and ♠K as Abe ruffed with the ♥Q. The low club return was ducked to Yamazaki's king, and when South cashed the ♠Q Yamada claimed eight tricks for +110. 5 imps to Fu-Zhao, leading now 20-0.



Chieko Yamazaki



Hiroya Abe

Bd: 6 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 2  
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQ109853  
 ♦ AQ105  
 ♣ 10

West  
 ♠ 85  
 ♥ KJ762  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ KQ942

East  
 ♠ QJ643  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ KJ83  
 ♣ J75

South  
 ♠ AK1097  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ 9742  
 ♣ A863

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

This board proved difficult all around the room. Fu was able to bid and rebid his hearts and get to the right strain at once. You can hardly blame Ogihara for leading the aggressive diamond rather than the passive club; it is not as if a club is guaranteed to be safe either. Fu won the first trick cheaply and drove out a top trump, took the club return to ruff a club to hand, drove out the other high trump, and all the defenders got was one more diamond trick.

In the other room Yamazaki could bid clubs at his second turn without showing extras; whether that was wise is another matter. Abe opted to bid a shape-showing 3♦, and now could not play 4♥. To add insult to injury Hirata doubled 5♦ and led a club. Declarer cashed the black-suit winners at once and might have done well enough had he not drawn any trumps at all. Best defense is for East to ruff high at every chance he gets, in order to play back a trump, and this holds declarer to ten tricks. In fact, Abe played a round of trumps prematurely and thus held himself to nine tricks. That was 12 imps to Fu-Zhao, ahead 32-0.

Bd: 7  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ K105  
 ♥ 98742  
 ♦ AKQ4  
 ♣ K

West  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ J105  
 ♦ 1052  
 ♣ J98642

East  
 ♠ AQ874  
 ♥ Q6  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A10753

South  
 ♠ J632  
 ♥ AK3  
 ♦ 98763  
 ♣ Q

Open Room

<b>West</b> <i>Geller</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Fu</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Ogihara</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Zhao</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
All Pass			3NT

Closed Room

<b>West</b> <i>Yamada</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Abe</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Hirata</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Yamazaki</i>
Pass	1♥	2♥	3♥
All Pass			

As if unprepared to accept prosperity, Fu returned some of those imps at once. Abe must have felt that making 3♥ would not be so terrible since it appeared that 4♥ should always go down (if the defenders kick off with the ♦J declarer needs to draw two rounds of trumps at once, and that lets West ruff in on the diamonds for the spade shift). However, in the other room Fu missorted his hand and had a small heart in with his clubs. He opened 1NT and reached 3NT with the weakest combined holding we've ever seen in a minor suit for that contract. Although he avoided the ultimate embarrassment of having both honors fall under the ace, he could take only seven tricks when West discarded correctly. Of course he knew North was four-one in the minors and could work out that he had to be three-five in the majors (or he would have converted to 4♠). 9 imps to Geller, down 32-9.



Setsuko Ogihara

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 9854  
 ♥ A8632  
 ♦ A53  
 ♣ J

West  
 ♠ 1072  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ Q1076  
 ♣ AQ942

East  
 ♠ AQ3  
 ♥ QJ7  
 ♦ J982  
 ♣ K75

South  
 ♠ KJ6  
 ♥ 10954  
 ♦ K4  
 ♣ 10863

Open Room

<b>West</b> <i>Geller</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Fu</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Ogihara</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Zhao</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

<b>West</b> <i>Yamada</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Abe</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Hirata</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Yamazaki</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♣(Fit)	3♥	All Pass	

Abe also earned his imps on this deal when he heard his opponents produce a fit-jump auction to 3♣. With the perfect minor-suit pattern he stuck his neck out with 3♥ and bought the contract, bringing home +140 when he played the spades correctly. In the Closed Room Fu did not intervene after an inverted minor-raise by Geller, so Ogihara bought the deal at 2♦, making +130. 7 more imps to Geller, trailing now by only 16 at 32-16.

The next board almost yielded a big return for Geller:

Bd: 9  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 97  
 ♥ 108743  
 ♦ AQ7  
 ♣ 1092

West  
 ♠ K3  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ J1098532  
 ♣ Q76

East  
 ♠ J652  
 ♥ AJ962  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ J54

South  
 ♠ AQ1084  
 ♥ KQ  
 ♦ K4  
 ♣ AK83



Open Room  
**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**  
*Geller*      *Fu*      *Ogihara*      *Zhao*  
                 Pass      Pass      2NT  
 Pass      3♦(♥)      Pass      3NT(1)  
 All Pass  
 (1) 5♠+2♥

Closed Room  
**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**  
*Yamada*      *Abe*      *Hirata*      *Yamazaki*  
                 Pass      Pass      1♠  
 Pass      1NT      Pass      3NT  
 All Pass

Neither auction would win prizes for sophistication but the difference was that one put the seven-card diamond suit on lead and one put the five-card heart suit on lead. In the Closed Room Abe had it easy on the heart lead when he guessed well to lead a low spade from dummy at trick two. Yamada ducked but Abe guessed spades because of the entry problems involved in finessing and had +430. It was far tougher in the other room. Geller, in no mood to make things easy on Zhao, led the ♦5 and now the entry situation was precarious. If Zhao wins in dummy in order to lead spades toward the ace-queen fifth in his hand the diamonds are blocked and declarer may not be able to cash his third trick in the suit. Zhao won the diamond in hand, led a second diamond to dummy, East erring by pitching a club, and passed the ♠7 to West's king. Geller switched to a heart to the ace and the heart return from Ogihara put Zhao back in hand. Zhao cashed the ♠AQ and when the jack failed to appear he cashed the ♣AK and exited with a spade. East had to concede a heart to dummy while at the same time providing an entry to the previously stranded, and now game-going, ♦A. Plus 400 was a moral victory for Fu-Zhao although Geller gained an imp, reducing the deficit to 32-17.

Bd: 10      North  
 Dlr: East      ♠ QJ10542  
 Vul: Both      ♥ K95  
                     ♦ 954  
                     ♣ 4

<b>West</b> ♠ --- ♥ 4 ♦ AK10872 ♣ J109753	<b>East</b> ♠ A96 ♥ A862 ♦ 6 ♣ KQ862
<b>South</b> ♠ K873 ♥ QJ1073 ♦ QJ3 ♣ A	

Open Room  
**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**  
*Geller*      *Fu*      *Ogihara*      *Zhao*  
                 Pass      Pass      1♣      1♥  
 3♥(1)      Dbl      4♦(2)      4♥  
 6♣      All Pass  
 (1) Splinter  
 (2) RKCB(♣)

Closed Room  
**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**  
*Yamada*      *Abe*      *Hirata*      *Yamazaki*  
                 Pass      Pass      1♣      1♥  
 3♦(1)      3♥      3♠      Pass  
 4♥      Dbl      Rdbl      Pass  
 4♠      Pass      4NT      Pass  
 6♣      Pass      Pass      Dbl  
 All Pass  
 (1) Fit-showing

Both E/W pairs handled a difficult slam here with aplomb. Yamada made a fit-showing jump over the 1♥ intervention (pause for applause from the bulletin staff) while Geller chose to splinter in support of clubs. Both Wests then judged accurately to simply jump to slam when their partners rolled out their ace-asking tool, achieving par in the Open Room and beating par in the Closed Room when Yamada-Hirata were doubled. Minus 1370 and +1540 gave Fu-Zhao another 5 imps, their first gain in four boards, increasing their lead to 20 imps at 37-17.

One E/W pair (no names) appears to have had a slight bidding misunderstanding on this deal, and West ended up declaring 4♠ in his zero-three fit. The last time we saw this sort of thing happen was many years ago on the final board of a North American Championship. The declarer, a current member of the ACBL Hall of Fame, was so upset that his partner passed him in a cue bid that as he played each card, instead of placing it on the table, he tore it in half and tossed it on the floor. A TD came over after the hand and asked what had happened. The player replied, "I dropped them and they broke."

Board 11 was pushed in heart partials both sides making +140. Then came another double-digit swing.



Robert Geller

Bd: 12 North  
 Dir: West ♠ KQ9873  
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKJ6  
 ♦ 97  
 ♣ 2

West  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ 1074  
 ♦ A102  
 ♣ J108643

East  
 ♠ 62  
 ♥ Q985  
 ♦ KJ83  
 ♣ A95

South  
 ♠ AJ105  
 ♥ 32  
 ♦ Q654  
 ♣ KQ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT(1)
Pass	3♣(2)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

(1) Jacoby

(2) Singleton ♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

In the Closed Room Yamazaki clearly thought he had the right hand to bid 2♦, then jump to 4♠ to show a minimum. Equally clearly, Abe was expecting better diamonds for this sequence and thought he was safe at the five level. He must have been both hurt and surprised by the dummy, and the defenders made no mistake. Hirata led a diamond, Yamazaki winning the ace and returning the suit. Hirata then worked out that it was safe to cash the ♣A after the Blackwood sequence and the contract was down one, -100.

In the Open Room Fu-Zhao's auction revealed the misfit when Fu showed his short clubs in response to the artificial 2NT bid and Zhao quickly signed off in game. To add insult to injury when Fu played a club toward dummy's KQ7 later in the hand Ogihara ducked, and Fu came home with eleven tricks for +650; 13 imps to Fu-Zhao. Fu-Zhao had regained all of their earlier lead and were back in front by 50-17.

Of the three other pairs in 5♠, two made it. One pair played 6♠ down two. And of the 20 other pairs who played in 4♠, 19 made five while one made six.

Bd: 13 North  
 Dir: North ♠ A72  
 Vul: Both ♥ A3  
 ♦ QJ109  
 ♣ K1093

West  
 ♠ QJ654  
 ♥ K9  
 ♦ AK8  
 ♣ AQ2

East  
 ♠ 109  
 ♥ 87652  
 ♦ 532  
 ♣ 854

South  
 ♠ K83  
 ♥ QJ104  
 ♦ 764  
 ♣ J76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dbl	1NT	All Pass	

This deal may look like an unremarkable hand but as simple as the auctions might appear, there are a number of partnership issues present. First, as West would you double 1♥ or overcall 1♠? As North would you bid 1NT over either or both actions by West? And as South, if the auction comes back to you at 1♠ would you bid 1NT or pass? So many questions, so little time. As you can see, what happened in the Open Room was that Geller bid 1♠, no doubt expecting more bidding but not especially disappointed when there was none. Fu had an anti-positional holding to bid 1NT while Zhao knew that his side might not have the balance of high-cards, and so sold out cheaply. After the ♦Q lead Geller won in hand and led a trump to the ten and king. Zhao erred by continuing diamonds (a heart or club shift would suffice at this point). Geller won, drove out the ♠A, and Fu cashed the third diamond, then led a fourth diamond, Geller pitching a club when Zhao missed his last chance to set the hand by ruffing his partner's winner to take him off the endplay. Zhao now exited with a club so declarer could claim +80, but even if he had exited with a trump Geller would simply have run trumps and strip-squeezed Fu in the four-card ending.

In the Closed Room Abe rebid 1NT over Yamada's double with both black suits under control, and a maximum, despite his anti-positional spade holding. On a club lead he used dummy's spade entry to play clubs and the defenders took their three minor-suit

winners and three spades, but that was it. 5 imps to Geller, reducing Fu-Zhao's lead to 50-22.

Bd: 14 North  
 Dir: East ♠ A1063  
 Vul: None ♥ 964  
 ♦ QJ8  
 ♣ K74

West  
 ♠ 984  
 ♥ J853  
 ♦ 765  
 ♣ A95

East  
 ♠ KQ  
 ♥ AQ7  
 ♦ AK42  
 ♣ 10632

South  
 ♠ J752  
 ♥ K102  
 ♦ 1093  
 ♣ QJ8

Open Room  
**West North East South**  
*Geller Fu Ogihara Zhao*  
 1♥ Pass 2NT All Pass

Closed Room  
**West North East South**  
*Yamada Abe Hirata Yamazaki*  
 1NT All Pass

If you reach the two level on deals such as this you had better be prepared to play the hand very well—or at least be lucky. In the Open Room Ogihara did both. Zhao led the ♦9 to the jack and Ogihara ducked, Fu returning the ♦8 to Ogihara's ace. Next Ogihara led the ♥Q, ducked all around, and continued with ace and a third heart. In with the ♥K Zhao could find nothing better to do than continue the diamond attack but when the suit split three-three Ogihara was presented with an unexpected third diamond trick. She had then only to play out a top spade to come home with eight tricks; +120.

In the Closed Room Yamazaki led the ♠2 against Hirata's surprisingly conservative 1NT. Abe won the ace and returned the suit, setting up two additional tricks for the defense. Hirata then tried the ♥Q, but Yamazaki won the king, cashed the ♠J, and led a third spade to Abe's ten, Hirata pitching two clubs. Now the defense switched accurately to clubs and Hirata could only take seven tricks for +90; 1 imp to Geller, trailing now 50-23.



"I'm getting a wire."

After both sides went one light in 1NT on Board 15...

Bd: 16 North  
 Dir: West ♠ Q3  
 Vul: E/W ♥ J10983  
 ♦ 65  
 ♣ KQ43

West  
 ♠ A2  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ AQJ9432  
 ♣ 1052

East  
 ♠ K107  
 ♥ 54  
 ♦ K10  
 ♣ AJ9876

South  
 ♠ J98654  
 ♥ KQ762  
 ♦ 87  
 ♣ ---

Open Room  
**West North East South**  
*Geller Fu Ogihara Zhao*  
 1♦ Pass 2♣ 2♦  
 3♦ 4♥ Pass Pass  
 6♦ Pass Pass Dbl  
 All Pass

Closed Room  
**West North East South**  
*Yamada Abe Hirata Yamazaki*  
 1♦ 1♥ 2♣ 4♥  
 4NT Pass 5♣ 5♥  
 Dbl All Pass

On this deal 25 imps changed hands in rather random fashion: Geller might, we suppose, have offered a choice of slams with 5NT over 4♥ but it is not clear which slam Ogihara would have settled for. As it is, only the fact that South must be the defender with the possible ruff might make one consider playing clubs. When Geller opted for 6♦ in the Open Room Zhao could double for the obvious Lightner club lead, and that was down one; -200.

In the Closed Room Yamada's 4NT must have asked Hirata to choose a minor, but when Yamazaki competed with 5♥ Yamada saw his chance for a big penalty and doubled. Unfortunately, the penalty was not as great as the bonus for 6♣ making. Fortunately, it was better than the penalty E/W would have paid for playing 6♦x. The defense took the first five tricks for +500, and were rewarded with a 12-imp gain. Fu-Zhao now led 62-23.

We should note that Geller was by no means alone here. Five other Wests suffered the same fate in 6♦x, while one declarer went down two on a similar auction (Armstrong as South having come in at his first turn with 2NT for the majors) when Paul Hackett was uncharitable enough to lead a low club as North.

Yes, maybe declarer should have got it right to get out for down one but you can surely understand him flying with the ace. That was 500 to Not the Empire.

Bd: 17  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AJ7  
 ♥ KQ52  
 ♦ 74  
 ♣ A1064

West	East
♠ KQ83	♠ 52
♥ 843	♥ A7
♦ K6	♦ AQJ1083
♣ Q973	♣ J52

South  
 ♠ 10964  
 ♥ J1096  
 ♦ 952  
 ♣ K8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Zhao</i>
	1♣	1♦	Dbl
2♦	2♥	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
	1♣	1♦	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Against Ogihara's 3♦ contract Zhao led a heart to the ace and Ogihara drew four rounds of trump, then led a spade to the king and ace. Fu continued hearts, the third round ruffed by Ogihara who had to decide what to pitch from dummy: a spade or a second club. She pitched a spade, then played a spade to the queen and ruffed the third spade. The defense had the rest (either three clubs or two clubs and a spade) and declarer finished one down; -50.

In the Closed Room Abe led the ♣4 against 1NT. Yamazaki won the king and shifted correctly to the ♥J, ducked, but then erred by leading a spade to the king and ace. Abe switched back to a low heart but Yamada cashed his eight tricks (six diamonds, one heart and one spade) for +120. That was 5 imps to Fu-Zhao, increasing their lead to 67-23.

The final three deals saw two overtrick imps change hands and one push, so the final difference remained at 44 imps in favor of Fu-Zhao, 68-24.

## Match Three: Israel versus Yoi Returns

by Barry Rigal

The match started badly for the commentators, who need action in the same way carbon-based life forms need oxygen to survive. Both tables started by reaching a delicate game, where the cards lay spectacularly well for declarer. Israel Yadlin followed a slightly more dangerous approach and reaped an extra overtrick for his greed. The same pattern was reproduced on deal two; this time an easy E/W game with the cards lying well enough to provide no story.

Bd: 3  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AQ7542  
 ♥ K1065  
 ♦ J10  
 ♣ 7

West	East
♠ 106	♠ K
♥ A	♥ J8732
♦ A732	♦ KQ864
♣ KJ9842	♣ A6

South  
 ♠ J983  
 ♥ Q94  
 ♦ 95  
 ♣ Q1053

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
			Pass
1♣	1♠	2♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	Dbl	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

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

The third board, though, has plenty to discuss. How are E/W supposed to reach 6♦ in the face of violent spade bidding from the opponents? Barel-Campanile had an auction that was all about finding the best game. 5♦ made +620 in peace and quiet; would it be enough? Well, after the same start Yokoi elected to repeat his clubs and that got him to 5♣... and then a moment later to 5♣ doubled. Yokoi had a chance to retreat to 5♦ but did not avail himself of it, and now it was up to the defenders to lead and continue

spades. That was what Doron Yadlin did, and there was no trump coup to allow declarer to avoid losing two trumps. Down 200 meant 13 imps to Israel and a 14-0 lead.

Only Vytautas Vainikonis-Wojtek Olanski and Makiko Hayashi-Ayako Matsubara managed to play 6♦ here, on auctions where East bid both red suits and West raised 5♦ to 6♦.

Bd: 4 North  
 Dir: West ♠ J10  
 Vul: Both ♥ 5  
 ♦ QJ87653  
 ♣ A104

West  
 ♠ A84  
 ♥ A10974  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ KJ87

East  
 ♠ K632  
 ♥ J863  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ 652

South  
 ♠ Q975  
 ♥ KQ2  
 ♦ K92  
 ♣ Q93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
1♥	Pass	3♣(1)	Pass
3♦(2)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Bergen: Mixed Raise with 4 hearts

(2) Game-try

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
1♥	3♦	3♥	All Pass

On this deal Barel was faced with the lead of the ♠J in 3♥. It was inconvenient to win ♠K and take a heart finesse since North might win and lead a club to the ace, allowing the ♠A to be ruffed out. So Barel won in hand and laid down the ♥A and now lost two hearts, two clubs and a spade. Not a bad position for Japan, but alas for them, both Yokoi and Furuta took an overbid after a Bergen 3♣ (a mixed raise, 6-9 HCP) response by Furuta. Yokoi tried for game, Furuta accepted. On a spade lead Yokoi followed the same approach as Barel; with N/S silent that was completely understandable. But it simply led to a loss of 3 imps for the extra undertrick. Israel led 17-0.

**If the Energizer Bunny were arrested, would he be charged with battery?**

Bd: 5 North  
 Dir: North ♠ A73  
 Vul: N/S ♥ 6  
 ♦ KJ84  
 ♣ K10532

West  
 ♠ KJ10542  
 ♥ KQ75  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ 4

East  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ J98432  
 ♦ 653  
 ♣ 976

South  
 ♠ Q86  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ Q972  
 ♣ AQJ8

Open Room

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

(1) Multi

(2) Bid the suit below your long suit

Closed Room

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

(1) Inverted

Board 5 was a tough problem for N/S. You want to avoid the club games, which might only be makeable from the South side by playing East for a singleton spade (only van Prooijen-Verhees managed this feat). 5♦ by North allows the defenders to lead spades and set up a trick and a ruff in that suit, so maybe the only straightforward game contract is to declare 5♦ from the South seat. Of course 3NT goes down on heart leads, so simply going plus as N/S looks hard. Ino-Imakura found a way to do it when they took a slow enough route to game to make Barel think their spade stop was not solid enough. He led the intellectual ♠K against 3NT, resulting in 11 tricks for Yokoi.

That turned out to be a major goal for the home team, especially since in the other room Furuta (fresh from his success in the USA where he had become the first Japanese player to win a major national title, the Swiss at San Francisco last fall) opened a Multi 2♦, and Yokoi got to 4♥ from the West seat. The defenders at least got around to diamonds early enough to set the game, but it was still 12 imps for Yokoi, trailing now 17-12.

Bd: 6  
Dir: East  
Vul: E/W

North	♠ K8
	♥ Q93
	♦ J
	♣ AQJ8532

West	♠ 962	East	♠ J3
	♥ 108742		♥ AKJ6
	♦ 73		♦ KQ1094
	♣ 1076		♣ 94

South	♠ AQ10754
	♥ 5
	♦ A8652
	♣ K

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
		1♦	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		1♦	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The next deal also presented several problems for N/S. You might take the first 13 tricks in 4♠ on a non-club lead, but on a club lead the entries are rather tangled. By contrast, 6♣ has fewer entry problems; on a spade lead the diamond ruff to hand is the side-entry, although two rounds of hearts leaves you needing a three-two club break. Both tables played 4♠ though. On a diamond lead Imakura unblocked clubs and played to ruff diamonds in dummy. That held him to ten tricks but no swing since Israel duplicated that line. Still 17-12.

Bd: 7  
Dir: South  
Vul: Both

North	♠ 10432
	♥ KQ985
	♦ K5
	♣ KQ

West	♠ AKQJ9	East	♠ 7
	♥ 106		♥ AJ743
	♦ J93		♦ Q2
	♣ J94		♣ A8752

South	♠ 865
	♥ 2
	♦ A108764
	♣ 1063

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
			Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

This deal will have the purists in ecstasy. The world at large does not need to hear the experts preaching the virtues of sound two-level overcalls; we all know it and yet we see bids like Ino's 2♥ perpetrated all the time. It's nice to see them punished 'pour encourager les autres'. Barel, having opened, felt obliged to double in the balancing seat, Campanile was even more charmed to pass. The defenders cashed three spades, Campanile pitching diamonds, and now Barel shifted to a low heart to prevent the ruff in dummy—and East ducked the king. Declarer had his first trick, but Campanile ruffed the ♦K and played ace and another club. At this point the defenders had five tricks in the bag. They were also sure of three more trump tricks, and eventually the fourth spade winner. Since E/W had done well enough in the other room just to find their making game and collect 600, the damage was a mere 11 imps. Israel led 28-12.

Incidentally, a list of the players who overcalled 2♥ will be made available unless the bulletin staff receive the usual bribes.

Bd: 8  
Dir: West  
Vul: None

North	♠ 109543
	♥ 752
	♦ 3
	♣ QJ63

West	♠ AQ8	East	♠ J72
	♥ A964		♥ QJ
	♦ Q865		♦ K94
	♣ 54		♣ K10872

South	♠ K6
	♥ K1083
	♦ AJ1072
	♣ A9

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

The next board saw the Japanese judge better on defense and declarer play. Both Souths sensibly stayed mum when the opponents showed values and bid their longest suit. But whereas Israel Yadlin led a fourth-highest diamond, Imakura led a heart. Furuta won the diamond lead in hand, advanced the ♠Q and ducked it; Israel played ace and another diamond and now Furuta cashed out via the spade finesse for +120.

Campanile won the heart lead in hand and led a low diamond to the queen and another diamond...oops. Imakura ran the diamonds, then exited with the ♥K and had seven winners. It was 17-32 to Israel now.

Bd: 9            North  
 Dir: North     ♠ KJ  
 Vul: E/W        ♥ Q1086  
                   ♦ K9864  
                   ♣ Q4

West  
 ♠ A1076532  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ 72  
 ♣ AK93

East  
 ♠ Q94  
 ♥ J7  
 ♦ AQJ53  
 ♣ 876

South  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ AK95432  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ J1052

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
	Pass	Pass	4♥
4♠	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	1NT	Pass	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dbl	Pass	5♠	All Pass

The next deal saw Ino open a mini notrump. Imakura bounced to 4♥ and was doubtless more hurt than surprised to see a 4♠ bid on his left. He tried 5♥, Barel doubled to show he had a serious 4♠ bid, and Campanile accurately bid 5♠, where Barel collected +650 in the fulness of time.

In the other room Doron Yadlin had no opening bid for the North cards and when Israel opened 4♥ and Yokoi overcalled 4♠ Furuta felt he had enough to bid 5♠ (not in my book, but who wants to read that?). Yokoi could hardly pass with a heart void, since this auction traditionally demands a continuation with a heart control of any sort, so he bid 6♠. On a heart

lead Yokoi did his best, taking an early diamond finesse, eliminating hearts, and trying to set up diamonds. But the five-one break was just too much; South kept clubs, North kept diamonds. Down one meant 13 more imps to Israel, up 41-17.

Bd: 11            North  
 Dir: South       ♠ A8  
 Vul: None        ♥ 93  
                   ♦ 9862  
                   ♣ A10953

West  
 ♠ J106  
 ♥ AK10854  
 ♦ A105  
 ♣ 7

East  
 ♠ Q9542  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ QJ864

South  
 ♠ K73  
 ♥ QJ2  
 ♦ KQ743  
 ♣ K2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
			1♦
1♥	2♦	Dbl	3♦
3♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

Two deals later Yokoi was faced with a delicate partscore. In 3♥ on a diamond lead he could win and ruff a diamond but would then have no re-entry to hand. Perhaps the right play is a low spade or the ♠10 from hand, but since he did not know who had the spade length, leading the jack was hardly unreasonable. The defenders took their spade ruff and played a second diamond; declarer *still* had no re-entry to hand after ruffing. He did the best he could by leading a fourth spade and pitching a club. North could ruff with his last trump but had to allow declarer to ruff his third diamond in dummy for down one when there was a trump loser at the end.

In a curious echo of the play from the other room (where Yokoi had gone down by losing three trump tricks missing queen-jack-fifth) Imakura was allowed to play 3♦; and *he* might have gone down after three rounds of hearts by losing three trump tricks despite missing only four trumps to the ace-jack-ten. However, Barel led a top heart and shifted to the ♠J. Imakura won in dummy to play a trump and the

promotion had vanished. It was only a small swing (2 imps to Yokoi instead of 3 imps the other way) but it would surely have been worth twice as much for the irritation factor. Israel led 41-19.

Bd: 13  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ A1074  
 ♥ 9543  
 ♦ AQ  
 ♣ A105

West  
 ♠ KQJ5  
 ♥ A72  
 ♦ 962  
 ♣ 876

East  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ J10754  
 ♣ KQJ942

South  
 ♠ 9863  
 ♥ KQ1086  
 ♦ K83  
 ♣ 3

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

And talking of irritation factors, do you know about TTASL? This stands for Teach Them A Sharp Lesson and was originally established at the Young Chelsea Club in London 20 years ago. The rule is that if the opponents balance against your partscore you must bid game or double them. I had not realized that Israel Yadlin was a paid-up member of the club. As you can see, after being prepared to play 2♥ he jumped to 4♥ at his next turn. This was only worth a flat board, since in the other room imakura had made a try as South at his second turn to speak; but again the irritation factor of discovering that you have balanced your opponents into game cannot be overestimated. Still a 21 imp lead for Israel.



"I heard that remark!"

Bd: 14  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ 1062  
 ♦ A10865  
 ♣ Q875

West  
 ♠ AKJ6  
 ♥ KJ4  
 ♦ KQ973  
 ♣ 3

East  
 ♠ Q9754  
 ♥ 8753  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ 1064

South  
 ♠ 1032  
 ♥ AQ9  
 ♦ J2  
 ♣ AKJ92

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
		Pass	1NT
Dbl	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		Pass	1♣
Dbl	1♦	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Board 14 saw Imakura open 1♣ in a position where his side was playing a mini notrump. After his 1NT rebid, should Campanile have balanced with 2♠? Put us amongst the bidders here. The defenders cashed the first five spades against 1NT and had to shift to a diamond to break up the squeeze for the overtrick, but failed to do so. In the other room Furuta ran from 1NTx to 2♠ and Yokoi gave him 4♠—after all, what else could he do? Best defense is to keep leading minor suits to eventually promote the ♠10; but Israel Yadlin cashed a top club and shifted to a trump. Of course declarer did not know about the foul diamond split. He won in hand and played on diamonds instead of hearts. Perhaps with that dummy he should have known the ♥AQ were right, else South would have shifted to one; so the ♦A must be wrong. Anyway, back came a diamond instead of a club and now Furuta changed tack, ruffing in hand and playing a heart up. From that point on he could no longer be defeated. 11 huge imps to Yokoi, down 30-42.



Spidey has nothing on me.



Bd: 15 North  
 Dir: South ♠ A8  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K986  
 ♦ Q10875  
 ♣ A6

West  
 ♠ K95  
 ♥ AQJ102  
 ♦ A64  
 ♣ 84

East  
 ♠ Q764  
 ♥ 753  
 ♦ J93  
 ♣ J32

South  
 ♠ J1032  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ K2  
 ♣ KQ10975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	2♣
Dbl(1)	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The action continued as both Easts electing to try to steal the candy from their opponents by responding to a 1♥ opening at favorable vulnerability. Yokoi heard his partner bid 1♠ and elected to rebid 1NT (all together now: Ugggh!), then converted 2♥ to 2♠. Neither opponent had anything to say, at any point and yes, you could reasonably ask where Israel Yadlin was during this auction. 2♠ played rather less than well; in fact four down for -200 was the result.

But in the other room once Imakura came into the auction Barel doubled for takeout and Ino removed 2♥ to 3NT, sounding like a man with a heart stack. When Barel did not double (would that not have called for a heart lead?) Campanile led a spade. Charmed, declarer drove out the ♦A, won the shift to the ♥Q, and now only had to decide whether to take a club finesse or play for the drop. He played for the drop, and was happy to find that he could not go wrong whatever he did. The 9imps for Yoi meant that suddenly it was 42-39 to Israel.

Elsewhere 3NT was attempted many times but was only successful at two other tables. Hiroyuki Noda and Eiji Otaka of Japan Open brought home the game, as did Justin Howard and Brian Callaghan for Vega\*.

Bd: 16 North  
 Dir: West ♠ A76  
 Vul: E/W ♥ K85  
 ♦ K852  
 ♣ A93

West  
 ♠ KQ3  
 ♥ J107  
 ♦ A97  
 ♣ 10765

East  
 ♠ 10954  
 ♥ A96  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ KQJ42

South  
 ♠ J82  
 ♥ Q432  
 ♦ J10643  
 ♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♥
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	2NT(1)
Dbl	3♦	All Pass	
(1) A ♦ preempt			

The next deal saw the two South players take very different approaches with their pile of dog meat. After 1♦ was doubled, Israel Yadlin simply responded 1♥ and sold out to 1NT; on a heart lead he unwisely took his ♥Q to shift to a high diamond, not a low one. Now declarer had a second diamond stop and six tricks instead of eight. That was not bad, but there were easier ways to make a living—for example defending diamond partscores. After the top club lead Ino ruffed a club, misguessed diamonds, and had only seven tricks. Still, an imp to Yokoi, bringing them closer at 40-42.

Bd: 17 North  
 Dir: North ♠ AQ7  
 Vul: None ♥ J105  
 ♦ QJ1072  
 ♣ J3

West  
 ♠ KJ965  
 ♥ K9732  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ 72

East  
 ♠ 42  
 ♥ Q8  
 ♦ AK83  
 ♣ AKQ95

South  
 ♠ 1083  
 ♥ A64  
 ♦ 654  
 ♣ 10864

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♣(1)
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) ♣+♥, systemically 4-3 possible

The mini notrump has its advocates, but once in a while you land in deep doodoo. Still, the opponents do not know that. For example, when Barel heard his opponents run to 2♣ a takeout double might have netted some huge number. But 4♠, unlike 4♥, had some practical play. On a top diamond lead declarer won and led a trump to the nine and queen. Now a club shift was essential to cut communications; then a second club would give the defenders two hearts at the death. But that is far from easy to see. Ino led a top heart, covered all around. There was nothing Imakura could do anymore. He chose to return a heart, giving declarer the losing option of finessing. But Barel guessed right to rise with the ♥K and ruff a heart, then ruff a diamond to hand and lead a high trump. Had Ino taken his ♠A and played back a diamond declarer could have arranged to ruff another diamond low in hand and draw the remaining trumps. Ino ducked the ♠J, so Barel played another spade and claimed. Since 4♥ had gone two down in the other room, Israel regained 11 imps to lead 53-40.

Four pairs managed to play 3NT here and make it, but only two pairs (Peter Gill and Val Gardiner for Vega\* and Hideo Togawa and Sumiko Sugino of Charmant in 4♥) made a suit game.

Bd: 18	North
Dir: East	♠ KQ82
Vul: N/S	♥ 32
	♦ QJ854
	♣ AQ

West	East
♠ AJ53	♠ 1094
♥ AQ94	♥ 1075
♦ K96	♦ 1032
♣ 87	♣ K1043

South
♠ 76
♥ KJ86
♦ A7
♣ J9652

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	All Pass		

Wild things also happened on this deal when Doron Yadlin produced a 1NT overcall over 1♦ that had the editors collectively reaching for their sick bags. Did anything bad happen to him for such hubris? Far from it. 3NT turned out to have a surprising amount of play after a diamond lead and spade shift. Doron won in hand and crossed to the ♦A to take a club finesse, which held (yes there were better defenses). Even so, all declarer could do was cash his minor-suit winners and play on hearts. With both honors wrong, one down was the best he could do. Since 1♦ had gone down one on a top spade lead, the defense taking one trick in each side suit and four trumps (but no spade ruff), the score had closed to 53-44.

One last chance for a swing.

Bd: 20	North
Dir: West	♠ Q53
Vul: Both	♥ AK53
	♦ QJ9
	♣ 854

West	East
♠ AJ8	♠ 10972
♥ QJ	♥ 10974
♦ AK864	♦ 10
♣ J32	♣ AK76

South
♠ K64
♥ 862
♦ 7532
♣ Q109

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Yokoi</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

An overtrick imp had just closed the margin of the match to 8imps when the final board hit the table. Campanile decided to use Stayman, then settle in a four-three major-suit fit. Furuta invited with 2NT, and of course Yokoi accepted. What, you may ask, had Yokoi done in a previous life to merit such a charmed lie of the diamonds? Doron cashed a top heart and shifted to the  $\diamond$ Q. Yokoi won that (better to duck

since you don't want to lead anything) and played a second top heart, ducked. Now what? Yokoi led a club to dummy and took a spade finesse, losing to the queen. Now Doron correctly returned a club. Israel won his queen and came back a third club. Yokoi overtook the jack, cashed a club, but only had eight winners (two spades, one heart, two diamonds and three clubs). Israel had a 60-45 win.

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

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

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

