



NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 10, 2008
Bulletin Number 5

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal
Assistant Editor: Sue Picus

The Latin Faces Israel in 2008 NEC Cup Final

The “favored” team (that’s code for the one that finished higher in the round robin) was victorious in three of the four quarterfinal matches, the exception being YOI Returns’s comeback against Not the Empire in the second half—although they were trailing by a mere 2imps. In the semifinals the perennial finalists—and often winners—from Israel (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Zur-Campanile) stormed their way into another NEC Cup final; that’s four in the last five years by our count (and the one year they failed to make the finals the Yadlin brothers were not on the team). The Swedes—er, Mahaffey—faded in their semifinal match, perhaps due to the last-minute cancellation of their beloved captain, Jim, or maybe the absence of that purveyor of universal Lev-ity Sam finally caught up with them. In either case, The Latin (Frankie Frontaura, Federico Goded, Gonzalo Goded, Diego Brenner), second place finishers in the round robin, continued their fine form and will meet the Monkey Lady and her Band of Merry Men in today’s final. It’s sure to be a slam-bang, rip-roaring contest, so grab a bag of popcorn and a drink and crank up the old PC ‘cause you won’t want to miss a single deal of it. Gentlemen (and lady), start your engines!

Quarterfinal Results

Team	Carry	1-20	21-40	Final
Mahaffey	.5	23	90	113
Geller		34	24	58
The Latin	.5	56	68	124
Lithuania		10	47	57
Not the Empire	.5	48	45	93
YOI Returns		46	53	99
Israel	.5	54	58	112
Canada		35	36	71

Semifinal Results

Team	Carry	1-20	21-40	Final
Mahaffey	.5	32	43	75
The Latin		44	47	91
YOI Returns		23	27	50
Israel	.5	65	29	94

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

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.

Narita Bus Schedule

From the Intercontinental
(120 minutes)
¥3,500

From the YCAT
(90 min)
¥3,500

06:40
07:40
08:40
11:40
12:40
14:10

Every 15-20 minutes from
05:15 to 19:30

Take Care

by Barry Rigal

The field played 2♥ by South on this deal from the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams (hands rotated).

♠ 85 ♥ AJ94 ♦ J832 ♣ 1073 ♠ J1032 ♥ 8 ♦ AKQ9 ♣ 9842 ♠ AKQ76 ♥ K752 ♦ 107 ♣ K6	♠ 94 ♥ Q1063 ♦ 654 ♣ AQJ5
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Normal defense is to cash two diamonds and shift to

a club. East wins the ace and returns the suit. At one table, declarer won the ♣K, cashed the ♥K and led a heart to the ace after West showed out. Now what? In practice, declarer cashed the top three spades, pitching a club. My partner ruffed and led the ♥Q, then a club, letting declarer ruff in dummy. Now, although he could ruff a spade, he had no entry to the established spade trick. His only chance was that the ♦Q would fall. No luck.

The winning play is simple if mildly counterintuitive. When the ♥8 appears from West on the play of the king, a four-one split must be a possibility, so take the ♠A and ♠K and ruff a spade before playing the ♥A. If East overruffs, declarer has trump control. If East does not overruff, declarer gets to ruff two plain cards in hand and makes at least eight tricks.

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.

YOKOHAMA SRR & SWISS TEAMS QUALIFIERS

Qualifiers for Flight A in Swiss Rounds:

Section A 9T, 8R, 120A

1.	Tsuneo Sakurai, Yoshio Tsuji, Kikuo Ito, Takehiko Tada	192
2.	Takeshi Niekawa, Kazuko Tsumori, Hiroko Yanagisawa, Hiroki Yokoi	158
3.	Reiko Hoshika, Noriko Takami, Kimiyo Nakamoto, Aoe Kimura, Fumie Muroi	140

Section B 9T, 8R, 120A

1.	Kazuhiisa Kojima, Eiko Ooka, Sayuri Ichinose, Teruko Yoshida	149
2.	Hiroko Onishi, Hideko Kobayashi, Chiaki Sakamoto, Kunihiro Takahashi	141
3.	Yoshiko Baba, Tomoko Hashida, Naoko Hishikawa, Takako Kasagawa	134

Section C 9T, 8R, 120A

1.	Hiroko Sekiyama, Yoko Nenohi, Haruyo Iiyama, Michiko Ono	170
2.	Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Misae Kato, Kimiko Kamakari	157
3.	Reiko Inoue, Yuko Sato, Tamiko Okamoto, Tamie Ogawa	123

Section D 9T, 8R, 120A

1.	Haruko Koshi, Yoko Oosako, Misuzu Ichihashi, Michiko Iwahashi	184
2.	Seiko Morinaga, Ryoichi Yasuhara, Tomiko Nakai, Kumiko Matsuo	168
3.	Hidenori Narita, Yoichi Ito, Yasushi Kobayashi, Masaru Yoshida	157

Section E 9T, 8R, 120A

1.	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka	168
2.	Toshiko Kaho, Masayuki Hayasaka, Yuki Fukuyoshi, Takeshi Hanayama	165
3.	Shunichi Haga, Kazuko Kawashima, Misako Fukazawa, Kazuko Takahashi	133

Section F 9T, 8R, 120A

1.	Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata	197
2.	Mark LaForge, Makiko Hayashi, Atsuyo Miyake, Makoto Shioya	178
3.	Yukiko Umezu, Etsuko Naito, Keiko Matsuzaki, Kimi Makita	147

Section G 9T, 8R, 120A

1.	Masaaki Takayama, Hideyuki Sango, Yuichi Masamura, Kumiko Sasahira	168
2.	Mitsue Tajima, Fu Zhong, Zhao Jie, Tadashi Teramoto, Yoshiyuki Nakamura	143
3.	Shoko Somemiya, Eriko Shimizu, Kazuko Okamoto, Akiko Miyata	138

Section H 9T, 8R, 120A

1.	Valerie Gardiner, Peter Gill, Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Brian Callaghan	167
2.	Kazunori Sasaki, Takeshi Higashiguchi, Ryo Okuno, Yukinao Homma	185
3.	Mitsutaka Takemura, Koichiro Kurata, Yoko Matsumoto, Hisao Matsumoto	143

Team Rosters (KOs): 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	
9	Lithuania: Vytautas Vainikonis, Wojtek Olanski, Andrey Arlovich, Valentin Zhuravel	
11	YOI Returns: Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Chen Dawei, Hiroki Yokoi	
14	Geller: Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Hiroya Abe, Chieko Yamazaki	

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

13th NEC CUP Qualifying Datum Rankings (3 matches or more)

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
1	0.94	Peter Fredin	Bjorn Fallenius	Mahaffey	8
2	0.86	Kazuo Furuta	Hiroki Yokoi	YOI Returns	4
3	0.83	Sakiko Naito	Keisuke Akama	NAITO	3
4	0.80	Frankie Frontaura	Diego Brenner	THE LATIN	8
5	0.67	Valerie Gardiner	Peter Gill	VEGA*	5
6-7	0.63	Michael Barel	Migry Zur Campanile	Israel	8
6-7	0.63	Eric Kokish	Gerald Charney	Not the Empire	6
8-9	0.58	Fredrik Nystrom	Peter Bertheau	Mahaffey	8
8-9	0.58	Federico Goded	Gonzalo Goded	The Latin	8
10	0.57	Ryo Matsubara	Mark LaForge	LAS FLORES	6
11	0.56	Michiko Ono	Yayoi Sakamoto	Losier	5
12	0.53	Judith Gartaganis	Nicholas Gartaganis	Canada	8
13	0.51	Andrey Arlovich	Valentin Zhuravel	Lithuania	8
14	0.50	Takashi Maeda	Nobuyuki Hayashi	GIBS	8
15	0.49	Tsuneo Sakurai	Atsushi Kikuchi	SKOTII	8
16	0.46	Paul Hackett	John Armstrong	Not the Empire	8
17-18	0.41	Kazuhiko Yamada	Takahiko Hirata	Fu-Zhao	5
17-18	0.41	Louk Verhees	Ricco van Prooijen	The Netherlands	8
19	0.38	Hiroko Sekiyama	Makiko Sato	Kitty's	3
20-21	0.36	Israel Yadlin	Doron Yadlin	Israel	8
20-21	0.36	Vytautas Vainikonis	Wojtek Olanski	Lithuania	8
22-23	0.34	Robert Geller	Setsuko Ogihara	Geller	8
22-23	0.34	Masayuki Ino	Tadashi Imakura	YOI Returns	8
24	0.33	Gordon Campbell	Keith Balcombe	Canada	8
25	0.32	Yasuko Kosaka	Emiko Tamura	BIRD	5
26-28	0.28	Hiroko Janssen	Ryoga Tanaka	NAITO	3
26-28	0.28	Natsuko Asaka	Sachiko Ueno	SOLARIS	5
26-28	0.28	Yoko Nenohi	Kumiko Matsuo	Kitty's	3
29	0.26	Kyoko Sengoku	Shunsuke Gotoda	Open SESAME!	5
30	0.25	Kazuko Okamoto	Miyako Miyazaki	AQUA	6
31-32	0.23	Hideyuki Sango	Nobuko Matsubara	ESPERANZA	6
31-32	0.23	Ayako Matsubara	Etsuko Naito	makko	4
33	0.21	Sei Nagasaka	Takeshi Hanayama	HANA	8
34-35	0.20	Misuzu Ichihashi	Michiko Iwahashi	ESPERANZA	3
34-35	0.20	Hisami Kataoka	Toshiro Nose	Masters Senior	4
36-37	0.18	Yasuhiro Shimizu	Makoto Hirata	GIBS	8
36-37	0.18	Hiroya Abe	Chieko Yamazaki	Geller	8
38-39	0.15	Iwao Oishi	Aiko Nabeshima	MY-Bridge	5
38-39	0.15	Yoko Fukuyama	Takashi Sumita	ROSEWOOD	8
40	0.13	Yasushi Kobayashi	Masaru Yoshida	JAPAN OPEN	5
41-42	0.12	Yumi Yanagida	Kenichi Ito	Sun Flowers	5
41-42	0.12	Masakatsu Sugino	Shoko Imai	PS-Jack	4
43-44	0.11	Toru Tamura	Mimako Ishizuka	KinKi	8
43-44	0.11	Ton Bakkeren	Huib Bertens	The Netherlands	8
45-46	0.08	Megumi Takasaka	Hiroyuki Taguchi	Open SESAME!	6
45-46	0.08	Makiko Hayashi	Ayako Matsubara	makko	4
47-48	0.06	Yoko Maruyama	Keisuke Akama	NAITO	5
47-48	0.06	Sonoko Namba	Chizuko Sugiura	KinKi	4
49-50	0.05	Kyoko Toyofuku	Toshiko Kaho	Kitty's	4
49-50	0.05	Terumi Kubo	Shimako Yaji	Losier	5
51-52	0.04	Atsuko Kurita	Yoshiko Murata	KURITA	5
51-52	0.04	Kyoko Ohno	Akihiko Yamada	HANA	8
53-54	0.03	Alexander Li	K.W. Tam	Hong Kong	5
53-54	0.03	Hidenori Narita	Yoichi Ito	JAPAN OPEN	5

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
55	0.02	Shunsuke Morimura	Kyoko Shimamura	Fairy Tale	7
56	0.01	Tadashi Teramoto	Yoshiyuki Nakamura	Fu-Zhao	5
57	-0.01	Fu Zhong	Zhao Jie	Fu-Zhao	6
58	-0.07	Sakiko Naito	Ryoga Tanaka	NAITO	5
59	-0.08	Takako Nakatani	Sachiho Ueda	Sun Flowers	6
60	-0.10	Hiroyuki Noda	Eiji Otaka	JAPAN OPEN	6
61	-0.16	Taeko Kuratani	Reiko Fukuda	Sun Flowers	5
62-63	-0.18	Kayoko Kubota	Hideko Hasegawa	BIRD	5
62-63	-0.18	Osami Kimura	Setsuko Kimura	Kimura@Yokohama	5
64	-0.20	Yoko Shimominami	Akiko Miyata	AQUA	5
65	-0.22	Eugene Chan	Eurydice Nours	Hong Kong	5
66-68	-0.24	Etsuko Hasegawa	Betty Tajiri	Losier	6
66-68	-0.24	Kazuko Takahashi	Kazuko Kawashima	Charmant	4
66-68	-0.24	Kimi Makita	Keiko Matsuzaki	GIRASOL	8
69	-0.25	Michiko Shida	Kotomi Asakoshi	LAS FLORES	4
70	-0.30	Kei Nemoto	Yumiko Oda	ikkyu-3	6
71	-0.31	Sachiko Yamamura	Taeko Kawamura	GIRASOL	8
72	-0.35	Kazuo Furuta	Chen Dawei	YOI Returns	4
73	-0.36	Teruko Nishimura	Junko Nishimura	LAS FLORES	6
74	-0.38	Yasuyoshi Toriumi	Harue Iemori	BIRD	6
75	-0.44	Hideo Togawa	Sumiko Sugino	Charmant	3
76-77	-0.45	Junko Den	Chieko Ichikawa	KURITA	4
76-77	-0.45	Kenichi Asaoka	Takehiko Tada	SKOTII	8
78	-0.52	Justin Howard	Peter Hollands	VEGA*	5
79	-0.53	Shoko Somemiya	Tomoko Sakai	AQUA	5
80	-0.54	Ryo Okuno	Takeshi Higashiguchi	Fairy Tale	5
81	-0.60	C.H. Wu	K.F. Tung	Hong Kong	4
82	-0.62	Kiyoko Fushida	Hideko Shindo	SOLARIS	6
83	-0.63	Sonoko Namba	Noriko Takami	KinKi	4
84	-0.64	Mamiko Odaira	Yumiko Kichise	Kimura@Yokohama	5
85	-0.73	Atsuyo Miyake	Midori Ito	makko	6
86	-0.80	Hiroshi Morimoto	Hikoe Enomoto	Masters Senior	5
87	-0.91	Naomi Terauchi	Akiko Miura	SOLARIS	5
88	-0.92	Ryo Namiki	Mariko Matsukawa	Open SESAME!	5
89-90	-0.94	Kazuo Saeki	Kazuo Takano	ikkyu-3	4
89-90	-0.94	Masaru Naniwada	Hisami Kataoka	Masters Senior	3
91	-1.02	Hiromu Nishida	Yoshie Nishida	ROSEWOOD	8
92	-1.04	Masafumi Yoshizawa	Noriko Yoshizawa	MY-Bridge	6
93	-1.05	Akiko Miwa	Masako Otsuka	PS-Jack	3
94	-1.08	Takako Fujimoto	Teruo Miyazaki	Charmant	3
95	-1.20	Hiroko Kobayashi	Chizuko Tsukamoto	Kimura@Yokohama	5
96	-1.34	Kuniko Miyauchi	Shigeyuki Murano	MY-Bridge	5
97	-1.60	Haruko Koshi	Michiko Iwahashi	ESPERANZA	3
98	-1.87	Eriko Ito	Mari Mitani	PS-Jack	5
99	-1.88	Hiroshi Morimoto	Masaru Naniwada	Masters Senior	3

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

A Defensive Hand (from the Software DEFENSE)

by Mike Lawrence

North deals, E/W vulnerable.

North
 ♠ Q7653
 ♥ 863
 ♦ AQ108
 ♣ 2

West
 ♠ AK92
 ♥ J109
 ♦ 763
 ♣ AK10

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbf	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Sitting West, you offer up a takeout double but thereafter, cannot contribute further.

With good clubs, it is clear that North might be ruffing them at some time so you start with a trump (♥J). Dummy makes your choice look good although the its extra values suggest you are not going to beat 2♥.

South wins with the queen and leads a club, won by your ten. You lead another heart. South takes this with the king and then does a strange thing. He does not ruff a club in dummy. Unexpectedly, he draws another round of hearts, East following for the third time. So South has opened a four-card suit! Well, he was in third seat where almost anything can happen. On this vulnerability, he might have a bit out of line.

South now leads the ♦9, playing low from dummy, losing to East's king. East switches to the ♠J, which you win with the king. Rightly or wrongly, you cash the two high clubs which means that for four tricks in a row, a different suit was led. On the ♣K, East plays low, but on your ace, he plays the queen.

What do you make of that and what to you play now? You have two choices. You can try to cash the ace of spades or you can lead a diamond.

♠ Q7653
 ♥ 863
 ♦ AQ108
 ♣ 2

♠ AK92
 ♥ J109
 ♦ 763
 ♣ AK10

♠ J104
 ♥ 754
 ♦ K2
 ♣ QJ653

♠ 8
 ♥ AKQ2
 ♦ J954
 ♣ 9874

If you returned a diamond, you set 2♥ one trick. If you tried to cash the ♠A, you were -110. The winning play is a diamond but the reasoning is what counts here.

Count declarer's winners. He has four heart tricks. He has three diamond tricks. Your partner's ♣Q suggests he has the jack as well. If East started with three clubs to the queen, that would leave South with six of them, a most unlikely holding.

This means that if you return a diamond, South will have only seven tricks. After taking his diamonds and his heart, you will get the last trick with your ♠A or your partner's ♣J.

This is a nasty hand because the illusion is that declarer has lots of winning tricks. Only if you count them will you see he is short one winner.

Just for the record, East was a wimp during the bidding. He had an easy 2♣ bid. Not that this would have affected the bidding greatly, but East's pass is symptomatic of someone who is being too conservative.

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

Registration for the Asuka Cup

If you plan to play in the Asuka Cup (the 2-session Open Pairs on the 11th) and wish to be guaranteed an entry, you must register in advance in the Secretariat, Room E206.

Registration deadline: 7:00 pm Sunday, 10 February.

Reindeer Organization Denounces Writer

by Richard Pavlicek

In response to last Sunday's column, I received a telex letter from Fawn Deerborn, president of NAAR (apparently, some reindeer organization). Miss Deerborn said her members were up in antlers about my account of last year's North Pole Regional. She goes on to state, "Your condescending remarks about reindeer—in particular, the pillaging and plundering—were uncalled for and without foundation. In the future, please keep your opinions to yourself." I was also "uninvited" to attend next year's tournament.

Well, what can I say; I have never had a condescending attitude toward reindeer. In fact, I have always felt there is a place for them not only at bridge tournaments, but in every home. To be sure, they make excellent hat racks; or you can take them outside, turn 'em over, and plow the garden. (Santa, take note for the off-season.)

In support of her claim, Miss Deerborn submitted today's deal, which was played by her reindeer partner Randolph. Aggressive bidding led to a tenuous 4♠ contract, doubled by West. She comments, "There was no defense to beat Randolph's brilliant play."

Dir: West ♠ Q832
 Vul: Both ♥ K75
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ KJ32

♠ AJ9
 ♥ 432
 ♦ AKJ9
 ♣ 765

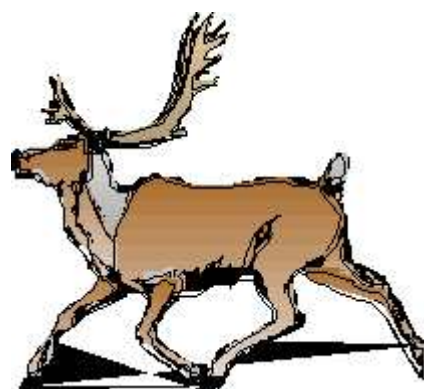
♠ K10654
 ♥ A6
 ♦ 10876
 ♣ A 4

♠ 7
 ♥ QJ1098
 ♦ 543
 ♣ Q1098

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
1NT	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

West led the ♦K, cashed the ♦A, then exited with a heart and sat back to wait for his two sure trump tricks; or so he thought. Randolph won the ♥A, ♥K, and ruffed a heart in his hand. Next came a diamond ruff; ♣AK; a club ruff; and another diamond ruff with the ♠8 so East could not overruff. With three cards left, declarer ruffed dummy's last club with the ♠K and West was helpless. If he overruffed with the ace, he would have to lead away from the jack-nine; if he underuffed, declarer would win both the king and queen. Either way, all West could win was the ♠A.

Dear Miss Deerborn: The hand was well-played for a hat rack, er, reindeer; but I dispute your comment about the defense. West can beat the contract by leading a spade at trick two. Later, when he wins the ♦A, he can clear trumps. This leads to the normal reindeer result, down one. Respectfully yours, R.P.



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

A Sense of Shock and Awe



"I'm ready for my close up, Mr. DeMille."



"That's OK, champ, we'll get 'em next year."



"Beulah, peel me a grape."

Mind Sports Public-Show Event 2008

ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL ARE
MOST WELCOME TO JOIN THIS EVENT
(Please come enjoy other mind sports games when you have time)

Aim: To commemorate the realization of the 1st World Mind Sports Games, JCBL is pleased to introduce all five games of the WMSG to all game-loving people in Japan at the Pacifico on the 9th and 10th; to promote bridge and other mind sports and to raise interest in the coming WMSG.

PROGRAM

February 9th (Saturday) and 10th (Sunday)

*Bridge Section:

10:00-17:00

- ◆ 30 tables of bridge for newcomers and beginners
- ◆ Mini Bridge Introduction for persons who have never played bridge
- ◆ Junior Salon (Mini Bridge) for JCBL Junior Club members and children (7 to 18 yrs old)
- ◆ Contract Bridge Salon for beginners to enjoy and brush up on bridge

13:00-16:30

Debutante Cup (Beginners Cup) ... 9 tables

For people who have no game experience. Our aim is to encourage the beginner to realize the fun of games (the first challenge to beginners to join JCBL, as well)! Sponsored by Of-Cosmetic (one of the gorgeous cosmetic companies in Tokyo), makers of fine hair care products for anyone looking for a good Shampoo, Hair Conditioner or other hair-care goods. You will be sure to find it here!

*Go Section:

13:00-16:30

International Go Federation / Japan Go Federation / Japan Pair Go Association, and the staff from Star Nine (a group of young professional Go players)

- ◆ Go introduction (lessons from Professional and top amateur Go players)
- ◆ Kids Game (Saturday)
- ◆ Simultaneous Game (Sunday)

*Chess Section:

10:00-17:00

- ◆ Chess introduction by former Japan National Women's Chess Team member.

*Xhian Qi (Chinese Chess) Section:

13:00-16:30

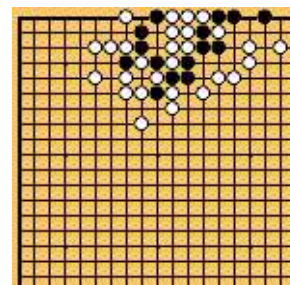
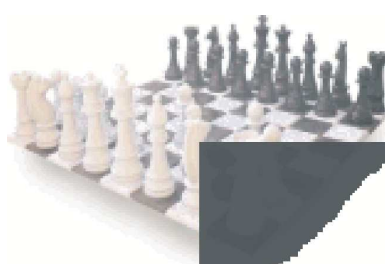
- ◆ Introduction and demonstration by Japan Xhian Qi Association members.

*Draughts Section:

13:00-16:30

- ◆ Although Japan has no representative Draughts organization, an NPO who cares about all board games is participating in the event to introduced Draughts.

Notice: Anyone competing in any section will receive a beautiful seal-embossed card and souvenir. Collect all five seals and receive an additional extraordinary gift.



The Quarterfinals: Not the Empire vs YOI Returns

First Half (Boards 1-20) by Barry Rigal. The Swedes had won the round robin going away. Their reward was their pick of opponents, and they settled on Geller, who had won the tiebreaker on quotient. There would be no carry-forward per se, but the higher-finishing team would have one-half imp in their back pockets to use in an emergency.

Both tables started out with a quiet 3NT contract, with nine top winners and various ways to try to develop an overtrick. The defenders needed to get around to clubs to hold declarer to nine; Mahaffey managed it and collected the first imp.

Bd: 1 North
 Dir: North ♠ KJ104
 Vul: None ♥ KQ54
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A1063

West
 ♠ A3
 ♥ J976
 ♦ Q92
 ♣ J985

East
 ♠ Q762
 ♥ 1082
 ♦ 1073
 ♣ Q72

South
 ♠ 985
 ♥ A3
 ♦ AKJ654
 ♣ K4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



"Oops, dropped another trick."

Board 2 saw a triumph for the 11-13 notrump that Bertheau-Nystrom play at favorable vulnerability.

Bd: 2 North
 Dir: East ♠ 986
 Vul: N/S ♥ A5
 ♦ Q763
 ♣ KQ32

West
 ♠ 432
 ♥ 9873
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ 1085

East
 ♠ KJ7
 ♥ K642
 ♦ K2
 ♣ J764

South
 ♠ AQ105
 ♥ QJ10
 ♦ 10985
 ♣ A9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
		1♣	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
		1NT	All Pass

Neither North nor South had a sensible way into the bidding but they collected 200 on defense. That was too much in a sense since it meant Fredin's 3NT (reached after Fallenius correctly appreciated the value of his intermediates) would have good play. So it proved; a heart lead might have given Fredin some agita, but as the spades lay, and with the ♦J onside, he was always going to take at least nine tricks. In fact, he finished with 11 tricks and Mahaffey led 11-0.

That deal also produced a swing for Canada and The Latin when their opponents were unable to bid the N/S cards to a game contract that is, after all, no great shakes unless the spades lie very nicely.



"Tell them the pros from Dover are here."

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ AK8
 ♥ 10865
 ♦ 43
 ♣ AQ54

West
 ♠ 7432
 ♥ 7
 ♦ J872
 ♣ 10987

East
 ♠ 5
 ♥ AKJ932
 ♦ AK5
 ♣ 632

South
 ♠ QJ1096
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ Q1096
 ♣ KJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♦	2♠	All Pass	

Both tables judged this partscore deal well to stop low, unlike some other tables (where, for example, both tables in Not the Empire and YOI played 4♠ down one and Canada played 3NT down one. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Lithuania sold out to 2♦ by East and brought it home).

Then came a chance for the Japanese.

Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 83
 ♥ K954
 ♦ AJ7
 ♣ KJ76

West
 ♠ Q1094
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 9642
 ♣ A1083

East
 ♠ AJ
 ♥ A10873
 ♦ 1083
 ♣ 954

South
 ♠ K7652
 ♥ QJ2
 ♦ KQ5
 ♣ Q2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Bertheau's heart lead gave declarer an extra heart winner. He immediately drove out the ♣Q (yes, maybe West might have ducked) and had nine tricks. West's passive diamond lead in the other room made life far tougher for Fallenius, who went after hearts at once. Ogihara ducked and now declarer played the ♣Q which Geller won. Declarer had set up two tricks in clubs, two in hearts, and three in diamonds. When he led a heart to the queen, a club to dummy, and a spade, Ogihara ducked and was now stripped and endplayed to concede the ninth trick in hearts for a flat board and a lucky escape for Mahaffey. Nonetheless, nicely played by Fallenius.

Only Furuta-Yokoi set 3NT, when it was played from the North seat. Maybe the defense is harder than it looks.

Board 5 saw the Swedes have the worst of the luck. Even non-vulnerable, 4♠ is surely where you want to be.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 43
 ♦ Q109873
 ♣ J972

West
 ♠ AJ974
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ 62
 ♣ Q1085

East
 ♠ 1062
 ♥ K10982
 ♦ A4
 ♣ AK4

South
 ♠ KQ53
 ♥ AJ75
 ♦ KJ5
 ♣ 63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Bertheau's two-step spade raise suggested extras, and Nystrom simply drove to game. He took the diamond lead and finessed in spades, then drove out the ♥A. The defenders won and exited with a top spade, then won the next spade and cashed a diamond. Now declarer had to ruff the third diamond in hand and draw the last trump, and then needed either the hearts or clubs to behave. No dice and 5imps to Geller.

As East, Charney played 3NT for Not the Empire, and when the defenders led a heart on a blind auction he had nine tricks by playing on spades. It was 12-6 YOI in that match. The other matches all played partscore; Israel led 11-5, The Latin 17-0.

Geller returned the favor on the next deal, bidding a slightly below par vulnerable 3NT, with the cards lying in hostile fashion.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q1032
Vul: E/W	♥ K87
	♦ KJ2
	♣ 765

West
♠ 8
♥ 95
♦ AQ10874
♣ AQJ10

East
♠ AK965
♥ Q1063
♦ 93
♣ 92

South
♠ J74
♥ AJ42
♦ 65
♣ K843

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Geller's raise to 3♦ was perhaps a little pushy, but after a club lead declarer was still in with a shout. Ogihara put in the ♣10 and then led a low diamond from dummy. Fredin won the jack, played a spade, then got in with ♦K and played the ♥K and another heart to set the game 100. It was 16-10 now.

For Not the Empire, Charney tried 3NT again here, and Ino found an enterprising double, based on his diamond stack. Fortunately for declarer the defenders did not get around to spades quite early enough and he escaped for -200, but still an 8 imp loss. 20-6 to YOI.

On our next deal both N/S pairs must have felt happy to come back with 600 after a top heart lead. One can hardly blame Nystrom for leading a heart rather than a club; Ogihara had a far closer decision on lead. I'm not sure I should cast the first stone here. If opening leads were easy there would be less for the commentators to discuss.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ KJ6532
Vul: Both	♥ A75
	♦ A10
	♣ A10

West
♠ AQ
♥ 9863
♦ Q852
♣ QJ5

East
♠ 874
♥ QJ102
♦ ---
♣ K98732

South
♠ 109
♥ K4
♦ KJ97643
♣ 64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
			3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Results were all over the place here; Israel achieved something close to par in each direction, bidding to 4♠ and making ten tricks while setting 3NT on Campanile's club lead. Israel led by 18-11. Hackett-Armstrong got to spades, but played 2♠ for 200 while Charney led a heart, not a club, against 3NT; YOI led 29-6. Frontaura-Brenner reached 4♠

but had to settle for only 2imps when Federico Goded led a heart against 3NT. 19-0 The Latin.

Bd: 8 North
 Dir: West ♠ J93
 Vul: None ♥ AKQ6
 ♦ J8743
 ♣ A

West
 ♠ AK2
 ♥ J873
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q10653

East
 ♠ Q64
 ♥ 9542
 ♦ AQ6
 ♣ 982

South
 ♠ 10875
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K1092
 ♣ KJ74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
1♣	DbI	1♥	1♠
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
DbI	Rdbl	2♥	3♦
3♥	DbI	All Pass	

It is rare to see a pair open a hand that Bertheau-Nystrom would pass. Maybe the result here will persuade Peter Nystrom he is not bidding enough.

As you can see, Geller's opening bid worked out fine to buy the hand cheaply. Fallenius's incisive trump lead did not gain as the cards lay but I like it nonetheless. Eventually Fredin managed to get in with a club ruff to draw trumps and the fact that South had not led diamonds allowed the defense to hold declarer to three spades, two hearts and one diamond. In the other room, though, Nystrom raised hearts freely after coming in to show the unbid suits, and Abe informed him that this was an error. After a diamond lead, the play transposed into the same sequence as in the other room, but with an extra diamond trick in the bag. Still, it was one level higher, so +300 to Geller made the match score 16-10.

YOI was clearly in top form; they bid the N/S cards to 3NT, guessed diamonds, and could not be stopped from taking nine tricks. YOI led 36-6. To be fair, Brenner for The Latin also played 3NT but he was so abashed at discovering that his side had only 21 HCP that he misguessed diamonds to give Lithuania their first imps; 19-4 to The Latin now.

Peter Fredin had the next problem.

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ AKJ1094
 Vul: E/W ♥ 103
 ♦ QJ75
 ♣ J

West
 ♠ 753
 ♥ J98
 ♦ 632
 ♣ Q1052

East
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ KQ652
 ♦ A84
 ♣ A83

South
 ♠ 62
 ♥ A74
 ♦ K109
 ♣ K9764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
	2♠	DbI	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♦	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

As anyone who has watched him will attest, Peter's bidding box has only one pass card in it. Having opened 2♠ to show 10-13 and six spades, he heard his opponents follow a Lebensohl sequence to 3♣. Doubling (intending to convert 3♥ to 3♠) would now have scored a goal, but bidding 3♦ turned 200 or so in undertricks into 140. No swing on a very different auction from the other room.

Both tables settled in the insalubrious contract of 1♥ on the next deal.

Bd: 10 North
 Dir: East ♠ K875
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ1065
 ♦ KQJ
 ♣ A

West
 ♠ J3
 ♥ KJ3
 ♦ A97
 ♣ J10973

East
 ♠ AQ104
 ♥ 98742
 ♦ 864
 ♣ K

South
 ♠ 962
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 10532
 ♣ Q86542

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Geller	Fredin	Ogihara	Fallenius
Nystrom	Abe	Bertheau	Yamazaki
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass		All Pass	

Ogihara's opening lead of the ♠A and ♠10 at least set up a position where the defenders could take three plain-suit winners and a spade ruff. Declarer cashed the ♣A and led diamonds, and the defenders returned the suit. Declarer cashed his diamonds, then exited with a spade; the defenders took a club ruff, as North ruffed low and was overruffed. Then came a heart to the king and ace. In the three-card ending declarer with ♥Q105 left, knew his RHO had only one heart left, his LHO had three, and the missing spots were J984. The 10 was the sexy play to get your name in the bulletin, to pin the eight or nine, the five was the mundane play that succeeded when the singleton was the jack or four. Fredin misguessed and flattened the board against the 100 achieved in the other room on the less dramatic diamond lead.

All the N/S pairs went down in various contracts here. All, that is, except Frontaura-Brenner, where Brenner got to 2♠ from the South seat on a club lead. Declarer ruffed a heart in hand and played on the side suits; it is hard to get more than four trump tricks and the ♦A and the defenders duly did not manage to do so. The Latin led 25-4.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ 1083
 Vul: None ♥ AK65
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ KQ2

West
 ♠ J
 ♥ Q832
 ♦ 10843
 ♣ J984

East
 ♠ AQ97654
 ♥ J9
 ♦ K9
 ♣ 107

South
 ♠ K2
 ♥ 1074
 ♦ J762
 ♣ A653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Geller	Fredin	Ogihara	Fallenius
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♣
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Abe	Bertheau	Yamazaki
Pass	1♣	1♠	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Geller took the lead here when Abe's delicate decision to rebid 2NT over the club raise persuaded Bertheau not to lead a spade (and it is hard to blame him). The heart lead let declarer establish diamonds and the favorable lie of the spades meant he came to an impressive 10 tricks when the defense did not cash out. In the other room the ♠J lead made declarer's task impossible and declarer in essence cashed out for down two.

Hackett-Armstrong played 4♥ on the four-three fit after the Acol style 1♥ opening, down one, while after intervention Ino-Chen judged very well to play 3♣ by the North hand. Ino drew trumps and led the ace and another diamond, and had nine tricks; it was 43-8 to YOI.

The Latin set contracts in each room when Frontaura as North opened 1♣, heard 3♠ on his left, and elected to pass it out. Well judged and 6 imps to lead 31-4. Israel set 2♠ in one room and beat 4♥ four tricks in the other room; they led 28-11 now.

After a quiet, flat, game, Abe managed to make a considerable number of bricks with very little straw here.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ AQJ872
 Vul: Both ♥ Q
 ♦ K85
 ♣ J32

West
 ♠ K6
 ♥ A86
 ♦ AJ942
 ♣ AQ6

East
 ♠ 543
 ♥ J10974
 ♦ Q76
 ♣ 85

South
 ♠ 109
 ♥ K532
 ♦ 103
 ♣ K10974

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Geller	Fredin	Ogihara	Fallenius
2NT	2♠	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dbl	2♠	All Pass	

In 2♠, reached after a rather pessimistic sequence by Nystrom, the defenders took two clubs and a ruff at once. Bertheau returned the ♡J, which Nystrom elected to duck, declarer led a low spade from hand to the nine, and now Nystrom had no winning actions left. He played ace and another diamond and declarer claimed his contract. In the other room Geller might have doubled 2♠ if he was planning to drive to game facing a transfer sequence. As it was, 4♡ had a lot of play, especially on the lead of the ♡Q. Geller won and played back a heart, Fallenius carefully ducking. A diamond finesse lost and again the defenders had to be careful, returning a diamond to dislodge dummy's entry. Now the defenders scored a diamond ruff and three spades, to go with the ♡K. 3 imps to Mahaffey, up 20-17.

For the action elsewhere on this deal, see Rich Colker's separate article later in this bulletin.

A small penalty on a deal that was passed out in the other room reduced the margin in our match to 20-19, Mahaffey. Then came a flat game (doubled by YOI and Israel), followed by something more exciting...

Bd: 16
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 942
 ♡ A632
 ♦ J75
 ♣ J74

West	East
♠ Q75	♠ K1086
♡ 974	♡ KJ5
♦ K102	♦ AQ963
♣ K982	♣ A

South
 ♠ AJ3
 ♡ Q108
 ♦ 84
 ♣ Q10653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables reached 3NT. Fredin, as inspired as ever on opening lead, needed to find his partner with values, so assumed club length. The ♣4 allowed the defenders to unscramble that suit easily enough. Geller ran the diamonds and Fallenius had to find three pitches. He let go a heart, but on the next two diamonds he pitched spades, keeping his clubs, which permitted Geller to make an overtrick. Since in the other room Bertheau played 3NT as East on a club to the ace, a spade to the queen, and a spade back to the jack, the defenders were now well placed. A club to North for a club continuation would doom the game. No, Yamazaki exited with a diamond to allow declarer to establish a second spade winner.

Hackett-Armstrong defeated 3NT by West on a heart lead. Declarer might have flown with the ace at trick one in order to be sure to have the tempo to play spades if it held, but he ducked and Armstrong won the trick cheaply to play a club. Declarer now played on spades and went down. In the same position Kokish also misguessed hearts initially, in a different way, by putting in the jack. But he later played a spade to the king and a heart up to make his game. It was 27-46 to YOI. The Yadlins beat 3NT by East on a club lead when declarer went after spades early, to lead 45-17.

The same pair did not open a weak-two bid on this honorless six-card suit on the next deal at love all:

♠1097632 ♡Q ♦A1053 ♣J6.

This let their opponents find a cheap save on the next deal to make it 45-25. Everyone else opened a preempt with this hand and froze their opponents out, making 4♠ for 420.



"Mmm vpufeshiff mpufh!"

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ 1098642
 Vul: N/S ♥ 109
 ♦ J
 ♣ Q1072

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ AJ762
 ♦ KQ10862
 ♣ 98

East
 ♠ AKQ
 ♥ K84
 ♦ A95
 ♣ KJ54

South
 ♠ J754
 ♥ Q53
 ♦ 743
 ♣ A63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
		2NT	Pass

6♦ All Pass
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT(R)	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥(R)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣(R)	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT(R)	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT(R)	Pass
5♦	Pass	6NT(R)	All Pass

One can overdo cliches such as “the play’s the thing” but Board 18 was just such a deal. If you can’t reach 6♦ from the East side you might as well play 6NT from there. Bertheau relayed six times to discover that the optimal biddable contract was 6NT (Nystrom bid diamonds first). Yamazaki led a spade, letting declarer, after great thought, win and cash a second spade rather than play a club to his king. He then ran six diamonds, both defenders pitching spades, and now led a heart to the king and the last spade winner. In this four-card ending:

♠ ---
 ♥ 109
 ♦ ---
 ♣ Q107

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ AJ7
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 9

East
 ♠ Q
 ♥ K8
 ♦ ---
 ♣ KJ

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q53
 ♦ ---
 ♣ A

Abe kept the ♣Q7 and two hearts, pitching his ♣10, a thoughtful piece of deception. If this was a true card declarer could hardly do better than cash the top hearts and lead a club towards his hand. But as it was, South claimed the last two tricks. Bertheau always sits West by the way, and he felt that this declarer play problem had only come his way because he had angered the card gods by sitting in the wrong chair.

On the whole I think I prefer Geller’s auction from the other room, don’t you? He claimed a swift +940 at trick one on the ♥10 lead.

The Canadians picked up a swing for reaching 6♦ by East (well bid) while Campanile played 5♥ in the other room. The same swing came Not the Empire’s way while The Latin made 6NT by East on a club lead.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ 864
 Vul: E/W ♥ 1062
 ♦ 8742
 ♣ KQ8

West	East
♠ KJ5	♠ 3
♥ 43	♥ KQJ987
♦ AQJ103	♦ 965
♣ 542	♣ A103

South
 ♠ AQ10972
 ♥ A5
 ♦ K
 ♣ J976

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
			1♠
Pass	1NT	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
3NT	All Pass		

I thought Abe did particularly well on opening lead here. The top club simplified the defenders’ task enormously. The fact that Fallenius in the other room stole the hand in 2♠ for +110 the other way, and a flat board, did not detract from his action.

The common result here was 4♠x down 300 against 4♥. The defenders need to lead clubs early to set 4♥, and Brenner duly did so. The Latin led

47-10 now. Israel, who had led a spade but shifted to clubs, set 3NT for the same 9imps; now leading 54-35.

Time for one more swing possibility:

Bd: 20 North
 Dlr: West ♠ A108
 Vul: Both ♥ 94
 ♦ 10986
 ♣ KQ93

West
 ♠ 76542
 ♥ K832
 ♦ J
 ♣ J74

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ A1076
 ♦ KQ7532
 ♣ 1086

South
 ♠ KQJ93
 ♥ QJ5
 ♦ A4
 ♣ A52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geller</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Ogihara</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Abe</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Yamazaki</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
4♠	All Pass		

The final deal saw both tables play 4♠ on a hand where there were ten top tricks, but neither of the declarers wanted to believe it. Both declarers passed the first hurdle by winning the ♦A and playing a trump. Now you need clubs to be three-three but Yamazaki played on hearts and the defenders eventually allowed East in to cash diamonds, and force declarer, which led to -200. With somewhat less excuse, Fallenius did the same after drawing trumps. It was 34-23 Geller, and a very well played set by both Japanese pairs.

The defenders do have a chance to create some doubt in declarer's mind if West follows with the ♣J on the first or second round of the suit. Now South might try to strip and endplay East, on the assumption that clubs are four-two.

Both tables bid and made 4♠ in Israel-Canada, so the score remained 54-35, Israel. But The Latin set the game on a top diamond lead by East, when after the ♦J appeared declarer failed to take the 100% line of drawing trumps and claiming, and

instead attacked hearts. The Latin in front, 56-10.

When Charney opened 1♦ Chen doubled, Kokish innocently bid 1♠, Ino bid 2♣ and Charney rebid 2♦. Now Chen might have tried a natural(?) 2♠ but he raised to 3♣ and there matters rested. Since Armstrong had made 4♠, Not the Empire had scored the last 39imps of the set, to lead 48-46.

Second Half (Boards 21-40—presented as 1-20) by Rich Colker. The two teams began the second half with NTE (Not the Empire) leading 48-46.

Bd: 1 North
 Dlr: North ♠ A943
 Vul: None ♥ 85
 ♦ KJ64
 ♣ KJ10

West
 ♠ 62
 ♥ AKJ964
 ♦ 752
 ♣ 63

East
 ♠ 108
 ♥ 10732
 ♦ Q1098
 ♣ Q98

South
 ♠ KQJ75
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A3
 ♣ A7542

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♦
2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

NTE lost no time improving on their lead when both tables declared 4♠ from the North seat and Hackett chose to finesse Furuta, East, for the ♣Q to make six while Ino played Kokish, West, for that card and made only five; 49-46, NTE.

Both tables in Israel-Canada played in 6♠. Israel Yadlin guessed clubs, since he had heard West preempt, while Keith Balcombe, perhaps looking for an opportunity to create a swing, played clubs the unsuccessful way. So Israel picked up 14 rather randomimps.

No matter which way you spit, it's up wind.

Bd: 2 North
 Dir: East ♠ AK432
 Vul: N/S ♥ K9864
 ♦ 97
 ♣ J

West
 ♠ J97
 ♥ J2
 ♦ KJ6
 ♣ K7643

East
 ♠ 10865
 ♥ 73
 ♦ Q8432
 ♣ Q9

South
 ♠ Q
 ♥ AQ105
 ♦ A105
 ♣ A10852

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	7♥	All Pass	6♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass		Pass	6♥

7♥ looks to be a good contract as several attractive lines of play are available. If trumps are two-two then the contract is cold if either black suit splits four-three or a ruffing position develops in clubs (as in the actual layout). If trumps turn out to be three-one (or worse) then you must find the ♣KQ third or spades four-three and a favorable ruffing position in clubs. In any case, on a spade lead declarer must start by cashing the ♣A and ruffing a club in dummy, as Armstrong did here. After two rounds of hearts, ending in dummy, the trump position will be made clear. When they are two-two as on the present deal declarer can set about testing spades, cashing the ace-king and pitching his two losing diamonds, which Armstrong did. When spades split declarer simply crossruffs the remaining tricks with the fifth spade being his thirteenth trick. If spades had not split declarer would have to rely on the club suit for an extra trick. When the nine falls from East on the second round he ruffs a second club, East showing out, and then uses the ♦A and his last trump as entries to take the marked ruffing finesse for his thirteenth trick. If trumps are three-one, after

winning the second trump in dummy at trick five and noting the fall of the ♣9 on the second round from East, declarer ruffs a spade to hand, cashes his last top trump, and then must decide whether East started with ♣KQ9 or ♣Q9 and play accordingly. With trumps two-two and spades splitting Armstrong was able to claim at trick ten; +2210.

In the Closed Room Kokish found the rather dramatic lead of the ♦K (to beat 6♥ you figure to need a diamond trick, and you might as well lead the king in case the singleton queen turns up on your left). Being only in six Imakura chose a less efficient line of play than in the Open Room. He cashed the two high trumps in his hand followed by the ♠Q, ♣A, and a club ruff. When spades behaved he had thirteen tricks for +1460, to lose 13. NTE leading now, 62-46.

Hackett-Armstrong were the only pair to bid the Grand Slam; the Geller team were the only pair to miss slam altogether. That match was level now.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ Q9
 Vul: E/W ♥ 10854
 ♦ J76
 ♣ AK65

West
 ♠ K6542
 ♥ A92
 ♦ Q532
 ♣ 10

East
 ♠ 73
 ♥ KQ63
 ♦ A1084
 ♣ J83

South
 ♠ AJ108
 ♥ J7
 ♦ K9
 ♣ Q9742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
1♠	2♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	Dbl	2NT
			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
All Pass			1NT

Imakura's weak notrump opening in the Closed Room ended the auction. Kokish led the ♠4 to dummy's queen, declarer dropping the ten, and Imakura then proceeded to cash his five club tricks. He then played ace and a spade to Kokish who exited with a fourth spade bringing declarer's tricks

to eight; +120. When Hackett-Armstrong drove to 3NT after Chen's 1♠ overcall on their combined 21 HCP Furuta had too much to go quietly. Several observers thought they heard him mumble "Make them pay" as he placed the red card on the tray, and make them pay he did. Chen led the ♠9 to Furuta's queen and Furuta returned the ♠7 to which Armstrong followed with the ace. The ♠J then went to the king and Furuta now switched to a diamond, ducked to the queen. The defense now had six tricks for down two, +300, which was 9imps to YOI, bringing them closer at 62-55.

The Yadlins did well to save in 5♣ over 4♠. Their opponents bid on to 5♠ and repeated club leads set up the force to defeat that contract. Israel led by 48 now. The Latin defended 6♠ to pick up 12 more imps; they led by 69 now.

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ J653
 Vul: Both ♥ A
 ♦ J7
 ♣ AJ10643

West
 ♠ K10974
 ♥ J
 ♦ AK3
 ♣ K752

East
 ♠ A82
 ♥ KQ75
 ♦ Q109854
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 10986432
 ♦ 62
 ♣ Q98

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
1♠	2♣	3♣	Dbl
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

Board 4 highlighted the differences in the bidding philosophies between the Japanese E/W pair in the Open Room and their Canadian counterparts in the Closed Room. When Chen opened 1♠ Furuta saw a good hand with spade support and cue-bid 3♣ to send that message to his partner, who promptly bid a game over Armstrong's nuisance "Snap Dragon" double. The ♣A opening lead simplified the play and by trick five Chen was claiming ten tricks, losing only a heart and two trumps.

After Kokish's 1♠ opening Charney saw the potential for bigger and better things with his long diamonds and fair spade support. In no hurry to support spades, even though a big club raise from South could potentially cause him problems later, he started with 2♦ and hit gold when Kokish supported diamonds and he got to show his spade support before having to decide on the best final contract. Kokish then made a good decision to go past 4♠ with his sound opening values, half his points in partner's diamond suit, and little in the way of wastage. Charney passed 5♦, perhaps afraid that 5♦ meant that Kokish's spades were quite weak, which would not be a good omen for slam. The opening lead was the ♣8, ruffed by Charney, and a diamond was led to the ace followed by the ♠J. Ino won the ace and returned the ♦J to Charney's queen. Now Charney ruffed a heart in dummy and a club back to hand and then ran his remaining trumps, coming down to the ♠K10 and ♣K in dummy and the ♠A82 in his hand. Ino was squeezed on the last trump and had to pitch two spades in order to hold onto his ♣A. A push at 620. Still 62-55 NTE.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ 63
 Vul: N/S ♥ 109
 ♦ J863
 ♣ AJ976

West
 ♠ QJ974
 ♥ A76
 ♦ 94
 ♣ K43

East
 ♠ AK2
 ♥ KJ843
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ 82

South
 ♠ 1085
 ♥ Q52
 ♦ AK52
 ♣ Q105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Dbl
3♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Kokish-Charney bid aggressively to 4♥ which required not only the ♣A onside but also good luck in the trump suit. When the defense took the first four tricks and Charney failed to guess the trump

position he was two down for -100. Chen-Furuta started off like a rocket with what appears to be an invitational fit-showing jump shift. But their fuse fizzled at the three level, perhaps alerted by Armstrong's double of 3♦, and they settled for a heart partial when even that turned out to be too much to hope for. The defense was virtually identical to that in the other room and when Furuta also failed to guess trumps he finished one down for -50. 2imps to YOI, 62-57.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ J983
 Vul: E/W ♥ A64
 ♦ J7
 ♣ J1032

West East
 ♠ --- ♠ AQ105
 ♥ KQ98 ♥ J105
 ♦ K9843 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ AQ64 ♣ K95

South
 ♠ K7642
 ♥ 732
 ♦ 1062
 ♣ 87

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Chen's 3♣ follow-up after Stayman appears to have shown diamonds and on his third and fourth turns he showed his clubs, finally jumping to 5♠ to complete his description of a three-suiter void in spades. East showed spades, then diamonds and more diamonds, before he finally parked the runaway auction in 6♦. Armstrong led a trump and declarer drew the rest and claimed twelve tricks by conceding a spade; +1370.

In the other room Charney's 1NT rebid showed a strong notrump. Kokish then completed describing his three-suiter and finally cue-bid spades over

Charney's 3NT. With the wasted ♠AQ we have some sympathy for Charney's failure to bid slam, but wasn't 5♦ more encouraging than 4NT would have been? In any case, once again the Canadians started strong but failed to reach a making slam bid in the other room and when Charney also claimed twelve tricks for +620 the Returning YOIs chalked up their second big gain of the session, 13imps, to take an 8-imp lead at 70-62.

Three out of the eight pairs in the field bid this slam (and one unnamed pair went down in 6♣).

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ K5
 Vul: Both ♥ 10643
 ♦ J93
 ♣ KQ92

West East
 ♠ Q9864 ♠ J73
 ♥ K95 ♥ 82
 ♦ Q874 ♦ AK2
 ♣ 8 ♣ J10653

South
 ♠ A102
 ♥ AQJ7
 ♦ 1065
 ♣ A74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Armstrong's 2♦ response to Stayman showed at least one four-card major, and Hackett then showed four hearts and not four spades with his 2♠ bid. Armstrong showed a minimum with four hearts and Hackett passed. Imakura bid his hearts in response to Stayman and Ino went directly to game, not passing Go and not collecting \$200 (that's ¥21,468). Chen led the ♣8 against 3♥ and Armstrong won in dummy to take the heart finesse. Chen won, played a diamond to Furuta, ruffed the club return, then repeated the process and cashed the ♦Q for down two, -200. Perhaps, in retrospect, taking the heart finesse was not such a good idea. The same defense was executed by Kokish-Charney in the other room but there the contract

was a level higher so the Canadians collected 300 for 3 imps, down by 5 at 70-65.

Bd: 8 North
 Dlr: West ♠
 Vul: None ♥ 96543
 ♦ Q96542
 ♣ 108

West
 ♠ Q762
 ♥ AK102
 ♦ A3
 ♣ AKQ

East
 ♠ AK1093
 ♥ Q
 ♦ KJ10
 ♣ 6432

South
 ♠ J854
 ♥ J87
 ♦ 87
 ♣ J975

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

Kokish's 4♣ bid agreed spades and showed a concentration of values in a hand with slam interest. The rest were cue-bids and the final contract was a claim as long as Charney could keep his fingers off the ♠Q on the first round of the suit. (Makes you wonder about 7NT as a safety play.) The auction in the Open Room is largely a mystery, beginning with the 2NT and 3NT bids. We're guessing that 2NT was some sort of control-showing bid and that 3NT just showed a balanced hand (and was hopefully forcing). 4♥ seems like a transfer and 5NT was probably pick a slam or GSF. In any case all's well that ends well and though 7NT was safer, 7♠ was entirely adequate for a rousing, high-level push.

Pride of place has to go to Canada's Gartaganis who doubled the opponents in 2♥ here, collecting 1700 on a spade lead when they untangled their trumps efficiently. I suspect Migry must have ben a little disappointed to lose 5 for +1510?

Bd: 9 North
 Dlr: North ♠ KQ9652
 Vul: E/W ♥ 1095
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ Q8

West
 ♠ 1074
 ♥ 873
 ♦ A1093
 ♣ K103

East
 ♠ J83
 ♥ AQ2
 ♦ 872
 ♣ A954

South
 ♠ A
 ♥ KJ64
 ♦ KJ54
 ♣ J762

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	2♦(1)	Pass	2♠(2)

All Pass
 (1) Multi
 (2) Pass or correct

Furuta led the ♥A against Hackett's 3♠, then tried the ♦7, king, ace, six. Chen thought this over for a while and then switched accurately to the ♣K, and the defense collected their four tricks to hold Papa to +140. At the other table Charney led a trump. Ino won, led a diamond to the queen, drew trumps in two more rounds (pitching one of each minor from dummy), and led a diamond back to the king and ace. The defense cashed the ♣K and ♣A, at which point Charney, presumably trying to beat 2♠ (?), led a low heart and when dummy's jack held Ino could dispose of his remaining two hearts on dummy's two good minor-suit jacks. Plus 170 and 1 imp to YOI, leading 71-65.

Bd: 10 North
 Dlr: East ♠ Q4
 Vul: Both ♥ AKJ1085
 ♦ 9842
 ♣ A

West
 ♠ 10
 ♥ 97
 ♦ AQJ1053
 ♣ 10985

East
 ♠ J76
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ K76
 ♣ KQJ64

South
 ♠ AK98532
 ♥ 632
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 732

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
		1♣	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT	Dbl	5♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		1NT	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

“Well, ya got trouble, my friend. Right here, I say trouble right here in River City.” In the Open Room Chen did well to give Furuta his choice of minors at the five level but this time clubs was not the right option. Armstrong led the ♠A and when Hackett dropped the queen switched to the ♥3. Hackett took the two top hearts and led back the ♦2, Armstrong ruffing. A trump to the ace begat yet another diamond ruff and before they knew it E/W were down four, -1100. In the Closed Room Charney led a trump against Ino’s 4♠. Ino won in hand, ruffed a diamond, played a club to the ace, ruffed another diamond, drew trump, ruffed a club, and played the hearts from the top for +710. Not good enough, my dear Ino. 9imps to NTE, back in the lead 74-71.

More kudos to Arlovich-Zhuravel, the only pair to reach slam with the N/S cards. They played 6♥ to gain 12imps, but still trailed by 61imps.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ J8642
 Vul: None ♥ 3
 ♦ K10965
 ♣ 87

West	East
♠ 95	♠ AK3
♥ K109	♥ AQ765
♦ J4	♦ Q3
♣ KQ6432	♣ J95
South	
♠ Q107	
♥ J842	
♦ A872	
♣ A10	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
			1♥
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

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

Chen-Furuta were a bit unlucky to be playing against one of the rare pairs that play four-card majors, and to have South pick off their best suit with his opening bid. With 4♥ a vastly superior contract (especially with the opening 1♥ bid locating the four-one trump split) E/W tried game in notrump, but when Armstrong found the ♦A lead declarer was one down before he gained the lead and eventually ended two down, -100. Against Charney’s 4♥ Imakura led the ♠7 to the nine, jack and king. With no reason to place South with four hearts (although he might have been a favorite to have the jack given his 1NT opening and non-ace or king of diamonds lead) Charney cashed the other top spade, ruffed the third in dummy, and played king and a heart getting the bad news that he now had four losers (one trump, one club and two diamonds). The good news was that own one, -50, was still a 2-imp gain—but what might have been? 76-71 NTE.

Vainikonis-Olanski struck another blow for the Lithuanians by opening a strong notrump on the East cards, raised to 3NT. South innocently led a heart; wouldn’t you? That was -490. The margin for The Latin was down to 50.

Bd: 12 North
 Dir: West ♠ J732
 Vul: N/S ♥ J53
 ♦ J8
 ♣ 10752

West	East
♠ AK65	♠ Q1098
♥ AK104	♥ Q6
♦ 943	♦ KQ752
♣ 64	♣ J8
South	
♠ 4	
♥ 9872	
♦ A106	
♣ AKQ93	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Dbl
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Dbl
2♠(4)	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Kokish-Charney got to game here, which was not without reasonable play; had the ♦A been with North the story might be quite different. Imakura cashed two top clubs and switched to a trump, passed around to the eight. Declarer led a trump to dummy, discovering the four-one break, then tried a diamond to the king and ace. Imakura led back a low diamond, jack, queen, and now the handwriting was definitely on the wall. Charney conceded a diamond and claimed nine tricks; down one, -50.

In the other room Chen-Furuta stopped in 3♠ when Chen seemingly undervalued his two ace-kings and passed Furuta's invitation—or perhaps he thought his "free" 2♠ bid already showed his values. The defense began with Armstrong cashing two top clubs and then shifting to the ♥2. Furuta ducked in dummy and his six was good enough to force the jack. A spade to the ace and a diamond to the king and ace put Armstrong back on lead. That was good for declarer when the ♦10 hit the table compressing the defense's only guaranteed remaining trick. Furuta won the queen and led the ♠9 as South showed out. He claimed the remaining tricks for a neat +170 and 6 imps back to YOI, who regained the lead by 1 at 77-76.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ K74
Vul: Both	♥ K643
	♦ K9
	♣ QJ108
West	East
♠ 9853	♠ QJ
♥ Q5	♥ AJ9
♦ AQ102	♦ J843
♣ A76	♣ K953
	South
	♠ A1062
	♥ 10872
	♦ 765
	♣ 42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
	1♥	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Dbl	2♥	Dbl(1)	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Responsive			

Armstrong's 3♥ bid was preemptive, but not even the awesome trick-taking potential of his dummy could avoid six losers (even aided by the fortunate spade position). Hackett won the ♠Q led in hand and led a low heart to the nine, ten and queen. Chen cashed the ♦A and shifted to a club. Furuta won his king and played back a second diamond to the ten and king. A second club went to the ace and Chen exited with a spade to the jack and ace. A heart from dummy quickly led to a concession of two more trump tricks for down two, -200.

Against Charney's 3NT Imakura led a heart, five, king, ace. Charney played a diamond to the queen and king and Ino played a second diamond to dummy's queen. Declarer cashed three diamonds ending in hand (North pitching hearts, South a club) and led the ♠J which rode around to the king. When Charney ducked Ino's ♣Q a spade back collected the defense's last two tricks for down one, -100; 7 imps to YOI, ahead 84-76.

Two tables actually brought home 3NT after a heart lead if the defenders misdiscard, or panic and shift to spades: they might set up the ninth winner for declarer before they can cash five themselves. The Latin and Mahaffey were the beneficiaries, both of those teams were now very well placed with only a few deals to come. Israel led by 20.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ J10
Vul: None	♥ 952
	♦ 873
	♣ 98543
West	East
♠ Q8	♠ AK9543
♥ KQJ763	♥ A4
♦ Q	♦ AK62
♣ AK102	♣ 6
	South
	♠ 762
	♥ 108
	♦ J10954
	♣ QJ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
		1♠	Pass
1NT(1)	Pass	2NT(2)	Pass
3♦(3)	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

(1) Forcing 1 rd, could be FG with ♥

(2) FG, any shape

(3) 5+♥, 10+ HCP

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦(1)	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣(2)	Pass	6♥	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

(1) 5-5+, good suits

(2) Cue-bid for spades

Looking at both hands 7NT appears to be the best contract, requiring only one major not to split badly or for a squeeze to materialize, with all four suits potential threats. Chen-Furuta bounced into that contract and on the spade lead Furuta could claim at trick two; +1520. In 7♥ Kokish won the diamond lead, saw everyone follow to the first round of trumps and also claimed at trick two. No swing.

Bd: 15	North
Dlr: South	♠ 108
Vul: N/S	♥ K107
	♦ KJ73
	♣ KQ109

West
♠ AKQ654
♥ J2
♦ 542
♣ 87

East
♠ J97
♥ Q8643
♦ A98
♣ 62

South
♠ 32
♥ A95
♦ Q106
♣ AJ543



"Sigh..."

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
		1♣	1♣
1♠	2♠	Dbl	3♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Against Armstrong's 3♣ the defense began with two top spades, then switched to the ♥J. Armstrong guessed wrong and won in hand, drew trumps, then claimed ten tricks by conceding a diamond; +130. Against Kokish's 2♠ Ino led a club and seeing dummy switched to a trump. Kokish won in dummy and played a heart to the jack and king. Ino got out with the ♣10 to Imakura's ace, and Kokish allowed Ino's jack to hold on the low diamond back. He won the diamond return and led the ♥Q to Imakura's ace, but when Imakura cashed the third diamond Kokish was one down; -50. That was 2imps to NTE, trailing 84-78.

Bd: 16	North
Dlr: West	♠ AK1032
Vul: E/W	♥ 96
	♦ Q1053
	♣ 104

West
♠ J75
♥ 82
♦ A987
♣ QJ93

East
♠ Q8
♥ KQ105
♦ K64
♣ K862

South
♠ 964
♥ AJ743
♦ J2
♣ A75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Hackett-Armstrong seem to have pushed themselves a level too high on this one for no really compelling reason. Armstrong ducked the ♣Q lead and Chen switched to a low trump. Dummy won

and played a heart, ducking when Furuta produced the queen. Now the defense had five tricks and they collected them in good time; -50. Charney led the ♠Q against 2♣. Ino won the ace and drew two rounds of trumps, then led a heart toward dummy's jack. Charney won the king and shifted to a club, but Ino won the ace and pitched his second club on the ♥J as Kokish pitched. In time declarer had to lose three diamonds (Kokish cashed the ♠J when he came in with the ♦A) and a heart for +140; 4imps to YOI, 88-78.

Bd: 17 North
 Dir: North ♠ 107632
 Vul: None ♥ Q62
 ♦ 875
 ♣ K4

West	East
♠ Q94	♠ KJ5
♥ K109	♥ J85
♦ QJ106	♦ K432
♣ A72	♣ 1063

South
 ♠ A8
 ♥ A743
 ♦ A9
 ♣ QJ985

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Chen led the ♦Q against Armstrong's 2♣, ducked, and continued a second diamond to the ace. Armstrong played a club to the king, ruffed a diamond in hand, then played the ♣J to the ace. Chen shifted to a trump to the king and ace, but Armstrong ruffed a club, exited with a trump to Chen's queen, ruffed the diamond return, and led dummy's last trump, claiming when both defenders followed. Furuta had to win the ♠J on the second round of trumps and shift to a heart for the defense to hold declarer to eight tricks; +140.

In the Closed Room Kokish led the ♦J against 1NT. Imakura won and played a club to the king and a club back to the queen and ace. Kokish continued with the ♦10 which held, then the ♦Q to the king. Charney switched to a low spade to the ace, and

Imakura cashed out his seven tricks for +90; 2imps to NTE, trailing 88-80.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ 10
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ7
 ♦ K742
 ♣ AK963

West	East
♠ K876432	♠ A5
♥ Q854	♥ A1096
♦ 10	♦ AQJ85
♣ J	♣ 107
South	
♠ QJ9	
♥ 32	
♦ 963	
♣ Q8542	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
		1NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♣	Dbl	3♣
4♠	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs reached the good spade game, Chen-Furuta via a Texas Transfer, Kokish-Charney via their own inimitable style. Furuta received the favorable lead of the ♦6 to the king and ace played a spade to the king, a spade to his ace, and ran the diamonds pitching a club and three hearts from dummy when the ♦9 came down third; +480. In the other room the defense led a club and a club. Declarer ruffed, drew two rounds of trumps ending in hand, then took the double heart finesse, eventually losing just a club, a heart and a spade; +420. 2imps to YOI, ahead again by 10 at 90-80.

Two tables actually found a way to go down in 4♠. If you misguess hearts after finding out South has the spade length, that would do it we suppose. One of the lucky defenders was Israel; the Canadian declarer had found North, an overcaller in clubs, with the top clubs and the ♦K. That was enough to persuade him to play South for the heart honors. Israel led by 28 and seemed safe enough now.

**You can't win them all...
but you can sure lose them all.**

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ J85
 Vul: E/W ♥ 975
 ♦ A1064
 ♣ AQ4

West
 ♠ A109642
 ♥ KJ8
 ♦ 95
 ♣ 95

East
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ Q62
 ♦ KJ82
 ♣ KJ102

South
 ♠ K7
 ♥ A1043
 ♦ Q73
 ♣ 8763

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Dbl(1)	Rdbl(2)	1NT
2♠	All Pass		

(1) Support

(2) 8+ HCP, usually 2-card ♠ support

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Hackett led a heart against 2♠, won by the king, and Chen guessed diamonds immediately by playing the nine and flying with the king when Hackett followed low. Next the ♠Q was covered by the king and ace, and the ♠10 went to North's jack. Hackett cashed the ♦A and played a second heart as dummy's queen held. Chen ruffed a diamond back to hand, noting the fall of the queen, drew the last trump, and played a club toward dummy. When Hackett ducked one of declarer's remaining losers went away on the ♦J; +170.

The rumor is that Charney forgot what his side's balancing bids meant over the opponents' notrump, so when Kokish bid 2♦ Charney passed not wanting to get into trouble later in uncharted waters. Kokish must have loved finally getting to declare a hand, even if he was playing his four-two fit from the two-card side. Ino led the ♠5 to the queen, king and ace and Kokish immediately tables the ♣9 and Ino flew with the ace. Ino cashed the ♠J and shifted to a low club, Kokish accurately inserting the jack. A heart to the jack and a heart to the queen and ace followed, and Imakura finally decided "Enough of this nonsense" and placed a trump on the table. Ino won the ace and returned a

trump, dummy's ten losing to Imakura's queen. Kokish won the heart exit and cashed the ♠9, pitching the ♣10 from dummy as Imakura ruffed with his ♦7. The ♥10 allowed dummy to score both of its remaining trumps, but Ino claimed trick thirteen with the ♦10 for down two, -200; 9 imps to YOI, who just about had this one wrapped up mathematically at 99-80.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ 1085
 Vul: Both ♥ 8
 ♦ AJ9753
 ♣ J72

West
 ♠ K62
 ♥ AKJ1072
 ♦ K
 ♣ A43

East
 ♠ AQ3
 ♥ Q954
 ♦ 10642
 ♣ K8

South
 ♠ J974
 ♥ 63
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ Q10965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
1♥	Pass	3♦(1)	Pass
3♠(2)	Pass	4♣(2)	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	All Pass

(1) Limit raise, 4-card support

(2) Cue-bid

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Charney</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT(1)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦(2)	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

(1) Forcing

(2) Transfer to ♥

The editors found Furuta's 4♥ bid unduly pessimistic and his 5♥ bid incomprehensible. With prime values and partner having made a slam try in spades, a suit in which you hold two of the three top honors, there can be little reason not to let him in on the fact that the suit in which he needs help is well under control. With South's double partner's redouble shows first-(not second)-round control. What values can partner have for his slam try opposite a limit raise? The ♠K, ♥AK and ♣A add up to only 14 HCP. South rates to have the club

intermediates, so the only other high cards partner can have are in diamonds, and he surely needs to have at least the king to go beyond game after you signed off. On the other hand, with a sixth trump Chen also had every reason to bid the slam after East showed controls in both black suits. Even if there's a diamond loser there's a good chance that the black-suit losers will go away, one on the other or both on diamonds. Actually, partner does not even need to have the ♠Q for the slam to be a good one. We're slam bidders from both sides.

Both tables took twelve tricks but the Canadians emerged with 13 imps, drawing closer but falling a bit short at 99-93. Congratulations to YOI Returns, who move on to the semifinals.

Five tables out of eight bid the slam; we guess it is not so easy. Israel picked up the swing to win by what looked like a comfortable 41, Mahaffey and The Latin had won going away.

The Semifinals: Mahaffey vs The Latin; Israel vs YOI Returns

by Barry Rigal

First Half (Boards 1-20): Normally the first boards of the morning are an opportunity for the players to demonstrate that they are not fully awake. However the semifinals started in the early afternoon, since the quarterfinals had been completed at 10 am. So that excuse would not be available to the players; they'd have to find something more imaginative.

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ KJ6
 ♥ 107
 ♦ AQ42
 ♣ Q1054

West
 ♠ A8754
 ♥ QJ53
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A32

East
 ♠ Q109
 ♥ 2
 ♦ K963
 ♣ KJ976

South
 ♠ 32
 ♥ AK9864
 ♦ J1087
 ♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♥

All Pass

The jump to 2♥ was constructive but not forcing and bought the hand. Plus 110 looked excellent with 4♠ likely to make. But something went terribly

wrong on the heart lead and club shift. Gonzalo who should have known that the ♥AK were on his right, passed the ♠Q and now lost two trumps and a ruff instead of one trump and no ruffs. 5 imps to Mahaffey instead of 12 the other way.

Both N/S pairs in YOI-Israel played heart contracts, down 100.

Bd: 2
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 98
 ♥ A10875
 ♦ K10763
 ♣ 5

West
 ♠ AK4
 ♥ QJ6
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ 9874

East
 ♠ 5
 ♥ K942
 ♦ 82
 ♣ AKQJ62

South
 ♠ QJ107632
 ♥ 3
 ♦ Q95
 ♣ 103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
		1♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		1♣	2♠

3NT All Pass

Fredin settled for simplicity when he heard partner open what was typically a balanced 11-13. Gonzalo took an extreme position to play for penalties with this trump holding (♠KQx would have been far better advised, since presumably Bertheau knew

he was missing the ♠AK when he jumped to 2♠ so he was likely to have seven for the bidding). 3NT made 490 (the same result achieved at both tables in our other match). The defenders led a heart against 2♠x and shifted to trumps to stop the club ruff. Declarer drew trumps and guessed diamonds since East was known to be six-four on the bidding and play thus far. 15 imps meant a 20-0 lead for Mahaffey.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ A7
 Vul: E/W ♥ QJ
 ♦ 865
 ♣ J98643

West
 ♠ KQ64
 ♥ 10986
 ♦ A43
 ♣ 105

East
 ♠ 9852
 ♥ 74
 ♦ QJ972
 ♣ Q2

South
 ♠ J103
 ♥ AK532
 ♦ K10
 ♣ AK7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	1♦(WK)	Pass	1♣(STR)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Having reached 3NT on a top spade lead Brenner took a very cautious play by winning and leading a club to the seven. Fredin won and shifted to a heart, cutting declarer's communications. Now all he could do was unblock clubs and cross to the heart to cash one club, then lead a spade. He had to give up two diamonds at the end; nine tricks made. The heart lead in the other room meant declarer had to play clubs from the top, and when they split West came under the gun on the discards, since he did not know if his partner had two or four hearts. Bertheau eventually let go one heart himself and now Gonzalo did so, too. Bertheau could overtake his remaining heart honor and make 11 tricks. 2 imps, and a 22-0 lead for Mahaffey.

At both tables in Israel-YOI the response of 1NT wrong-sided notrumps and the defenders cashed

out the diamonds. Still 0-0 here.

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ 53
 Vul: Both ♥ QJ
 ♦ 1062
 ♣ Q109832

West
 ♠ 984
 ♥ 1093
 ♦ AKJ4
 ♣ A64

East
 ♠ AK107
 ♥ AK7652
 ♦ 973
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ QJ62
 ♥ 84
 ♦ Q85
 ♣ KJ75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠(1)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(2)	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦(0/3)	Pass
5♠(Q♥?)	Pass	6♥(No)	All Pass

(1) GF relay
 (2) Transfer

Both tables got to 6♥ without ever being in danger of playing 7♥; that contract is makeable but only by going after diamonds rather than spades (it might be best to cash the ♦AK and finesse in spades). Plus 1430 was the first push for The Latin; things were improving.

A flat board in Israel-YOI in 6♥; our first flat board of the event.



"Has anyone seen a monkey around here?"

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J6532
 ♥ J542
 ♦ A
 ♣ 872

West
 ♠ K98
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ 97652
 ♣ QJ6

East
 ♠ AQ1074
 ♥ K86
 ♦ KQ4
 ♣ 109

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ A1073
 ♦ J1083
 ♣ AK543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
	Pass	1♠	Dbl
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	1NT	Dbl(1)
Pass	2♥(P/C)	All Pass	
(1) Minor + Major			

Against 2♠ the defenders led a club and shifted to diamonds. They took their two ruffs in diamonds to cash the first six winners, then graciously conceded the rest. But -50 represented a 3 imp pick-up for The Latin since 2♥ by North on a club lead allowed declarer to crossruff, and only the bad diamond break prevented him from making more than +140. 22-3 to Mahaffey.

Both E/W pairs played notrump, making seven tricks, but Campanile was in 2NT, Furuta in 1NT. 4-0 to YOI.

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ Q1097
 ♥ KJ7
 ♦ A
 ♣ AK754

West
 ♠ J8
 ♥ Q1065
 ♦ 10842
 ♣ Q108

East
 ♠ 653
 ♥ A984
 ♦ 653
 ♣ 632

South
 ♠ AK42
 ♥ 32
 ♦ KQJ97
 ♣ J9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠(1)	Pass	4♠(2)
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
(1) 4=3=1=5			
(2) Slam-try			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

With any one but Peter Fredin on lead (or maybe Helgemo) you'd expect declarer to guess hearts. It is very close here, although of course if West had some critical spade holdings he might cash the ♥A when he had it. Brenner took a long while but guessed right in the end. Well done, especially since had he gone wrong and played the ♥J he would have seen Fredin's face in the papers, whereas had he correctly gone up with the ♥K it would have been his name in the column.

On the same low heart lead Israel Yadlin guessed hearts in 6♥. Ino-Imakura bid 1♦-2♣; 2♦-2♠; 3♠-4♣; 4♠-Pass. I'll leave you to decide where blame should be apportioned.

Bd: 7
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ KQ9632
 ♥ 64
 ♦ 65
 ♣ 843

West
 ♠ J854
 ♥ KJ53
 ♦ A932
 ♣ 2

East
 ♠ A7
 ♥ AQ107
 ♦ K10
 ♣ KJ1095

South
 ♠ 10
 ♥ 982
 ♦ QJ874
 ♣ AQ76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West <i>Fredin</i>	North <i>Frontaura</i>	East <i>Fallenius</i>	South <i>Brenner</i>
Pass	2♠	Dbf	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both tables did well to have a controlled auction to what in the abstract is the right contract if spades are not six-one. As it is there are decent chances for 12 tricks, but 11 looks normal enough. No swing. Note that Bertheau took no part in the auction facing a vulnerable one-level opening; guess he's been there before.

Another flat board at all four tables in 650; still Israel by 11-4.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ 1062
Vul: None	♥ K7
	♦ KQ93
	♣ KQ97

West
♠ AK85
♥ J954
♦ J8
♣ 1064

East
♠ Q73
♥ 1032
♦ 765
♣ AJ82

South
♠ J94
♥ AQ86
♦ A1042
♣ 53

Open Room

West <i>G. Goded</i>	North <i>Nystrom</i>	East <i>F. Goded</i>	South <i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Fredin</i>	North <i>Frontaura</i>	East <i>Fallenius</i>	South <i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

A quirk of notrump ranges saw Nystrom facing an 11-13 rebid and Brenner facing a 12-14 hand. Even so, maybe Diego was stretching to drive to game. The defenders cashed out the spades and took the ♣A against 3NT; 5 imps to Mahaffey it was 27-3 now.

No swing in our other match where both tables played partscores. 11-4 still.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ 107
Vul: E/W	♥ K1095
	♦ KQJ5
	♣ K75

West
♠ Q9854
♥ 6432
♦ 106
♣ 96

East
♠ KJ62
♥ Q
♦ A873
♣ AQ108

South
♠ A3
♥ AJ87
♦ 942
♣ J432

Open Room

West <i>G. Goded</i>	North <i>Nystrom</i>	East <i>F. Goded</i>	South <i>Bertheau</i>
	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West <i>Fredin</i>	North <i>Frontaura</i>	East <i>Fallenius</i>	South <i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
3♠	2♥	Dbf	Rdbl
All Pass	Pass	4♠	Dbf

It's all very well declaring vulnerable games with a minority of the high cards but it looks to me like Fredin simply did too much here. On a top diamond lead the defenders took their red tricks and shifted to trumps. Declarer could not develop the clubs for enough discards, so had to go down one. I do not see a squeeze developing. Since 1NT went down 200 this was 8 imps for The Latin; the running total was 27-11.

Furuta-Chen reached 4♠ after Chen only bid 2♠ in the position where Fredin bid 3♠. However, he competed to 3♠ and now Furuta hung him and raised to game. Campanile-Barel played 3♠ after doubling a weak notrump. Nine tricks in each room; Israel led 17-4.



"It says here that 2♥ is forcing to two of a minor. I think we should play that."

Bd: 10
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J3
 ♥ A1076
 ♦ KJ1094
 ♣ 104

West
 ♠ Q8542
 ♥ 9842
 ♦ Q
 ♣ KJ6

East
 ♠ K6
 ♥ K
 ♦ A87532
 ♣ AQ53

South
 ♠ A1097
 ♥ QJ53
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 9872

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT(♣)	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

2♣ looked like a sensible enough place to play but on a trump lead declarer could only scramble six tricks. Federico won the ♣K, led a spade to the king and ace, won the trump return in dummy, and tried to ruff a diamond. South ruffed in and played the last trump. 3♦ was hardly any more fun. On a club lead declarer went after diamonds; the five-one split meant that the defense took four trumps and two aces. No swing at -200 and still 27-11.

Both tables played 2♣ in our other match; Imakura's ♥Q lead worked better (after Ino flew the ♥A and shifted to trumps) than Israel Yadlin's lead of the singleton diamond. Furuta took eight tricks, Campanile seven, and halfway through it was 17-9.

Cicero, the Roman orator, was fond of decrying the behavior of his contemporaries with the line 'O tempora, o mores!' I wonder whether you can guess what put me in mind of this?



"So I made him pick up the lead and eat it!"

Bd: 11
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q853
 ♥ KJ1072
 ♦ A86
 ♣ 10

West
 ♠ AK2
 ♥ 93
 ♦ 9432
 ♣ Q983

South
 ♠ 76
 ♥ Q854
 ♦ KQ10
 ♣ KJ72

East
 ♠ J1094
 ♥ A6
 ♦ J75
 ♣ A654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Heart raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

No swing and a general toothless grumble about "In my days people needed opening bids to open the bidding". It was 27-11 still to Mahaffey.

When Imakura opened a mini notrump that got him to 4♥, but Israel Yadlin passed the South hand of course and Doron played 2♥; 6 imps for Israel to lead 23-9.

Bd: 12
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J72
 ♥ K98
 ♦ AKJ82
 ♣ QJ

West
 ♠ Q1086
 ♥ AQ54
 ♦ 96
 ♣ 863

South
 ♠ A4
 ♥ 3
 ♦ Q10543
 ♣ A7542

East
 ♠ K953
 ♥ J10762
 ♦ 7
 ♣ K109

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♠(Minors)
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥(SPL)
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Since 3NT on a spade lead needs quite a lot (spades four-four and two finesses) N/S figure to gainimps for bidding 5♦ enough times that they do not need to consider doing more. Well done in the bidding by The Latin. Against 3NT Federico Goded opted for length not strength on opening lead. The heart lead meant declarer simply needed the club finesse. Lucky, but Mahaffey would take the loss of 1 imp happily enough and remain 27-12 in front.

Israel played 5♦, YOI played 3NT; Campanile led...a heart. No swing.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ A3
Vul: Both	♥ J862
	♦ A52
	♣ AK84

West	East
♠ K109	♠ 8765
♥ A10953	♥ Q4
♦ Q64	♦ K83
♣ 105	♣ QJ72

South
♠ QJ42
♥ K7
♦ J1097
♣ 963

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1NT	All Pass	

Both tables defended 1NT on the lead of the ♠8, covered by the jack. Gonzalo ducked, and declarer finessed in diamonds to lose to the king. Back came a low club to the ten and king, and declarer cleared the diamonds, letting West win his ♦Q to play a club through. The defenders reverted to spades, and declarer took the bare ace to lead a

heart to the king and ace. Back came a low heart and Nystrom guessed well to duck, but still had only six tricks: one heart one diamond and two in each of the black suits.

In the other room Fredin covered the first spade and declarer won and led a low club from his hand. Fredin won the ten and played a second, then a third spade. Declarer passed the ♦J, and Fallenius misjudged the position by ducking. Now declarer cashed his club winners and was still in with a chance since the defenders were going to have to open up hearts for him. No: he led a heart to the king and ace. Fredin returned...a heart and now when declarer ducked he had his seventh trick. It was 27-17 now to Mahaffey.

Campanile-Barel defeated 1NT when declarer played on clubs, not diamonds, depriving them of the chance to err. Meanwhile, Doron persuaded the opponents to lead hearts for him and endplay themselves later. 5imps to Israel, leading 28-9.

There were more opportunities for swing again, with a challenging opening lead.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ AKQ
Vul: None	♥ 76532
	♦ K74
	♣ Q10

West	East
♠ 7	♠ 86432
♥ K1094	♥ J8
♦ A653	♦ 2
♣ AJ63	♣ 98754

South
♠ J1095
♥ AQ
♦ QJ1098
♣ K2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Gonzalo led a diamond (which strikes BR as

perverse since you need so much less in clubs for that lead to be right, although RC thinks it combines a chance to hit partner with less risk of costing a trick in the suit). Fredin—who had heard declarer suggest nothing in hearts—must have been aggrieved to find how expensive his choice of a bid suit as opposed to an unbid suit was. Flat 430s and this time I'm going to go out on a limb and, despite believing myself to be amongst the world's worst opening leaders, suggest that both defenders were at fault here.

Barel led a club against 3NT when Ino-Imakura had a very similar auction to the Swedes; Chen led a diamond, again after he had heard South open the suit. 11 imps to Israel, up 39-9.

Bd: 15 North
 Dir: South ♠ A9764
 Vul: N/S ♥ 10754
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 963

West
 ♠ 105
 ♥ 962
 ♦ QJ9432
 ♣ K8

East
 ♠ K82
 ♥ AQJ
 ♦ 65
 ♣ AJ1054

South
 ♠ QJ3
 ♥ K83
 ♦ AK87
 ♣ Q72

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Brenner received a top diamond lead against 2♠. He cashed two diamonds to pitch a club and took a trump finesse. The defenders won, cashed two clubs ending in West, and played a third diamond. Brenner ruffed low and the overruff put him down one. Bertheau also received a top diamond lead and took a club discard at once. Then he sneaked the ♦7 past a siesta-struck Gonzalo, discarding a club from dummy although he was probably planning to pitch a club even if it had been covered. Now there were no trump promotions and declarer had extra trump control and wrapped up +110. 32-17 to Mahaffey.

The Yadlins had an accident here (using Stayman to play 2♥ rather than 2♠, down 300, which canceled out the effect of their teammates setting

2♠). 5 imps to YOI, down 39-14.

Bd: 16 North
 Dir: West ♠ KQJ7
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q7532
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ 85

West
 ♠ A32
 ♥ A1064
 ♦ 3
 ♣ J10732

East
 ♠ 6
 ♥ KJ8
 ♦ AK98542
 ♣ AK

South
 ♠ 109854
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 1076
 ♣ Q964

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	1♥	Dbl	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥(1)	Dbl(2)	6♦	All Pass
(1) Two+ key-cards for diamonds			
(2) Lead something else			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣(♦)	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

3NT looks absolutely hopeless on repeated spade leads; Fredin found an ingenious way to make the defenders do something silly. After the ♠K got the ♠10 from South, Frontaura continued with the ♠Q. Fredin won and played a third spade in a position where he clearly only had four hearts and thus three spades. When Frontaura played low he had blocked the spades, so all Brenner could do was to lead a spade to his partner's jack. Dummy had had to discard two diamonds, so North exited with a top diamond, ducked, and another diamond. Declarer ran the minor-suit winners, finding North as a passed hand with nine points in spades and diamonds. So despite the indications to the contrary from the spade and diamond lengths, he misguessed the ♥Q to go down. Since Nystrom had led a heart to 6♦ the play was speeded up and Federico claimed 12 tricks at once. We had a new leader, 33-32.

The Yadlins defeated 3NT here after bidding and supporting spades. Not bad, but only good enough for a push since Migry misguessed the ♥Q in 6♦ on

an auction where North had passed initially then overcalled in spades. Since N/S open most 11-counts it was not so easy to get it right. Still 39-14 to Israel.

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ J9653
 ♥ KQJ
 ♦ KQ8
 ♣ J8

West
 ♠ KQ102
 ♥ 107
 ♦ 73
 ♣ K10764

East
 ♠ A4
 ♥ 9653
 ♦ A10965
 ♣ Q3

South
 ♠ 87
 ♥ A842
 ♦ J42
 ♣ A952

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
All Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠

What makes the forcing notrump response so unpopular is deals like this one, where Frontaura had to struggle in a silly five-two fit with 1NT having seven top tricks. Declarer lost four trumps when he led low from his hand initially, but even had he followed some other tack there was a heart ruff looming.

Let's just revert to that 1NT contract; seven tricks, yes, but can you reach them? On a club lead Bertheau had no re-entry to hand for the thirteenth heart. He tried his best by leading and continuing diamonds, but Federico ducked the ace (an essential play) and won the second diamond to play a third. Bertheau overtook the third heart and conceded down one when the suit did not behave. No swing. Still The Latin by 1.

Both tables in our other match played 2♠ down one.

**We have seen the truth...
and it makes no sense.**

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AQ4
 ♥ J8432
 ♦ Q653
 ♣ 7

West
 ♠ K1093
 ♥ 965
 ♦ K
 ♣ KJ1042

East
 ♠ J876
 ♥ AK107
 ♦ A107
 ♣ AQ

South
 ♠ 52
 ♥ Q
 ♦ J9842
 ♣ 98653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	2NT(F)	Pass
3NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
		4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♥(♠)	Pass	1♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass	3♠	Pass

4♠ looks a dull contract, right. Not so fast; it was easy for Gonzalo, who won the club lead and played on trumps, to take 11 tricks. When Brenner led the ♥Q declarer took it in hand and finessed in spades. North won and played back a heart. Declarer rose with the ♥K...oops. Back came a club now, and declarer was in no danger was he? He won, unblocked diamonds, and tried to cross to a club honor to pitch the heart loser. North ruffed in and was able to cash a heart for one of the unluckier pieces of declarer play we've seen in a while. Note that if declarer had simply unblocked diamonds at trick two he might have made, but that would require him to play trumps from dummy. 44-32 to The Latin.

Barel duplicated Gonzalo's line for 450, Chen played 4♠ on the lead of the fourth-highest ♥3. When South contributed the ♥Q shouldn't declarer have worked out what was happening in hearts and finessed on the second round? He did not and the Israelis had another 11 imps to lead 50-14.

**Every green thumb comes...
with a lot of manure.**

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ Q10
 Vul: E/W ♥ 842
 ♦ AK4
 ♣ J9854

West
 ♠ K82
 ♥ AK1065
 ♦ 108
 ♣ 1062

East
 ♠ J3
 ♥ QJ3
 ♦ J73
 ♣ AKQ73

South
 ♠ A97654
 ♥ 97
 ♦ Q9652
 ♣ ---

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
			2♠

All Pass

Neither West wanted to make a takeout double of 2♠. Yes your honors are a trifle skewed but is it not the normal action to take here? Both declarers made 170, so the lead remained 45-32.

Things were far more exciting in the other match. Both Souths opened a Multi 2♦. Where Barel passed, the Japanese rested in 2♠ and Campanile balanced with a double. Barel jumped to 4♥, making a painless 620 on the defense of a top diamond and a shift to the ♠Q, when South returned a spade, not a diamond. You would have thought South might have done something at trick one or three to set the game. Where Chen overcalled 2♦ over 2♥ Doron joined in with 2♠; now Furuta made a cue-bid raise to 3♠, Israel joined in with a lead-directing 4♣ and now Doron was doubled in 4♠. He guessed trumps and collected 590, for 15 imps and a 65-9 lead.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ ---
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ8653
 ♦ K942
 ♣ K104

West
 ♠ A10763
 ♥ AQ9
 ♦ J87
 ♣ 98

East
 ♠ QJ985
 ♥ 7
 ♦ AQ105
 ♣ J76

South
 ♠ K42
 ♥ 1042
 ♦ 63
 ♣ AQ532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>bertheau</i>
1♠	2♥	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♠	Pass	3NT(1)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Those of you who still have Board 18 fresh in your minds might consider on the diamond lead found in both rooms how likely it might be that West could find a way to go down here too. Win the ♦A and play the ♠A? No, nobody would do that. Both declarers finessed in diamonds, putting in dummy's queen to confuse matters, and finessed in spades for 650. No swing and 44-32 to The Latin at the half, having trailed 27-3 at the start of the set.

When Barel passed in first seat he ended up defending 4♥x; declarer ran out of entries to finesse hearts. Down 200 but still a gain of 9 imps for YOI when 4♠ made 620 in the Closed room. It was 65-23 at the break here.

Second Half (Boards 21-40—numbered 1-20):

Three of the four tables started by producing a small breach of the Law of Total Tricks by competing with eight trumps against eight to the three level. They went one down against their opponents' 110. Larry Cohen demanded a recount, but there it was. The fourth table justified Larry's principles by going down in 2♠. Cosmic order had been restored and Israel had 3 imps to increase their lead to 45.

Bd: 2 North
 Dir: East ♠ K974
 Vul: N/S ♥ AQJ108
 ♦ ---
 ♣ K1075

West
 ♠ 10653
 ♥ 963
 ♦ A10653
 ♣ 2

East
 ♠ AQ8
 ♥ 54
 ♦ KQ842
 ♣ A64

South
 ♠ J2
 ♥ K72
 ♦ J97
 ♣ QJ983

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	DbI	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The second board saw Federico Goded with a hand outside his notrump range (they play up to 18) start with 1♦. When Nystrom could overcall 2♥ it was natural for Bertheau to raise him and for Nystrom to take a shot at game. On the normal diamond lead declarer has only nine tricks since he must ruff and draw trumps; the defenders can keep leading diamonds forcing declarer so that he never scores a spade trick. But when Gonzalo Goded overtook the opening lead declarer could ruff and draw trumps and the defenders no longer had a force. Bertheau was telling his partner (in Swedish, of course) that he would never have raised hearts without the ♦J. Gonzalo Goded was trying to avoid catching Federico's eye.

In the other room the 14-16 notrump made things much harder for N/S. Brenner did not raise hearts because he expected his partner to have acted initially with decent values; and in any event Fallenius might have led a club for the ruffs against a heart contract on the revealing auction. 3♦ made 130 and Mahaffey led 45-44.

Both of the other Easts opened 1NT, buying the hand in 3♦ for their side. No swing in Israel-YOI.

Both Souths then got their bidding boots on to reach playable game contracts.

Bd: 3	North
Dir: South	♠ K95
Vul: E/W	♥ 109
	♦ 10752
	♣ AJ92

West	East
♠ A8	♠ 1064
♥ KJ2	♥ 83
♦ Q9	♦ AJ643
♣ K108764	♣ Q53

South
♠ QJ732
♥ AQ7654
♦ K8
♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
			1♥
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
			1♥
2♣	Pass	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
DbI	All Pass		

Gonzalo Goded's double nearly persuaded Nystrom to retreat to 4♠, but it does not seem to matter today which game you play. The third-round heart loser is almost impossible to dispose of, except at double-dummy (by ruffing a heart with the ♠K and leading the ♠9 from the board to pin the eight; and even then a trump lead will allow the defenders to lead a third round of trumps in time.

While the Yadrins went -100 in 4♥, Imakura played 4♠ after opening the South hand 1♠—surely not an action that deserved to gain imps. A trump lead would set the game, and not playing trumps would beat it, but leading a club and shifting to trumps did not get the job done. Imakura won the second trump and ruffed a heart, then claimed 10 tricks. Japan had 11 imps to trail by 34.

An overtrick imp leveled our featured match score, then Nystrom-Bertheau got their bidding boots on again.

Bd: 5	North
Dir: North	♠ K2
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ93
	♦ AKJ83
	♣ 108

West	East
♠ 1095	♠ Q43
♥ 752	♥ A106
♦ 974	♦ Q5
♣ Q542	♣ AK763

South
♠ AJ876
♥ J84
♦ 1062
♣ J9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1♦	Dbl	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Nystrom showed diamonds and hearts and a limited hand in the context of a strong club. When he elected to raise spades Bertheau had more than enough to bid game. 4♠ comes in at around a 15% game since even three-three spades and the queen onside might not be enough. But today there seemed no easy way to set the game.

2♠ in the other room seemed a more reasonable contract; Brenner played safe and settled for +110 for an 11 imp swing to Mahaffey, leading 57-46.

It does the heart good to record that Ino's decision to open the North hand 1NT resulted in him going minus in 3NT; I'm less happy to report that Doron Yadlin found the same opening bid in the other room, but at least he played a spade partscore and went plus, to gain 8imps. The lead was back to 42imps again.

A deal passed out by the Godeds added 3 moreimps for Mahaffey to make it 60-46. Then we got to sample something more exciting.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ 65
Vul: Both	♥ 3
	♦ KJ1072
	♣ 86543

West	East
♠ AQ9	♠ K
♥ 10	♥ KQJ98652
♦ AQ985	♦ 64
♣ K972	♣ AQ

South
♠ J1087432
♥ A74
♦ 3
♣ J10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
			2♠
2NT	Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
			2♠
2NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Both tables had sensible enough auctions to 6♥; whether you like the 2NT bid may depend on whether you consider yourself a purist or an "Action Jackson." We know which camp Peter and Gonzalo are part of. No lead could bother the slam, from either hand, since on a diamond lead Federico would have taken the ace and pitched a diamond on the spades. And both tables bid slam and made it in our other match.

If that slam was good, the next one was not.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ J1092
Vul: None	♥ 94
	♦ J987
	♣ K105

West	East
♠ A4	♠ K6
♥ AQ63	♥ KJ10875
♦ A103	♦ Q62
♣ Q974	♣ A2

South
♠ Q8753
♥ 2
♦ K54
♣ J863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠(®)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

it was easy to see why Fredin drove to slam facing a slam try, less clear why Fallenius made a try at all. But on the spade lead declarer really has no chance, does he? After stripping the hand of the majors Fredin led the ♣A and a club to the queen; Frontaura with an automatic club exit lost his presence of mind and played a diamond. Had Brenner put up the king he would have survived; when he ducked, declarer won cheaply and ran the trumps to squeeze South in the minors.

In the other room Federico ran the trumps after a spade lead to come down to this position. On the last trump he pitched a club from dummy and North threw a spade.

<p>♠ J ♥ --- ♦ J9 ♣ K105</p> <p>West</p> <p>♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ A10 ♣ Q974</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ --- ♥ 5 ♦ Q62 ♣ A2</p>
<p>South</p> <p>♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ K54 ♣ J86</p>	

Declarer exited with ace and a second diamond to force a club play from South, but the ♣K was wrong for declarer so he went down one. As the cards lay, he could have succeeded by playing the ♦Q from hand, which would have endplayed North on the second round of the suit. But his line appears far more practical at first glance. Nonetheless, how could North pitch a spade if he had the ♦K? Would he not pitch a club and cash his spade when in with the diamond? The 14 imps made the Mahaffey lead 28 at 74-46.

This was a flat board in Israel-YOI, down 100 in 6♥. Still Israel by 46 imps.

Things had not been going particularly well for Frontaura-Brenner, which perhaps explains the opening bid on the next deal.



Bd: 9 North
Dir: North ♠ ---
Vul: E/W ♥ Q10643
 ♦ 1083
 ♣ AQ1084

<p>West</p> <p>♠ 76432 ♥ A8 ♦ J5 ♣ J732</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ K1098 ♥ KJ7 ♦ KQ642 ♣ 5</p>
---	--

South

♠ AQJ5
♥ 952
♦ A97
♣ K96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♠	2♣	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

On the spade lead Brenner wrapped up nine tricks via the marked club finesse. Since 2♥ had handled for +140, the 6 imps here reduced the lead to 22 at 74-52.

Both N/S pairs played 4♥ in YOI-Israel after opening the North hand with a two-suited bid of 2♥. Yoi picked up two undertrick imps to 44 imps.

Bd: 10 North
Dir: East ♠ 10975
Vul: Both ♥ ---
 ♦ 10975
 ♣ 98542

<p>West</p> <p>♠ 843 ♥ AK109864 ♦ 83 ♣ 10</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ Q2 ♥ QJ53 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ J73</p>
---	---

South

♠ AKJ6
♥ 72
♦ A42
♣ AKQ6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		1♣	Dbl
1♦(♥)	Pass	2♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
4♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
		Pass	1♣
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The weirdness continued. It is easy to see how you might drive yourself to 6♠ here, but Bertheau settled for game and must have been aggravated to find the trump break. Perhaps Fallenius might have been more aggravated by the trump break here. The defenders could have cashed out for down 8, and a small pick up, but let it out for down 700. Still an imp and the margin was 74-53.

At the other match Ino-Imakura played 5♠ for 680; normal enough, but in the other room the Yadlins let their opponents play 5♥ undoubled, for a loss of 10 imps. The margin was down to 34.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ 82
Vul: None	♥ AJ
	♦ Q9654
	♣ J873

West
♠ J65
♥ 8654
♦ AKJ2
♣ 96

East
♠ 1043
♥ K1092
♦ 7
♣ AQ1054

South
♠ AKQ97
♥ Q73
♦ 1083
♣ K2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
			1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
			1NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl(1)	Pass
2♦	All Pass		
(1) Major-Minor			

We've already seen one match (the QF between YOI and Not the Empire) decided on remembering the defense to 1NT. Here was another strange affair, as Gonzalo wanted to find the major-suit fit and Federico apparently read it as natural. Not to worry; 2♦ went down 150 but Brenner's strong notrump bought the hand in 2NT and the defenders' lead of a top diamond gave declarer the tempo to come to eight tricks easily enough. Back to a 22 imp lead for Mahaffey.

They also played 2♦ in YOI-Israel, but with the N/S cards; this one should not have been doubled but was. 180 for Japan meant 4 imps and a match margin of 30 imps.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ J2
Vul: N/S	♥ J8732
	♦ 43
	♣ Q1098

West	East
♠ 865	♠ Q4
♥ KQ4	♥ A1065
♦ A10752	♦ Q986
♣ K7	♣ A64

South
♠ AK10973
♥ 9
♦ KJ
♣ J532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both East players did something good here though it worked for neither of them; Fallenius pretended he had a spade stop, Federico went for the four-three heart fit that has respectable play against a trump break. Both contracts went two down, one fast and one slowly. No swing.

Israel played 5♦ down one, gaining 2 imps when 3♥ went down 100. I suppose you have to be impressed that E/W could stay out of game, but all the same; Israel by 32.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ ---
 Vul: Both ♥ J853
 ♦ 98764
 ♣ K985

West
 ♠ Q74
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ AKQ102
 ♣ 1063

East
 ♠ A108653
 ♥ K7
 ♦ J3
 ♣ AJ7

South
 ♠ KJ92
 ♥ 109642
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q42

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ AK96
 Vul: None ♥ QJ10
 ♦ AK82
 ♣ A4

West
 ♠ Q102
 ♥ 76
 ♦ 109543
 ♣ 1086

East
 ♠ J8753
 ♥ K543
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K97

South
 ♠ 4
 ♥ A982
 ♦ QJ7
 ♣ QJ532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	2♠(1)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		
(1) 10-13 6♠			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Both partnerships seemed to get carried away here: Federico's jump to 3♠ looks remarkable even if 2♠ was non-forcing, since what would you miss if partner cannot bid on?

In the other room Fredin was doubtless hoping to buy the ♠K instead of the ♥K, or some decent trump intermediates. No such luck. Brenner led his singleton diamond and then failed to find the club shift when in with ♠K. Declarer could now draw trumps and run diamonds to pitch his club; no swing. Still Mahaffey by 22.

Both pairs in Israel-YOI also lost control of the hand. Each played 6♠; an undertrick for Israel meant they led 85-50.



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT(1)	Pass	2NT(2)
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	3♠(3)
Pass	4♦(4)	Pass	4♥

All Pass

- (1) Relay
- (2) clubs + hearts
- (3) 1-4-3-5
- (4) Transfer to 4♥ to name the final contract

6NT appears the best of the slams for N/S here, needing just the heart finesse. 6♣ by South might be able to avoid the club finesse so also comes in at about 50%. But the ♣J and ♦J are essential to make slam good, and Nystrom-Bertheau do not count jacks in their hand evaluation. South bid out his shape, having shown a minimum unbalanced positive with his initial call; North settled for the four-three fit and it made 450.

Facing a 2NT opening Brenner used Stayman and showed clubs. Now when Frontaura did not sign off with 4NT Brenner drove to 6♣. Fredin selected the obvious ♠Q as his opening lead, letting Fallenius think he might be able to give his partner a club ruff. No matter; +920 meant we had a match again.

Both tables played 3NT here in YOI-Israel; still Israel by 35.

And there was more...

Bd: 15 North
 Dir: South ♠ 8
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q732
 ♦ KQ875
 ♣ 1087

West
 ♠ KQ752
 ♥ K10
 ♦ AJ96
 ♣ 32

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ A9864
 ♦ 1043
 ♣ AKQ54

South
 ♠ AJ109643
 ♥ J5
 ♦ 2
 ♣ J96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

The contrast between the accuracy (or not) of the bidding and play on this deal was remarkable. Both tables preempted in spades, Brenner sensibly, Bertheau...not so much. Both East's doubled, both Wests checked the backs of their cards and passed, and then tried to maximize the penalty.

Gonzalo led a mundane club, letting Federico cash three clubs for the diamond discard. Next came the three red-suit winners and a second diamond, disconsolately ruffed by South. In this ending a low trump from hand ensures four down. Bertheau tried to minimize the penalty by playing the ♠A, but maximized it instead. Gonzalo won the next trump to lead a diamond, ducked a high trump, and had the end-play for 1400. If that was bad...

Brenner received the lead of two rounds of hearts against 2♠x. Fallenius cashed one club, played a heart to let declarer pitch a club, and now Fredin ruffed low and came back another club. Brenner ruffed with a *low* trump, not an intermediate, so he too was held to four tricks; down 1100 but still a 7-imp pickup for The Latin, down only 5 imps now.

Both Souths in our match opened a Multi 2♦ and avoided all the problems when West joined in with 2♠. 3NT was reached, with Israel generating a couple of overtrick imps.

Bd: 16 North
 Dir: West ♠ 98763
 Vul: E/W ♥ 943
 ♦ AJ6
 ♣ Q10

West
 ♠ AQ105
 ♥ Q1085
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ J5

East
 ♠ J2
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ K8542
 ♣ A973

South
 ♠ K4
 ♥ K762
 ♦ 93
 ♣ K8642

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

In 2NT Gonzalo won the first spade and led a heart towards the ace-jack, changing tack when he saw the nine. He settled for three spades, three hearts and one trick in each minor, but when the defenders did not get around to clubs he ended up with an overtrick.

Fredin won the spade lead in hand and sensibly enough played a diamond to the king and a diamond back to the ten. When this lost to the jack and a spade came through he needed a lot of luck and did not get it. The best that he could do was cash his long spade and take a heart finesse. Had it held he would have given up a diamond and hoped there was only one spade for the defenders to cash. No such luck. Mahaffey's lead had vanished; it was 76-75 The Latin.

The Israel-YOI match seemed devoid of swings. Both tables played 3NT, with two undertricks the result at both tables. Still 87-50.

Both teams in Mahaffey-The Latin were probably hoping for a quiet deal. One duly came along. 3NT appears to have nine tricks or so, so it was only going to be about overtricks; but they could be vital, given the match score.

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 102
 ♥ K8
 ♦ 9853
 ♣ KJ543

West
 ♠ KJ7
 ♥ 965
 ♦ QJ762
 ♣ 82

East
 ♠ 98543
 ♥ Q1073
 ♦ K
 ♣ Q109

South
 ♠ AQ6
 ♥ AJ42
 ♦ A104
 ♣ A76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In 3NT on a low diamond lead Bertheau took an early club finesse, ducked the spade return, and gave up two diamonds for a safe nine tricks. Brenner won the heart lead in hand and took the club finesse, won the heart return, and knew from the auction that he could establish an overtrick by building the diamonds. Fredin won the second diamond and tried the ♠K, more in hope than expectation. Charmed, Brenner won and rattled off his winners to create a double-squeeze with spades as the pivot suit. 2 imps for The Latin, up 78-75.

Another overtrick imp for Israel meant they led by 38, and had crossed another board off; three to go.

If that was prosaic, this was more exciting:



"Oy, vey!"

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 83
 ♥ AK10432
 ♦ 6432
 ♣ J

West
 ♠ J4
 ♥ Q865
 ♦ 7
 ♣ KQ9763

East
 ♠ KQ2
 ♥ J97
 ♦ K1098
 ♣ A105

South
 ♠ A109765
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AQJ5
 ♣ 842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		1♣	1♠
Dbl	2♥	Pass	2♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
		1♣	1♠
Dbl	2♦	Pass	2♠
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

I reckon to have a chance in 3NT East needs hearts six-zero; that is necessary but may not be sufficient. On a top diamond lead and continuation Federico (whose 1♣ opening was a deliberate misstatement of his hand) knocked out the ♠A and claimed ten tricks a moment later. Easy game bridge. Facing an 11-13 club Fredin was not looking for game; he competed to 3♣ and now Brenner wanted badly to bid 3♦, but was not sure of a fit. Eventually he doubled, giving Frontaura an easy 3♠ bid. The defenders led a diamond to the nine and jack, and declarer played a club back. Fallenius took the first club and returned a low diamond. Declarer misjudged and went up with the ace, letting Fredin get the ruff from the short side, to return a trump. Declarer could ruff a club but now had three losers and only two homes for them. Down one, but 8 imps to The Latin up 11 now.

Israel made 3♣ and 2♠ to pick up 6 imps, and lead by 44.

Life is what happens...
while you're playing bridge.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ A942
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKJ
 ♦ 102
 ♣ AJ64

West
 ♠ 108
 ♥ Q875
 ♦ A874
 ♣ 1052

East
 ♠ KJ73
 ♥ 10963
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K983

South
 ♠ Q65
 ♥ 42
 ♦ KQJ963
 ♣ Q7

Open Room

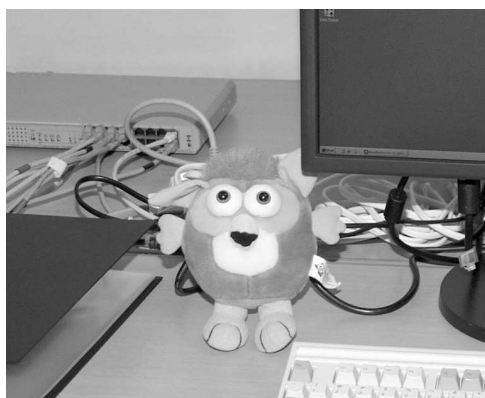
West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	2♥(2)	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦

(1) Diamonds, 10-15
 (2) Relay

Both tables played 3NT; with the ♠K and ♣K onside from South's perspective, there was no way to take less than 11 tricks. No swing, and a flat board at 460 for Israel-YOI. The Latin led by 11; would the last board offer Mahaffey any chances of a comeback?



"That's all for now, folks!"

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ A63
 Vul: Both ♥ 9
 ♦ AJ10753
 ♣ A103

West
 ♠ Q752
 ♥ 8432
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ J75

East
 ♠ KJ98
 ♥ AQ1065
 ♦ K
 ♣ KQ6

South
 ♠ 104
 ♥ KJ7
 ♦ 9862
 ♣ 9842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	Pass
1♠	2♦	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>G. Goded</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	Dbl	2NT(2)
Pass	3♣	Dbl	3♦

All Pass
 (1) Diamonds 10-15
 (2) Puppet to 3♣

Federico judged well not to compete a third time. His reward was to collect 100 on defense, while the unlucky lie of the hearts meant that all the other three tables went down at the three-level. Congratulations to The Latin who had started off both halves of the match by throwing imps at their opponents, but had then settled down to play tight, winning bridge, and beat a very strong team.

Congratulations also to the Israeli team who had held an aggressive team to 50 imps in 40 boards and had played very well in the process. The final augured to be a fine test of skill from two teams in good form.



M&M in Wonderland

by Rich Colker

On Board 13 of the first 20-board session of the quarterfinal match between Israel and Canada, Migry Zur Campanile and Michael Barel of Israel found themselves defending a 2♠ contract by Nicholas and Judith Gartaganis of Canada. Here's the situation they faced.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ AQJ872
 Vul: Both ♥ Q
 ♦ K85
 ♣ J32

West
 ♠ K6
 ♥ A86
 ♦ AJ942
 ♣ AQ6

East
 ♠ 543
 ♥ J10974
 ♦ Q76
 ♣ 85

South
 ♠ 109
 ♥ K532
 ♦ 103
 ♣ K10974

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Nicholas</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Judith</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dbf	2♠	All Pass	

Campanile, sitting East, led a club and received her ruff at trick three. In this same position defenders at other tables shifted either to a high or low heart, but whatever they did declarer was able to build an entry to dummy to play diamonds or to reach club discards for the diamond losers. Campanile realized that the auction had marked declarer as precisely 6=1=3=3 and she needed to kill the diamond ruff. So she shifted to a low spade and now it was Barel's turn to shine. He ducked! Now try and make it.



Migry Campanile



Michael Barel

13th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama SRR & 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 & 3rd place playoff segments = 16 boards

Leave Your Bid Cards on the Table, Please.

The JCBL (effective 1 Nov 2007) has adopted a new rule regarding bidding boxes. Namely: The bidding cards are to be left on the table without being moved until the opening lead has been turned face up (i.e., after the leader's partner has asked whatever questions he/she may have). Only after the opening lead has been faced are the bidding cards to be returned to the bidding box.

—Robert Geller, Chairman, JCBL Laws Commission