



NEC Bridge Festival

Friday, February 8, 2008
Bulletin Number 3

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Assistant Editor: Sue Picus

Mahaffey Moves Into 2008 NEC Cup Lead

With three big wins Mahaffey (Fredrik Nystrom, Peter Bertheau, Peter Fredin, Bjorn Fallenius, Jim Mahaffey, npc) took over the top spot at the end of Day Two with 123 VPs, 9 ahead of YOI Returns (Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Chen Dawei, Hiroki Yokoi) and Israel (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Zur-Campanile—beware the monkey) with 114 VPs each. In third place, with 113 VPs, just 1 VP behind 2/3, are yesterday's leaders Not the Empire (Paul Hackett, John Armstrong, Eric Kokish, Gerry Charney, Sue Picus). In fifth place with 112 VPs is last year's winners The Netherlands (Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen, Jeanne van den Meiracker, npc). Filling out the top eight qualifying spots are Canada with 106 VPs, and Geller and The Latin with 103 each. Eleven other teams are within 10 VPs of qualifying, and six others are within 5 VPs of them. The complete Day Two rankings are shown below while individual results for yesterday's three matches may be found on pages 4-5.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day Two (Six Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Mahaffey	123	12/14	Losier	98	27	makko	81
2/3	YOI Returns	114	15	KURITA	96	28/29	BIRD	80
2/3	Israel	114	16	GIBS	94	28/29	KinKi	80
4	Not the Empire	113	17	VEGA*	93	30	SOLARIS	77
5	The Netherlands	112	18/19	Charmant	90	31	ROSEWOOD	73
6	Canada	106	18/19	JAPAN OPEN	90	32	MINK	72
7/8	Geller	103	20	ikkyu-3	89	33	Open SESAME!	71
7/8	The Latin	103	21	Hong Kong	87	34/35	MY-Bridge	69
9/10	SCOTII	100	22	LAS FLORES	86	34/35	Fairy Tale	69
9/10	Fu-Zhao	100	23/25	Kitty's	85	36	Kimura@Yokohama	67
11	HANA	99	23/25	AQUA	85	37	Masters Senior	65
12/14	Lithuania	98	23/25	Sun Flowers	85	38	PS-Jack	62
12/14	NAITO	98	26	ESPERANZA	83	39	GIRASOL	61

Please note: The session times today are different. Matches 7 and 8 will start as usual at 10:00 and will be play through with a 20-minute break in between. Following Match 8 there will be a 70-minute "lunch" break followed by the start of the first half of the Quarterfinals at 17:10 (that's 5:10 pm for the 24-hour time mode impaired).

Today's 1st VuGraph Match will feature Mahaffey (3) vs YOI Returns (11)

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 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4th-8th group. And so on.</p> <p>In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.</p>
Smoking	No player may leave the Annex Hall during play without permission due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online broadcast.
Screen Hesitations	When a delay in the return of the tray is suspected, a player on the opposite 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: 13th 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

Thursday's Match Results

Match 4

Not the Empire (50)	22-8	The Netherlands (14)
Fu-Zhao (19)	8-22	Israel (51)
Mahaffey (72)	19-11	Canada (53)
Lithuania (22)	11-19	NAITO (41)
GIBS (22)	8-22	YOI Returns (57)
The Latin (46)	16-14	HANA (40)
VEGA* (54)	22-8	AQUA (21)
Losier (65)	20-10	ESPERANZA (40)
KinKi (60)	22-8	Sun Flowers (27)
SKOTII (49)	20-10	ROSEWOOD (25)
Geller (50)	20-10	ikkyu-3 (25)
LAS FLORES (40)	17-13	KURITA (30)
Open SESAME! (51)	9-21	BIRD (78)
JAPAN OPEN (51)	25-4	Kitty's (21)
MINK (62)	20-10	makko (40)
Hong Kong (65)	20-10	MY-Bridge (39)
SOLARIS (51)	18-12	Masters Senior (37)
Fairy Tale (53)	20-10	GIRASOL (30)
Charmant (45)	15-	(47)
Kimura@Yokohama (30)	12-	(43)
PS-Jack (60)	18-	(45)

Match 5

Not the Empire (27)	15-15	Israel (28)
Mahaffey (86)	25-2	NAITO (18)
YOI Returns (62)	23-7	VEGA* (24)
KinKi (12)	2-25	The Netherlands (79)
Fu-Zhao (26)	13-17	Losier (35)
Canada (23)	13-17	SKOTII (32)
The Latin (79)	23-7	Lithuania (38)
HANA (53)	19-11	JAPAN OPEN (33)
Geller (47)	22-8	GIBS (15)
BIRD (18)	11-19	ESPERANZA (36)
LAS FLORES (41)	20-10	AQUA (18)
MINK (18)	15-15	Sun Flowers (18)
ROSEWOOD (46)	13-17	Hong Kong (55)
KURITA (38)	18-12	SOLARIS (23)
Fairy Tale (22)	7-23	ikkyu-3 (61)
Open SESAME! (41)	14-16	makko (47)
Charmant (79)	25-2	Masters Senior (13)
PS-Jack (34)	14-16	MY-Bridge (38)
Kimura@Yokohama (19)	7-	(59)
Kitty's (56)	22-	(20)
GIRASOL (28)	16-	(24)

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 13th 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

Match 6

Mahaffey (66)	19-11	Not the Empire (47)
Israel (28)	15-15	The Netherlands (30)
YOI Returns (41)	17-13	The Latin (29)
Losier (21)	11-19	Geller (40)
Fu-Zhao (22)	15-15	HANA (21)
SKOTII (38)	16-14	VEGA* (33)
Canada (72)	25-5	ESPERANZA (19)
LAS FLORES (35)	8-22	NAITO (68)
JAPAN OPEN (50)	15-15	ikkyu-3 (51)
Lithuania (64)	24-6	KinKi (17)
MINK (5)	0-25	KURITA (85)
Hong Kong (57)	16-14	Sun Flowers (50)
BIRD (33)	9-21	Charmant (63)
ROSEWOOD (11)	4-25	GIBS (69)
AQUA (40)	17-13	SOLARIS (29)
Kitty's (59)	22-8	Open SESAME! (27)
makko (47)	19-11	Fairy Tale(30)
MY-Bridge (41)	11-19	Kimura@Yokohama (61)
PS-Jack (17)	5-	(70)
Masters Senior (57)	21-	(29)
GIRASOL (46)	20-	(21)

Ruff-Sluff Times Two

by Barry Rigal

To give one ruff-sluff could be regarded as a misfortune. To give two looks very much like...genius? Jon Wittes and Ross Grabel have just qualified for the Seniors. Here they are at work on defense, generating tricks from nowhere, in the Senior Knockout Teams. It was only an extra undertrick, but it was elegant nonetheless.

Dir: North ♠ A54
 Vul: None ♥ A108
 ♦ K74
 ♣ AKJ2

♠ KQ8
 ♥ 742
 ♦ QJ983
 ♣ Q4

♠ J962
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ A105
 ♣ 10863

♠ 1073
 ♥ J9653
 ♦ 62
 ♣ 975

West	North	East	South
<i>Wittes</i>		<i>Grabel</i>	
	1♣	Pass	Pass
1♦	1NT	2♦	2♥
All Pass			

Wittes led the ♦Q to the king and ace. On the ♦10

Wittes dropped the nine, so Grabel played a spade to the eight and ace. Declarer ruffed a diamond to hand and played a heart to the ten and queen. The defense then cashed two spade tricks. With five tricks in, this was the ending:

♠ ---
 ♥ A8
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AKJ2

♠ ---
 ♥ 74
 ♦ J8
 ♣ Q4

♠ 9
 ♥ K
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 10863

♠ ---
 ♥ J96
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 975

Wittes led a diamond—the first ruff-sluff—and declarer elected to ruff low in dummy. Grabel overruffed as declarer pitched a club. Grabel then returned the thirteenth spade, the second ruff-sluff, as declarer pitched another club. Wittes did likewise as dummy ruffed with the ♥A. In the four-card ending, declarer cashed the ♣A and played a second club. Whether declarer ruffed high or low, the ♥7 was going to score the seventh trick for the defenders.

Bridge Defense - What's Going On (10)?

by Mike Lawrence

East deals, N/S vulnerable.

in spades. You should keep your hearts and give up the spade suit.

North
♠ AQ8
♥ AK4
♦ KQ83
♣ 864

West
♠ 10954
♥ 10973
♦ 95
♣ J109

♠ AQ8
♥ AK4
♦ KQ83
♣ 864

♠ 10954
♥ 10973
♦ 95
♣ J109

♠ KJ32
♥ J5
♦ 1062
♣ 7532

♠ 76
♥ Q862
♦ AJ74
♣ AKQ

West	North	East	South
Pass	6NT	Pass All Pass	1NT (15-17)

The only good thing for West is that he has an easy lead in the ♣J. East plays the two and South wins the king. Declarer starts diamonds by playing the ace and leading the four to dummy's king. East follows with the two and ten. Declarer leads a third diamond to his jack as East follows again with the six. You have to find a discard now and another one on the next diamond. Do you have any idea what you will discard? Why?

You can afford to throw your spades, but not your hearts. Partner has given you the clue. Did you notice it? When South played three rounds of diamonds, East played, in order, the two, ten, and six. East has gone out of his way to play diamonds in an abnormal sequence. Assuming your partner does not play random cards and that he is trying to help you defend, you can infer that partner has something

Declarer will try the hearts, but when they don't divide, he will have to fall back on the spade finesse, which will lose. Down one. If West had discarded a heart, 6NT would have made. The key was East's play of the ♦10 at trick two. It was an abnormal play which carried a message. West had to notice it and then he had to interpret it correctly.

East's cards told West he could abandon spades in order to save hearts. Because East *went out of his way* to signal in diamonds, West was entitled to look for a message. If East had played diamonds in the normal order, that is 2, 6, 10, there would have been no message intended.

This really was a nice defense. West has one point yet he has the setting trick if he can just tell what it is. Well done.

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

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.

Latest Bridge Book Draws Global Dissent

by Richard Pavlicek

Traditionalists in the bridge community are in an uproar over this month's publication of *Satanic Bridge Verses*. Libelous attacks were launched on every aspect of the establishment—from the Goren system to the Blackwood convention—leaving no stone unturned. All the familiar principles of our favorite game were ridiculed.

Yesterday I spoke by phone with the author, Salmon Trustme, who would not divulge his whereabouts. He claimed that he overheard a conversation in which a contract was put out on his life; but I really think he heard someone say he never made a contract in his whole life—a point that few of his bridge partners would dispute. I asked him for an item from his book, and he offered me today's deal.

Dir: West ♠ 842
 Vul: None ♥ Q432
 ♦ 8 7 6 5 4 3
 ♣ —

♠ QJ1097 ♥ 5 ♦ AKQJ1092 ♣ —	♠ 6 ♥ J109876 ♦ — ♣ 876543
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♠ AK53
 ♥ AK
 ♦ —
 ♣ AKQJ1092

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	2♦
4♠	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Rdbl
All Pass			

According to Salmon, he was South and his opponents were Charles Goren and Easley Blackwood, a couple of “crumb bums” who were “easy money” for a player of his stature. After a bristling auction, South became declarer in 6♣, doubled by East, and of course redoubled by Salmon.

West led the ♦A, dummy came down, and Salmon tabled his hand claiming, “I will make 6♣ on a trump-sacrificing suicide squeeze. There is no point in playing it out, as I am the greatest card player in the world.” Few people would accept a claim like that, so Salmon elucidated:

“I will ruff the opening lead high and cash five top trumps, two top hearts and one top spade. Then I will lead the deuce of trumps, which East must win and return a heart. North remains with one spade, the ♥Q, and a diamond so West will be squeezed on this trick; he cannot keep both a high diamond and a spade stopper.”

Yes, that works—except for one small glitch. Can you spot the defense that will put Salmon back in his tuna can?

You guessed it! East must ruff his partner's ace at trick one. This spoils the timing for the squeeze, and the contract cannot be made with any play.

Smoked salmon anyone?

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



“you can run but you can't hide.”



“Do I look board?”



“Darn if I know how he does it.”

Match Four: Lithuania vs NAITO

The featured match started with a bang when, on the first deal, Vainikonis demonstrated that the better part of valor is discretion while Naito was trying for action, and probably got more than she bargained for.

Bd: 1 North
 Dlr: North ♠ A98
 Vul: None ♥ 3
 ♦ 1032
 ♣ AK8542

West	East
♠ QJ1032	♠ 65
♥ 8	♥ J109652
♦ AKQJ5	♦ 86
♣ J9	♣ Q107

South
 ♠ K74
 ♥ AKQ74
 ♦ 974
 ♣ 63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
	1♣	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Personally, if our partner were doubled in 2♥ we would redouble for rescue or run to 2♠ as West (particularly because we've probably seen our partners' weak jump overcalls before). But in the Open Room Tanaka sat it out and the defenders collected two spades, two clubs and four trump tricks for +500. (If the defenders cash out in their best possible sequence after a club lead—club, heart, club, club ruff, spade, spade, club—declarer has to be careful to avoid going for 800). In the Closed Room, E/W played 3♦x on a completely different auction and did not play for trump promotions, and so collected only 100. That was a 9 imp start for Lithuania.

In the match between The Netherlands and Not the Empire notrump was the strain of preference, with Prooijen-Verhees reaching for game in the Closed Room and failing by a trick when Kokish, West, cashed his diamonds, then exited with a spade allowing Charney, East, to be squeezed in hearts and clubs when declarer cashed his second top spade. Kokish might have defeated the game an extra trick by

switching to a spade at trick two, giving Prooijen a chance to try to make his game by ducking a club. (Of course declarer can avoid this trap by playing back a second diamond immediately to cut defenders' communications.) In the Open Room Hackett-Armstrong stopped in 2NT and collected eight tricks on the same defense; +120, and 5 imps to Not the Empire.

Top score on the board went to JAPAN OPEN (vs Kitty's) when Kobayashi-Yoshida sat out a double of 3NT and scored it up with an overtrick for +650. Other +500s were achieved by Losier (Ono-Sakamoto) against ESPERANZA (in 3♠x) and by Kurita (Ichikawa-Den) against LAS FLORES (in 2♥x).

On Board 2 Lithuania promptly returned the imps to NAITO with interest.

Bd: 2 North
 Dlr: East ♠ K842
 Vul: N/S ♥ AJ7
 ♦ K75
 ♣ AKJ

West	East
♠ AQ	♠ 1065
♥ 10953	♥ Q84
♦ J9	♦ A1082
♣ 107643	♣ Q82

South
 ♠ J973
 ♥ K62
 ♦ Q643
 ♣ 95

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1NT(1)	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

(1) 18-19 HCP

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South's decision to convert 3NT to 4♠ in the Open Room is an interesting one (the word the bulletin editors use for a bad decision that works well or one

where we can't make up our minds on whether it is good or bad). After a trump lead and continuation declarer simply played for something moderately favorable in diamonds by leading a diamond to the queen and ducking the return. A reasonable line, and although there are winning alternatives, one can hardly fault Arlovich here. Down one, but not a tragedy since in the other room 3NT hardly looked to be laydown. The defenders led a spade to the ace and shifted to a low club. Declarer went up ace and played spade king, spade jack, diamond to the king and ace. At this point if the defenders exit with a diamond declarer will surely simply exit with a third diamond (pitching a spade from hand) putting East on lead to play away from one of his queens. Vainikonis short-circuited this variation by exiting with the club queen and declarer claimed nine tricks. It was 12-9 NAITO.

In The Netherlands vs Not the Empire Hackett declared 4♠ against Bertens-Bakkeren. Bakkeren, East, led the ♥4 to the jack and Hackett cashed the ♣AK, ruffed the ♣J, then exited dummy with a spade to Bertens's ace. Bertens switched to the ♦9, which rode around to dummy's queen. Hackett then led a second spade, playing two more rounds when Bertens produced the queen, and soon was claiming his contract with three heart tricks, three spades, two clubs, a club ruff, and a diamond. Plus 620 sent 12 moreimps to Not the Empire when 4♠ failed at the other table after Charney chose an opening trump lead, giving up nothing. 17-0 Not the Empire.

Both tables brought home a delicate game contract on the next deal.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ AQ
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q10
 ♦ AKQ8
 ♣ A10974

West ♠ KJ10642 ♥ A95 ♦ 109 ♣ Q8	East ♠ 8 ♥ J7642 ♦ 7532 ♣ KJ2
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South
 ♠ 9753
 ♥ K83
 ♦ J64
 ♣ 653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
2♠	3NT	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
2♦(Multi)	Dbl	2♥(P/C)	Pass
2♠	3NT	All Pass	Pass

In the Closed Room, after West had shown a weak-two in spades, Akama had it relatively easy in 3NT on a heart lead. He had two hearts, two spades, four diamonds and one club. In the Open Room Arlovich received a spade lead against the same contract and made the nice play of stripping off the diamonds, ending in dummy, then leading a club to the eight and ten. East opened up hearts, and now declarer won and cleared the clubs, losing just two clubs and a heart for 10 tricks and an imp; 12-10 NAITO.

Both tables took 10 tricks in 3NT in The Netherlands vs Not the Empire for no swing.

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ 764
 Vul: Both ♥ 7543
 ♦ ---
 ♣ QJ10753

West ♠ 5 ♥ KJ62 ♦ A98743 ♣ 64	East ♠ AKJ82 ♥ A10 ♦ Q102 ♣ K98
---	---

South
 ♠ Q1093
 ♥ Q98
 ♦ KJ65
 ♣ A2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The excitement continued on Board 4. 3NT looks to be a sensible contract from the East seat (particularly if North has not taken the opportunity to double a club bid for the lead). Both tables received a heart lead and won cheaply in hand. Whereas Naito advanced the ♦Q, ducked all around, and could later endplay Zhuravel for a ninth trick, Vainikonis led a low diamond to the ace. Had he played the ♦10 he might have been better

placed, but now when diamonds did not behave he needed the ♠Q to fall. When it did not he was down without a struggle. 12 imps to NAITO, leading 24-10.

The Netherlands picked up an imp against Not the Empire when Bertens-Bakkeren scored an overtrick in 3NT. Now 17-1 Not the Empire.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ K62
 ♥ K63
 ♦ 108432
 ♣ 62

West
 ♠ 8
 ♥ A2
 ♦ AKJ76
 ♣ AKQ107

East
 ♠ 109743
 ♥ QJ10984
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 54

South
 ♠ AQJ5
 ♥ 75
 ♦ Q95
 ♣ J983

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Dbf
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
2NT(2)	Pass	3♥(3)	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	All Pass		
(1) ♥+another			
(2) Forcing			
(3) ♥+♠			

There was more to come for NAITO on Board 5, where Vainikonis treated his hand as worth a 2♥ opening (6-10 HCP, five-five in hearts and another suit). Olanski found he was facing a 6-5 pattern and thought he was worth a try for slam. On a club lead Vainikonis won and played a spade; the defenders won to play a trump, and now declarer guessed correctly to fly with the ♥A. He had four spade losers to dispose of and needed to ruff one and pitch two on the diamonds, but what could he do with the fourth (other than eat it, a la Hideous Hog?). The simple answer was nothing. Down one and 11 more imps to NAITO, since 4♥ was in no danger in the other room. NAITO now led 35-10.

In The Netherlands vs Not the Empire Bertens-Bakkeren settled for 3NT on the E/W cards in the

Open Room. Hackett led the ♥3 after West had shown a strong hand with primary clubs and secondary diamonds before settling in 3NT, dummy's eight holding. Declarer eschewed the club finesse, playing the suit from the top, and now the defense cashed four spades when they got in with the ♣J for down one. In the Closed Room Charney-Kokish opted to play 4♥ and Charney could not have been unhappy when Verhees led the ♠A and continued with the queen at trick two. He ruffed in dummy, pitched two more spades on the ♦AK, ruffed a diamond, then ruffed his last spade with the ace of trumps and ended up losing only a spade and a heart for +450. That was and a handy 11 imps to Not the Empire, increasing their lead to 27 at 28-1. The two teams traded 5-imp partscore swings on Boards 6 and 7, and entered Board 8 with the same margin at 33-6.

Bd: 8
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K103
 ♥ Q
 ♦ AQJ92
 ♣ A964

West
 ♠ AQ942
 ♥ 63
 ♦ K108
 ♣ 853

East
 ♠ J75
 ♥ 97542
 ♦ 753
 ♣ 102

South
 ♠ 86
 ♥ AKJ108
 ♦ 64
 ♣ KQJ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Here both tables had a chance for gain. Maruyama had a chance to explore for slam. His cue-bid and club raise gave Akama the knowledge that slam was in the offing but his weak clubs were a cause for concern and some of his soft red-suit values might not have been pulling their full weight. The editors are in agreement that slam probably should have been reached in at least one of the rooms but disagree about the source

of the problem. Akama is clearly worth 4♣ over 3NT (4♣ would surely have been forcing and now there was room to investigate slam—e.g., 4♣-4♦; 4♥-4♠; 6♣. Should Maruyama have cue-bid 3♥ over 3♦? In the other room Naito's 2♠ bid made life a little harder for Zhuravel, but his decision to jump to 5♣ took any decision out of his partner's hands. An overtrick imp to Lithuania (plus one on Board 6) made the score 37-10.

Not the Empire also picked up 2 imps when both Hackett and Prooijen managed to take twelve tricks in their respective contracts, but Hackett was in 3NT while Prooijen was in 5♣; 35-6.

Several pairs managed to reach the excellent 6♣ slam on the N/S cards here: Howard-Hollins for VEGA*, Kobayashi-Yoshida for JAPAN OPEN, Ono-Sakamoto for Losier, Fujimoto-Sugino for Charmant, Sakurai-Kikuchi for SKOTII, Nishida-Iida for MINK, and Tamura-Ishizuka for KinKi. Well done all.

Bd: 9 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 1092
 Vul: E/W ♥ A105
 ♦ Q10832
 ♣ K3

West
 ♠ AQ4
 ♥ KQ864
 ♦ A
 ♣ Q954

East
 ♠ KJ765
 ♥ J2
 ♦ J976
 ♣ 87

South
 ♠ 83
 ♥ 973
 ♦ K54
 ♣ AJ1062

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣
Dbf(1)	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	All Pass

(1) Support

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Yet another potential swing from the bidding came along on Board 9. 4♠ is certainly where you want to be looking at both hands but how far should West drive towards that goal? The two auctions tempoed out differently when in the Open Room Zhuravel overcalled

2♣ with the South cards while in the Closed Room Maruyama stayed silent. Olanski decided the two-step route to support spades would show his extras (essentially slightly devaluing his hand because of the bare ♦A) and Vainikonis was happy to stop at the two level. In the other room Naito knew of the real extras but not the singleton diamond. No swing.

In The Netherlands vs Not the Empire both teams stopped in partscores, Hackett-Armstrong in 3♦ as N/S (-150) and Charney-Kokish in 3♥ as E/W (+170); 1 imp to Not the Empire, now 36-6.

Bd: 10 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 84
 Vul: Both ♥ AK52
 ♦ Q542
 ♣ AQ5

West
 ♠ K762
 ♥ J9
 ♦ AJ1083
 ♣ J8

East
 ♠ AJ1095
 ♥ Q1064
 ♦ 97
 ♣ 94

South
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ 873
 ♦ K6
 ♣ K107632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Dbf	2♦
2♠	All Pass		

On Board 10 North was faced with a three-way decision over a natural 1♦: Pass, 1♥ or 1NT. All three calls are seriously flawed, of course, but Arlovich chose the low road, and his side sold out to 2♠. Meanwhile, Akama overcalled 1♥ and the nine-card club fit vanished. Still, who plays minors these days anyway? *Cui culpa*, with 2♠ the limit for E/W (as long as N/S get diamonds going before relinquishing their top hearts) and N/S laydown for nine tricks in clubs? Maybe as a passed hand (maybe even not as a passed hand—RC) South should have bid 2♣ after the negative double (or, if using transfers, 1NT might fit the bill)?!

Both teams played in 3NT going down in The Netherlands vs Not the Empire, Hackett-Armstrong failing by two tricks while Prooijen-Verhees only by

one. 3imps to The Netherlands, 36-9.

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ AK104
 Vul: None ♥ A1052
 ♦ 95
 ♣ QJ6

West
 ♠ QJ97653
 ♥ K7
 ♦ Q83
 ♣ 4

East
 ♠ 2
 ♥ J96
 ♦ AK62
 ♣ A10953

South
 ♠ 8
 ♥ Q843
 ♦ J1074
 ♣ K872

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
3♠	All Pass		Pass

On this deal Arlovich was back in the hot spot. First of all he had to decide whether to bid over the 3♠ preempt, and of course facing a passed partner he took the low road again. But then what to lead at trick one? There is logic in the ♥A but the card gods were less enthusiastic. ("We deal him a sequence and what does he lead?") In the same position, Akama did not look any further than the club sequence. Declarer won in dummy and led a spade to the nine, eschewing the possibility of playing a scramble by using diamond entries to ruff clubs. Akama won and shifted to the ♦9. Declarer won in hand and drove out a top spade, on which Maruyama pitched the ♥4. Now if the defenders had simply continued diamonds declarer's communications would eventually have been cut. But when North tried to cash a club the defense was over. Declarer could establish a club against passive defense, so Akama was forced later to cash the ♥A and concede nine tricks. No swing; still 37-10.

Both E/W pairs in The Netherlands vs Not the Empire also played this hand in 3♠ for a push, but here both declarers went one down. Both plays featured the ♣Q opening lead to the ace followed by a spade to the nine and ten. North then led a diamond and over the next several tricks both declarers drove out the two top spades using club ruffs and/or the ♦Q as entries while the defense variously played on diamonds or clubs. When the diamond suit failed to split both declarers eventually had to lose two hearts for down one. No swing; still 36-9.

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 98
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKQ107
 ♦ K98
 ♣ A85

West
 ♠ QJ1073
 ♥ 95
 ♦ A7
 ♣ K963

East
 ♠ AK6
 ♥ 32
 ♦ 6542
 ♣ J1042

South
 ♠ 542
 ♥ J864
 ♦ QJ103
 ♣ Q7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
2♠	3♣(F)	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Lithuania scored their first pick up of any significance since Board 1 here. It pains us to see bids like the 1NT opening in the Open Room generate a good result, but the fact remains that it did get N/S to a heart partscore, and might have prevented E/W from competing to 3♠. In the Closed Room Akama felt he was worth a game try and despite all of Maruyama's soft cards he did have a fourth trump and a great club holding (switch partner's minor-suit honors to the ♣K and ♦A for example). The 3♦ responsive game try might have been enough though. 3♥ made three for +140, while 4♥ was just a tad overboard for -100. 6imps to Lithuania, trailing now by 37-16.

Hackett-Armstrong took their turn at overbidding, reaching 4♥ on the N/S cards. They ended one down when Huub Bertens could not be persuaded to lead away from his ♣K at any point in the defense. Charney-Kokish generated a fine result in the Closed Room when as E/W they bought the hand for 2♠ and managed to take ten tricks when N/S experienced a defensive lapse at trick six by offering Charney a ruff and sluff on the third round of hearts. That was +170 and 2imps for Not the Empire, leading now 38-9.

Seek simplicity and distrust it.

Bd: 13
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AJ10763
 ♥ K86
 ♦ Q43
 ♣ 7

West
 ♠ K852
 ♥ 73
 ♦ A9862
 ♣ K3

East
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 109542
 ♦ 1075
 ♣ AJ52

South
 ♠ 94
 ♥ AQJ
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ Q109864

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Virtue was not rewarded on this next deal; both tables reached 4♠ and had to hold the trump losers to one, not an easy task unless you are either especially tall or possessed of side-view mirrors. The correct play in trumps might be low to the ten, not the nine from dummy (consider West with a singleton honor, for example). Akama did not find this play, Arlovich did, but both entered -100 on their score sheets. No swing.

Also a push at 4♠ down one in The Netherlands vs Not the Empire.

Bd: 15
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ K2
 ♥ A10865
 ♦ AK64
 ♣ 103

West
 ♠ Q93
 ♥ KJ9
 ♦ J9853
 ♣ 82

East
 ♠ AJ875
 ♥ Q72
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AK976

South
 ♠ 1064
 ♥ 43
 ♦ Q1072
 ♣ QJ54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The whole of this set appeared to be about bidding tough games and slams, and we were not done yet. Reaching 4♠ on Board 15 is far from an easy task, but it seems to BR that using Michaels on a hand with three first-round controls is not the way to start; overcalling 1♠ will sometimes work poorly if the auction ends there. Otherwise it will surely give you a chance to get the hand off your chest. RC, on the other hand, endorses bidding your shape as early as possible and letting your high cards and controls sort themselves out later. Naito's choice of Michaels and passing the 2♣ response instead of advancing with 3♣ looks a trifle wet to BR. Conversely, Vainikonis deemed the hand worth a 'Landy game try' after a simple raise (the Landy game try is to bid game and then try to make it). With East declarer North could not make the normal lead of his diamond sequence. The defenders led and continued hearts, setting up the threat of a cross-ruff in the rounded suits. Declarer countered by playing on trumps directly and had ten tricks once the spade finesse succeeded, even had the ♠K not fallen. 6 imps to Lithuania, trailing 39-22.

After picking up 2 imps on an undertrick on Board 14 The Netherlands managed an overtrick imps on this board when both E/W pairs stopped in 3♠ but Bertens-Bakkeren managed to make four while Charney-Kokish only made three. Not the Empire by 26, 38-12.

Bd: 16
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ Q42
 ♥ 986
 ♦ Q
 ♣ AKQJ83

West
 ♠ 10
 ♥ Q754
 ♦ K1065
 ♣ 9762

East
 ♠ 9853
 ♥ K10
 ♦ AJ9872
 ♣ 10

South
 ♠ AKJ76
 ♥ AJ32
 ♦ 43
 ♣ 54

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♦	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Dbl	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dbl
3♦	Pass	4♦	Dbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

This deal saw another excellent slam with 12 top tricks but very few high cards. Reaching 6♣ or 6♠ figured to be beyond most of the field. It was certainly harder for the Japanese pair, with the preemptive raise and re-raise in diamonds taking away all the bidding space. No swing in either match.

Bd: 19 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 10976
 Vul: E/W ♥ 63
 ♦ Q863
 ♣ QJ9

West	East
♠ K32	♠ A
♥ J10985	♥ A4
♦ 5	♦ AKJ102
♣ A763	♣ K10852
South	
♠ QJ854	
♥ KQ72	
♦ 974	
♣ 4	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Arlovich</i>	<i>Naito</i>	<i>Zhuravel</i>
Pass	1♠	2NT	3♦
4♣	Pass	4♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

With two boards to go Arlovich had the opportunity to create some action. Cometh the hour, cometh the third in hand non-vulnerable against vulnerable five-count. Nonetheless, Naito was able to show the minors and then make a slam try. Had Tanaka bid 5♣ over 4♠ it is not clear whether that would have been more encouraging. If passing was more encouraging than bidding maybe East should have bid 4NT as a last-train slam try (it could not be Blackwood or she would have done that the round before). Vainikonis got to open peaceably in fourth chair. But with the spade overcall and raise, how was he to get his values across? He cue-bid then gave up over 3NT. We think bidding 4♣ is the normal action with the East hand (partner's 2♥ bid should deliver extras as a passed hand, or a diamond fit). An overtrick imp when declarer settled for nine tricks reduced the margin to 38-22.

After picking up 2imps on Board 17, Bertens-Bakkeren had a bidding problem here when they couldn't work out which was their real suit. They finally bailed out in 4♥ after East opened 1♦ in fourth seat and the auction continued: 1♠-Dbl-3♠; Dbl-Pass-4♥. Bertens won the opening spade lead and played a club to the ace and a club to the king. Armstrong ruffed and returned a spade, ruffed in dummy. Bertens then cashed the ♦AK, pitching a club, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♠K, led a heart to the ace, and ruffed another diamond. But he still had to lose a club and two trumps for down one. At the other table Charney-Kokish reached 5♣ and made six, picking up 12imps to win their match 50-14 when the final board was a push.

In the featured match NAITO picked up 3imps on the final board making the final score there 41-22.



Lose weight—ask me how.



"Oh yeah, I'm the man!"



"I told you, you should play weak notrumps!"

Match Five: YOI Returns vs VEGA*

VEGA* boasts the two youngest players in the event, Justin Howard and Peter Hollands, who are fixtures on the Australian youth team and played in Thailand on the squad that finished fourth last summer. Val Gardiner is the captain and organizer of the team, and she also deserves special credit for bringing her own caddy—her daughter Pascale—who is working at the event. Val was out for the current match, with Callaghan-Gill playing in the Closed Room.

Bd: 1 North
 Dlr: North ♠ J852
 Vul: None ♥ A73
 ♦ 92
 ♣ A975

West
 ♠ KQ107
 ♥ 106
 ♦ Q74
 ♣ KQJ4

East
 ♠ 94
 ♥ QJ542
 ♦ AK105
 ♣ 32

South
 ♠ A63
 ♥ K98
 ♦ J863
 ♣ 1086

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Howard</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Gill</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both tables felt compelled to open the East hand, in second seat no less. Yes, it is a well-put together 10-count but it has less than average spot cards, and it is a 10-count. Accordingly, both Wests drove to game. In the Closed Room Callaghan led a low spade and Gill won to return the suit. When in with ♥K he cleared the spades and that was down one. In the Open Room Ino led a club and Imakura continued the suit when in with the ♥K. Down one and no swing.

Board 1 was a partscore push in Not the Empire vs Israel, the former played 1NT making two in the Open Room and the latter played 2♥ making two in the Closed Room.

Bd: 2 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 1092
 Vul: N/S ♥ A543
 ♦ A732
 ♣ 97

West
 ♠ A64
 ♥ KQ87
 ♦ KJ5
 ♣ AK2

East
 ♠ KQ853
 ♥ J106
 ♦ 104
 ♣ QJ10

South
 ♠ J7
 ♥ 92
 ♦ Q986
 ♣ 86543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Howard</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Gill</i>
		Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Wests opened 2NT and when offered a choice of the major or notrump opted for the nine-trick game. We know the West hand is 4-3-3-3 but the East hand may not be perfectly balanced on this inconvenient auction. Chen got his team on the scoreboard with an overtrick imp when the defenders failed to cash the ♦A. 1-0 YOI.

Both teams made eleven tricks in 3NT in Not the Empire vs Israel. Still no score.

Bd: 3 North
 Dlr: South ♠ A93
 Vul: E/W ♥ AK6
 ♦ 42
 ♣ KJ752

West
 ♠ J1084
 ♥ J1092
 ♦ KJ9
 ♣ 104

East
 ♠ K652
 ♥ 54
 ♦ AQ865
 ♣ 96

South
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ Q873
 ♦ 1073
 ♣ AQ83

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Howard	Ino	Hollands	Imakura
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Callaghan	Furuta	Gill
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Board 3 saw the first chance for a swing of any note. In the Open Room the mini notrump did its rather random work, getting Imakura to 3NT with the hand on lead having the three- and not the five-card diamond suit. Howard led a heart and declarer inveigled a couple of overtricks out of his opponents. In the Closed Room the strong notrump saw the man with five diamonds lead the suit; down one and a 12-0 lead for YOI.

Both teams went one down in 3NT in Not the Empire vs Israel. Still a pitcher's duel at 0-0.

Bd: 4	North
Dir: West	♠ 1062
Vul: Both	♥ 964
	♦ J862
	♣ AQ4

West
♠ A7
♥ K7
♦ AKQ7
♣ 107632

East
♠ KJ53
♥ AQ1082
♦ 109
♣ J8

South
♠ Q984
♥ J53
♦ 543
♣ K95

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Howard	Ino	Hollands	Imakura
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Callaghan	Furuta	Gill
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Board 4 saw Hollands-Howard produce a systemic

accident. Howard showed a strong notrump with his rebid, then extras and both minors at his next turn. Now 3NT looks obvious, but Hollands tried 3♥, and instead of raising Howard tried 3♠, perhaps as a cue-bid. Now it made little sense to raise what could not be a long suit; but after the 4♠ bid it was hard to find a playable spot. In 6♥ on a diamond lead the best line seems to be to run this to your hand and hope to take three spades, five hearts, and four diamonds; not much worse than a 50% contract. Hollands tried a different tack, rising with the ♦A and playing on spades; when North suggested three spades, he played the suit from the top. No luck there; down one and a 25-0 lead for YOI.

In Not the Empire vs Israel both teams stopped in a sane 3NT with Israel gaining an imp. Campanile took ten tricks to Charney's nine when he took a second-round heart finesse for the jack; 1-0 Israel.

Bd: 5	North
Dir: North	♠ QJ1072
Vul: N/S	♥ 8732
	♦ 6
	♣ AJ4

West
♠ A9853
♥ QJ10
♦ KQJ73
♣ ---

East
♠ ---
♥ A6
♦ A9842
♣ 1098762

South
♠ K64
♥ K954
♦ 105
♣ KQ53

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Howard	Ino	Hollands	Imakura
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Chen	Callaghan	Furuta	Gill
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

On this deal Chen took a huge overbid to jump to 3♦; Furuta produced the value bid of 6♦ now, and Callaghan had to lead a trump to give declarer any problems. On a heart lead Chen took the ace and ruffed a club to cash the ♠A to pitch dummy's heart. Now he cross-ruffed hearts and clubs and scored all of dummy's low trumps early, before ruffing the fourth spade with the ♦A. Plus 920 meant another 11

imps to YOI; 36-0 after five deals.

In Not the Empire vs Israel both E/W pairs declared 5♦ and took eleven tricks for another push. Still 1-0 Israel.

Bd: 6
 Dlr: East
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ KJ4	♥ 32	♦ J1073	♣ Q752
West	♠ 9	♥ K9765	♦ AK986	♣ J8
East	♠ AQ1076	♥ Q84	♦ Q5	♣ A96
South	♠ 8532	♥ AJ10	♦ 42	♣ K1043

Open Room

West <i>Howard</i>	North <i>Ino</i>	East <i>Hollands</i>	South <i>Imakura</i>
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Chen</i>	North <i>Callaghan</i>	East <i>Furuta</i>	South <i>Gill</i>
1NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

On Board 6 both tables reached 4♥, and both Souths led a club. In the Closed Room Furuta sensibly played just one heart, then shifted his attention to diamonds, taking the two tops and ruffing the third round. South could overruff and cash a club, with the trump ace to come, but that was it for the defenders. In the Open Room Hollands got lucky when he played a second trump prematurely. South cashed his hearts and the ♣K but then failed to shift to a spade to break up the squeeze and the long heart caught North in spades and diamonds. Still 36-0.



"Buy, Wall Street is down."

A push in 4♥ with an overtrick in Not the Empire vs Israel. Still 1-0. But stay tuned, imps are in the offing.

Bd: 7
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North	♠ QJ98	♥ 87	♦ A9752	♣ 32
West	♠ K432	♥ A96	♦ Q83	♣ Q95
East	♠ 106	♥ KJ10543	♦ J4	♣ 1074
South	♠ A75	♥ Q2	♦ K106	♣ AKJ86

Open Room

West <i>Howard</i>	North <i>Ino</i>	East <i>Hollands</i>	South <i>Imakura</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West <i>Chen</i>	North <i>Callaghan</i>	East <i>Furuta</i>	South <i>Gill</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Every board was now a potential double-figure swing it seemed. The first real error of the match by the Japanese saw them lead spades and continue the suit when in with ♣Q against 3NT in the Closed Room. Gill ran the clubs and had nine tricks when the suit split. By contrast, in the Open Room Howard actually led hearts on an informative auction and collected three down. 14 imps to VEGA*, closing the margin to 22 at 36-14.

In Not the Empire vs Israel the Yadlin brothers stopped in 1NT when Doron opened 1NT with the South hand and Israel passed. Kokish led the ♠3 to the queen but when Doron took the club finesse Kokes won and found the magic heart shift (low to the king, then back to the ace) to beat the contract one; -100. At the other table Armstrong also received the ♠2 lead. He won the queen and took the losing club finesse but when Barel won the queen he shifted to a diamond to the jack and king. Seizing the moment Armstrong immediately played back the ♦10, letting it ride when Barel followed low. But that was eleven tricks and 13 imps to Not the Empire, in the lead now by 12 at 13-1.

Bd: 8 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q1087
 Vul: None ♥ Q76
 ♦ A107652
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ AJ53
 ♥ KJ953
 ♦ K83
 ♣ 9

East
 ♠ K964
 ♥ ---
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AK10876543

South
 ♠ 2
 ♥ A10842
 ♦ QJ94
 ♣ QJ2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Howard</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Gill</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

If the previous result was deserved for VEGA*, the next deal was heartbreak. 6♣ looks a considerably better contract than 4♠. But with trumps three-one and spades four-one offside it was going to take a defensive error (trying to cash the ♥A to expose North to a major-suit squeeze) to give the slam play. That did not happen so the slam drifted off. Meanwhile, the four-one trump split in the other room meant that even 4♠ was far from laydown. Chen carefully pitched a club on the ♦A lead, then another club on the diamond continuation. He led a club to the ace as North discarded, then ruffed a second club with ♠J and when North overruffed, West had the rest. It was 47-14 YOI.

Both E/W pairs in Not the Empire vs Israel reached the club slam but Campanile-Barel were in it doubled (by Hackett-Armstrong). On the ♦Q lead Campanile eventually lost two spades and a trump for down two, -300. At the other table Charney received a spade lead and was consequently able to hold his losers to two, -50. One can only imagine the relief the Canadians felt when they read off their slam-down-one result and heard "Win 6" from their English teammates; 19-1 Not the Empire.

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ 87
 Vul: E/W ♥ KQ9753
 ♦ 94
 ♣ 982

West
 ♠ AKJ
 ♥ A102
 ♦ AK83
 ♣ 653

East
 ♠ 643
 ♥ 4
 ♦ QJ10762
 ♣ KJ10

South
 ♠ Q10952
 ♥ J86
 ♦ 5
 ♣ AQ74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Howard</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	2♦	Pass	3♥
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

Lo and behold, Board 9 produced *another* potential for a double-figure swing. When both Norths opened a weak-two, each of the Souths raised preemptively, then saved over 3NT. Whereas Hollands sat for 4♥x, Furuta tried 4NT. Callaghan knew to lead a club against 4NT, but the heart switch was of no avail. Declarer needed the spade finesse, and got it. Against 4♥ the defenders had an outside chance of 300 but they led a top spade of course, and cashed out rather than playing clubs repeatedly (which might have let the game through on a different day). Another 11 imps to YOI, up 58-14.

Charney-Kokish won an imp for Not the Empire when they reached 3NT and made four while Israel's Campanile-Barel were pushed to 5♦ (making five) when Hackett-Armstrong preempted 2♥-4♥ in front of them. One more imp for Not the Empire, leading now 20-1.

Board 10 was finally a flat board in the featured match—although it is worth noting that Imakura, having yesterday seen Ino go for 1100 after a vulnerable two-level overcall on a broken five-card suit, himself elected to do the same with:

♠K ♥932 ♦KJ1093 ♣KQ108.

Whether he had lived a more virtuous life or was simply born under a lucky star, it was his partner who had the opening bid, not his LHO, and he collected a quiet 630.

As if that was what the card gods had been waiting for, the action came to a complete stop. A series of dull partscores and games followed in succession, with nothing but overtricks at stake.

The only remaining deal on which more than a few interestingimps changed hands in either of our matches was Board 19. YOI was leading VEGA*, 62-16; Israel had closed the gap on Not the Empire through a series of small gains and was trailing by only 12, 27-15.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ J1062
 Vul: E/W ♥ A532
 ♦ 873
 ♣ A9

West
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ KQ104
 ♦ AJ96
 ♣ J42

East
 ♠ K954
 ♥ J86
 ♦ KQ2
 ♣ Q105

South
 ♠ A73
 ♥ 97
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ K8763

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Howard</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
			Pass
1NT	All Pass		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Gill</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Open Room Howard's weak notrump ended



"Eeny, meenie, miney..."



"Hi Pietro, see my new boy friend?"



"...so I passed him in his cue-bid."

the auction and Ino's ♠2 lead went to the seven and eight. Howard crossed to the ♦K, led a heart to the ten, trying to conceal as much about his hand from North as possible, and Ino ducked. Next came a heart to the jack and a heart back to the queen and ace, and Ino switched to the ♣A and a club to Imakura's king. A third club left Howard with nine tricks (one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and a club) since Imakura had the spade entry for his two good clubs; +150.

In the Closed Room Furuta had bid spades so Callaghan led his other four-card suit, hearts, which seems like a lucky break for declarer. Instead of pressing on in hearts Chen decided to establish a club trick but when he led a small club toward dummy Callaghan rose with the ace and, noting South's ♣8, continued with a club to Gill's king. Gill cleared the club suit and now Chen had only four tricks in while the defense had set up six tricks of their own (four clubs and the two major-suit aces) while they still had control. With no way to set up and more tricks before the defenders regained the lead Chen finished down two, -200. That was 8imps to VEGA*, who finished the match strong but still lost 62-24.

The result in the Not the Empire vs Israel match was the exact opposite of what happened in the featured match. Barel declared 3NT in the Open Room, received a heart lead, and played the suit right back. Hackett won his ace and switched to the ♠J, which rode to the queen, but now Barel was in control. He led a small club toward dummy and Hackett rose with the ace to lead a second spade. Barel simply ducked and had two spade tricks to go with his four diamonds and three hearts; +600.

In the Closed Room Charney-Kokish stopped in 2NT after a Stayman auction in which Doron Yadlin had doubled 2♣ for the lead. Israel trusted his brother and led the ace and another club and now the defense had six tricks—four clubs and the two major-suit aces—before declarer could establish even a sixth trick—and declarer ended up down one for -100; 12imps to Israel, who stormed back to win the match 28-27 after having trailed for the majority of the match by as many as 19imps.

Match Six: The Netherlands vs Israel

by Barry Rigal

This first deal demonstrates the huge difference in approaches between the two teams.

Bd: 1
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ QJ95
♥ Q7
♦ A64
♣ QJ87

West
♠ 87
♥ AJ52
♦ K10532
♣ A4

East
♠ A106
♥ K1084
♦ J9
♣ K932

South
♠ K432
♥ 963
♦ Q87
♣ 1065

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Dbf	2♠	2NT(1)	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Scramble, or invitational in hearts

Closed Room

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

(1) Negative

(2) Minimum balanced

(3) Forced

The Dutch auction in essence saw North open a multi-way club and puppet to 1NT; neither East nor West had a good way into the auction. By contrast, when Bertens doubled 1♠ Bakkeren bid 2NT to follow a sequence that emerged as an invitational hand with hearts. West had a thirteenth card and the shape he'd already promised—surely more than enough to bid game. Well, perhaps the aces were an improvement on some minimum hands; as the cards lay he was absolutely right. Declarer guessed diamonds and now was safe for 10 tricks and just looking for the overtrick. In the other room, four rounds of hearts saw van Prooijen pitch diamonds from hand—a foolish play with West on lead. Barel shifted to diamonds and Campanile unblocked the jack and got in with the ♠A to play diamonds again; an impressive +250 but still 5imps for The Netherlands

In Not the Empire (hereinafter referred to as NTE) versus Mahaffey, Paul Hackett's 1♠ opening stole the hand for his side in 3♠, while his teammates Kokish-Picus bid to 4♥ in the other room. NTE led 8-0. Game was generally not bid here across the field.

Bd: 2
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ Q106
♥ QJ5
♦ K872
♣ 976

West
♠ KJ87
♥ A8732
♦ Q4
♣ K3

East
♠ A9543
♥ 94
♦ A105
♣ AQJ

South
♠ 2
♥ K106
♦ J963
♣ 108542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
		1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣(1)	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT(2)	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

(1) Multi-way including....

(2) Strong balanced

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

On this deal E/W have a playable slam (cold on two-two trumps, with a little work to do if the ♠Q is singleton). Campanile opened a 15-17 notrump and that persuaded Barel not even to look for slam (with less in the doubletons he might have felt differently I suppose). Bertens found balanced extras opposite and started cue-bidding, then used Blackwood to drive his side to slam. I reckon that slam is so close to 50% you can attribute the imp swing here to luck or karma. I'm informed that the Japanese equivalent is kudoku; and no, we won't make any silly jokes about newspaper puzzles.

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ J72
 ♥ 76
 ♦ J10952
 ♣ K83

West
 ♠ K86
 ♥ KQ93
 ♦ Q643
 ♣ 104

East
 ♠ 10954
 ♥ AJ105
 ♦ AK7
 ♣ 97

South
 ♠ AQ3
 ♥ 842
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AQJ652

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl.	1♣
3♣	Dbl	Pass	2♣
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl.	1♣
2♥	All Pass		2♣

Board 3 also showed the teams demonstrating their different approaches. Both Easts found a cheap takeout double, but whereas Barel settled for a simple heart bid, Bertens thought he had enough for a strong invite (a jump to 3♥ over 2♣ would have been more shapely). Again, East accepted without much justification, and this time the game was nearly hopeless. Declarer played a spade to the king and then drew trumps, on the third round South pitching a club. He corrected his revoke but the club was a penalty card. Now declarer played a spade and Israel was forced to win and lead a club, for the ruff and discard. Contract made; running score: 15-11.

Hackett-Armstrong for NTE sacrificed against 4♥; that was only 300 but still a loss of 4 imps against the 140 from the other room. It was 8-4 now.

The Netherlands were by no means finished, yet one more time (four boards out of four) the Dutch bid more than the Israelis.



Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ A94
 ♥ A1082
 ♦ KQJ86
 ♣ 4

West
 ♠ 62
 ♥ KQJ
 ♦ 93
 ♣ KQ10952

East
 ♠ KJ53
 ♥ 43
 ♦ A542
 ♣ 876

South
 ♠ Q1087
 ♥ 9765
 ♦ 107
 ♣ AJ3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
1♣	Dbl	1♠	Dbl
2♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♣	Dbl	1♠	Pass
2♣	Dbl	3♣	4♥
All Pass			

At this point in the set the Dutch had declared six of the eight contracts. 4♥ could be beaten two tricks very easily at double-dummy but was far harder at single-dummy. Barel led a top club and Verhees ruffed a club and led a low diamond towards his ten. Campanile took her ace, shifted to a spade, and the defense had only 100. Had she exited passively with a club I do not think declarer could have come home with more than eight tricks, but how was she to know? No swing, since 3♣ handled just fine for +110. Still Israel 11-15 behind.

Two tables made 4♥ here and one pair even brought home 950 in 3NT. Well done Ino-Imakura; it is not so easy to defeat this contract on a top club lead, ducked.

A bidding box accident on Board 5 spelled more trouble for the Dutch. Van Prooijen extracted a 1♠ instead of a 1♥ response, and got to a four-two fit instead of the four-four. The defenders could not work out what was going on and muddled the play, allowing declarer to escape with only an overtrick loss. At least the Dutch could say that if they were going to let their opponents play the hand they would at least play a more interesting contract than them.

The trend continued again on the next deal.

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ K43
 ♥ J76
 ♦ 1072
 ♣ AJ82

West
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 105432
 ♦ J843
 ♣ 753

East
 ♠ A652
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ A6
 ♣ KQ64

South
 ♠ QJ1098
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ KQ95
 ♣ 109

Open Room

West <i>Bertens</i>	North <i>Doron Y</i>	East <i>Bakkeren</i>	South <i>Israel Y</i>
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦(♥)	Pass	2NT(1)	Pass
(1)19-21		4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Barel</i>	North <i>Prooijen</i>	East <i>Migry</i>	South <i>Verhees</i>
3♦(♥)	Pass	2NT	Pass
		3♥	All Pass

4♥, reached after Bakkeren drove to game facing a transfer (pushy but not absurd), bought as good a one-count as he could possibly hope for. With trumps three-two and the club ace onside he was not down in top tricks—but by no means cold either. Bakkeren ruffed a spade, led a club to his hand, ruffed another spade, cashed two trumps, then tried to ruff the last spade. Had this stood up he would have had nine tricks with outside chances of success. However, when North overruffed declarer was two down without the option. Israel led 20-15.

And 6 more imps for NTE when the same pair of contracts resulted in nine tricks at both tables, with Mahaffey going minus in 4♥ and Picus making +140.

Board 7 produced the shock headline: Israel bid more than The Netherlands (not better, just *more*).



“Will someone please get this darn bottle off my face?!”

Bd: 7
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ QJ1072
 ♥ J5
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ 10972

West
 ♠ 65
 ♥ Q986
 ♦ KJ962
 ♣ KJ

East
 ♠ AK943
 ♥ A2
 ♦ 754
 ♣ Q86

South
 ♠ 8
 ♥ K10743
 ♦ A83
 ♣ A543

Open Room

West <i>Bertens</i>	North <i>Doron Y</i>	East <i>Bakkeren</i>	South <i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	All Pass	2♣(F)

Closed Room

West <i>Barel</i>	North <i>Prooijen</i>	East <i>Migry</i>	South <i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1NT(♠)	Pass	1♥
All Pass			2♣

When Doron converted the forcing but natural 2♣ to 2♥ he put Israel in a very tight spot. Even after the diamond lead, declarer had very few tricks. He ruffed a diamond in dummy and called for the ♥J, covered by East with the ace followed by two top spades. Declarer could manage the ♥K, the ♣A and a couple of small trumps, but that was still down one. 2♣ in the other room looked far more comfortable: Verhees got the defense of two rounds of spades. He ruffed and led a diamond towards the queen as Barel took his king and played back a diamond. The ♠Q was ruffed, a heart to the ace let Barel ruff another spade, and Campanile still had a trump trick. One down and no swing; still 20-15 to Israel.

Bd: 10
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K104
 ♥ AK
 ♦ Q65
 ♣ Q10876

West
 ♠ 9
 ♥ Q1096
 ♦ KJ874
 ♣ J94

East
 ♠ AQJ8752
 ♥ J54
 ♦ ---
 ♣ K53

South
 ♠ 63
 ♥ 8732
 ♦ A10932
 ♣ A2

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Bertens	Doron Y	Bakkeren	Israel Y
Barel	Prooijen	Migry	Verhees
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Board 10 saw both Israeli pairs commit inaccuracies and be punished for it. The contract was 2♠ in both rooms. On a heart lead by Israel Yadlin, Doron did not cash both heart honors; instead he switched to a club at trick two and declarer could now prevent the heart ruff by guessing clubs, which he did. Then he played ace and another spade at his first turn and made eight tricks.

In the other room on the heart lead van Prooijen cashed the ♥K, then the ♥A (the other order might confirm the doubleton more clearly) and Campanile, knowing that North did not have a doubleton, followed with her two small hearts, keeping the jack and thus making the position crystal clear in that suit to Verhees, who won the ♣A and gave his partner the ruff. The defenders still had a trump and a club to come for down one. 5imps to The Netherlands, and the match was level at 20-all.

Mahaffey, who had earlier picked up 5imps when Nystrom-Bertheau bid a making game that was missed in the other room, took the lead here, setting 2♠ and 3♦x for 7imps. The score at the half was 16-15.

Board 11 finally put the theory to bed that the Israelis were here only to defend and not to bid.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ K9
Vul: None	♥ AJ8
	♦ AKJ875
	♣ 63
West	East
♠ 1087652	♠ A43
♥ Q7532	♥ 94
♦ 10	♦ Q942
♣ 2	♣ QJ87
	South
	♠ QJ
	♥ K106
	♦ 63
	♣ AK10954

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Bertens	Doron Y	Bakkeren	Israel Y
		1♣	3NT
2♦(Ms)	3♦	3♠	3NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Prooijen	Migry	Verhees
			1♣
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	2♥(2)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) GF in ♦ or weak with 1 M			
(2) Pass or correct			

When Israel Yadlin heard his partner bid 3♦ and the next hand bid 3♠ I cannot hope to reproduce precisely what he was planning when he bid 3NT. But Doron thought he was facing a good hand, and jumped to 6NT—never a terrible idea if you can't make 3NT—unless they double. Bakkeren defended 6NT safely to ensure beating it three, but only three, by splitting his club honors; declarer repeated the finesse but could not bring in the suit. Campanile needed to find a spade lead to put 3NT in jeopardy, and she did, leading the ace and continuing the suit, of course. Declarer tested diamonds, then elected to play clubs from the top when East followed with an honor on the first round. When the suit did not break, declarer needed to find the ♥Q to get out for even down one. It was 20-23, The Netherlands.

Hackett-Armstrong had an unopposed sequence to 3NT from the North side, and Nystrom guessed to lead a heart; -460. In the other room Fallenius's 6NT (as South) was down three. NTE led 27-16. The best N/S result was Nemoto-Oda setting 4♠x 1100.

The Yadlins had obviously worn themselves out in the auction, as the next deal demonstrated.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ AQJ
Vul: N/S	♥ K76
	♦ 1043
	♣ Q853
West	East
♠ 982	♠ 6
♥ J1093	♥ Q5
♦ QJ95	♦ AK762
♣ A6	♣ KJ1097
	South
	♠ K107543
	♥ A842
	♦ 8
	♣ 42

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Bertens	Doron Y	Bakkeren	Israel Y
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dbl	2♦	2NT(1)	Pass
3♦	All Pass		
(1) Good/Bad; competitive in ♦ or ♦+♣			

Closed Room

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

Here Israel appears to have an entirely normal hand with which to compete to 3♠, but he sold out to 3♦; not that this was a tragedy, since E/W were surely on their way to 4♦ for +130 anyway. But in the other room Verhees' 2♠ overcall changed the timing of the auction. Campanile, who might have planned to balance with 4♣ over 3♠, bid it directly and Barel gave her 5♦. The defenders gave her hope by playing two rounds of spades, but all that did was to allow her to misguess clubs (correctly since she needed three pitches and South appeared to be short in clubs, but also because North as a passed hand could not have ♣Q) for two down. The Netherlands led 29-20.

The Swedes regained 12 imps from the previous deal; defending 5♦x Armstrong led partner's suit, the ♣4; when Hackett put up the queen declarer had no trouble making 550. Since in the other room 5♦x by West was down 100, it was 28-27 to Mahaffey now.

On Board 13 both N/Ss did well, with a hole in the club suit, to identify the problem and stop in six; both uttered curse-words in their respective languages when they discovered the lie of the suit. No swing.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ AKQ1093
Vul: Both	♥ 8
	♦ Q
	♣ K10763

West	East
♠ 87	♠ 54
♥ KQJ1095	♥ 762
♦ 103	♦ K97654
♣ 954	♣ QJ

South
♠ J62
♥ A43
♦ AJ82
♣ A82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣(0/3)
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
2♥	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦(0/3)
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

At both tables North knew West had no third-round club control and so could not bid the Grand Slam. Well done.

The action continued unabated in our other featured match. Fredin played 7♠ and misguessed clubs to lose 17 imps instead of gaining 13. It was 44-28 to NTE. Elsewhere, only Tanaka-Naito bid and made 7♠.

One of the great advantages of the semi-forcing 1NT response to a major is that you get to stop low with an invitation facing a balanced minimum. But the problem is sometimes that you get to play 1NT instead of three of your major. Witness a case in point.

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ Q9
Vul: N/S	♥ K753
	♦ A863
	♣ J104

West	East
♠ AJ753	♠ 1082
♥ 64	♥ AJ2
♦ KJ2	♦ Q94
♣ K63	♣ A875

South
♠ K64
♥ Q1098
♦ 1075
♣ Q92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Bakkeren played 1NT on a heart lead. When he led a spade to the jack and queen the defenders cashed

out the hearts and started the attack on clubs. When declarer made the normal misguess on the next round of spades, he had to lose two spades, three hearts, a club and a diamond: down one.

In the other room Barel was carried to 3♠ by the forcing notrump. The defenders again correctly attacked hearts, and declarer duplicated the unsuccessful play in spades found in the other room. A flat board and the debate about who would earn the moral victory will be postponed till we have more room in our margin.

Board 16 brought up one of those controversies that has the experts at one another's throats (mind you most of them are already halfway across the table at the best of times).

Bd: 16 North
 Dir: West ♠ 103
 Vul: E/W ♡ A1093
 ♢ 94
 ♣ KJ643

West
 ♠ AQJ976
 ♡ 2
 ♢ 872
 ♣ Q107

East
 ♠ K8542
 ♡ 8
 ♢ K1053
 ♣ A92

South
 ♠ --
 ♡ KQJ7654
 ♢ AQJ6
 ♣ 85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
2♡(1)	Pass	2NT	4♡
4♠	5♡	Pass	Pass
DbI	All Pass		

(1) Weak in spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
2♢(1)	Pass	2♡	4♡
Pass	Pass	4♠	DbI(2)
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♡

All Pass

(1) Multi

(2) Action

When Bertens opened 2♠ Bakkeren relayed and N/S now bid themselves up to 5♡ against 4♠. So far so good, but the problem was that E/W were vulnerable. Nobody makes anything when non-vulnerable against vulnerable, do they? It's defined as a sacrifice. So West could not let 5♡ play undoubled and East did not fancy playing 5♠x, which might go

for 800 on a bad day. So they defended 5♡x for -750 and all the fans of forcing passes muttered something intellectual about omelets and broken eggs. 7imps to Israel when for some reason E/W let 5♡ play undoubled in the other room. 29-27 now.

Fredin-Fallenius bid the slam; 11 not-unfortunateimps and the margin now was 47-39 to NTE.

After a quiet game that hinged on finding the trump queen missing four (both tables guessing correctly by playing for the drop), N/S had a bidding problem in dealing with a preempt, one that has no intelligent solution that I can see.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ KJ986
 Vul: N/S ♡ ---
 ♢ J8
 ♣ A108763

West
 ♠ A7543
 ♡ 105
 ♢ 107
 ♣ KJ52

East
 ♠ 102
 ♡ 9876432
 ♢ K96
 ♣ Q

South
 ♠ Q
 ♡ AKQJ
 ♢ AQ5432
 ♣ 94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
2♡	3♠	2♢	DbI
Pass	5♣	Pass	3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♠	3♣(INV)	3♡	1♢
Pass	4♡	Pass	3♠
All Pass			5♣

3NT is truly an easy contract to make, but how do you get there after the opponents open a Multi? I cannot see that Israel as South did anything terrible here, and after the jump to 5♣ he could not see that 5♢ was likely to be much better than 5♣, unless his partner had a void in hearts. Alas for him, that was the precise layout he was facing (only the impossible club lead sets 5♢).

In the other room Campanile's strict moral code prevented her from opening the East cards. The auction tempoed out to a point where Verhees had no sensible way to get to 3NT, and it is hard to fold

up your cards and make a penalty double when screens are in use. He tried his best by cue-bidding spades and hoping his partner would read that as asking not telling. No, they too were locked into clubs and ended up down one as well. Still 30-27 to The Netherlands.

Sweden took the lead now against NTE when Hackett-Armstrong went down in 6NT, reached after a 3♥ preempt from Nystrom. In the other room Picus passed and that made life a lot easier for Fallenius-Fredin. 52-47 to Mahaffey.

Pride of place amongst the results goes to Charmant for recording +1370 from 6♦. (Is it *always* cover an honor with an honor or *never*, I forget?)

Board 19 showed yet again, if proof were needed, the different game being played at the two tables.

Bd: 19 North
 Dlr: South ♠ K932
 Vul: E/W ♥ 82
 ♦ Q10942
 ♣ 106

West
 ♠ J854
 ♥ AQJ
 ♦ 53
 ♣ 9743

East
 ♠ AQ6
 ♥ 975
 ♦ AJ6
 ♣ AKQJ

South
 ♠ 107
 ♥ K10643
 ♦ K87
 ♣ 852

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Prooijen</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	2♣(1)	Dbf	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dbf.	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Yet another preemptive opening was found by a Dutchman that would not have occurred to the other team, and again it worked well enough to get E/W out of their 3NT contract and into a less elegant 4♠. On the lead of the ♦9 declarer was faced with the possibility of a force. Barel elected to settle for simplicity. He won the first diamond, took a heart finesse, and led a trump to the queen. When both finesses succeeded he cashed the ♠A, repeated the heart finesse, and ran winning clubs, letting the defenders take their diamond and two trumps. Nicely done, and an imp gain against the boring 600 from 3NT.

Both tables did their best on the final deal of the set to make it difficult for their opponents, but each of the E/W pairs found their way in the face of active preemption to 5♣, off two aces. No swing. The Netherlands won 30-28 in a remarkably low-scoring affair given the aggressiveness of the actions taken on so many deals, and the disparity of bidding styles that was so frequently visible.

A huge 14 imp swing to Mahaffey when Nystrom-Fredin made +600 in 5♣ while the five-two heart fit played less than successfully (down 400) in the other room. Mahaffey won 19-11 and now had a 9 VP lead at the top of the table.

Results here ranged from 3♦x making +670 by Saito-Ichikawa of KURITA, to the two pairs collecting 1100 from the sacrifice in 6♦ (Furuta-Chen and Akama-Maruyama were the lucky recipients of this phantom save).



Inspiration



Tera-Fu



"My bite is far worse than my bark."

13th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

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

