



# NEC Bridge Festival

Monday, February 11, 2008  
Bulletin Number 6

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

## Israel is the 2008 NEC Cup Champions

Israel (Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Zur-Campanile) has done it again. They're the 2008 NEC Cup Champions. For those of us who count such things, that's three NEC Cup victories for this team in the last four years, and four NEC Cup finals in the last five years. Is there no one who can stop this runaway freight train? The runners-up this year are The Latin (Frankie Frontaura, Federico Goded, Gonzalo Goded, Diego Brenner). With three boards to go in the third quarter they trailed Israel by only 3imps. It was enough to the Monkey Lady and her Band of Merry Men agita. Start-to-finish coverage of the final begins on page 7.



2008 NEC Cup winners



2007 NEC Cup runners up

### NEC Cup Final: Quarter-by-Quarter Results

Team	C/O	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Final
Israel	.5	43	27	34	40	144
The Latin		12	19	50	24	105



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

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Monday (Feb. 11)	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	F203-206
	18:30-20:30	Closing Ceremony	F201-204

**Results of the Yokohama Swiss and Debutante events begin on page 3**

## 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

## 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.

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

#	Team Name	Members
1	Israel:	Israel Yadlin, Doron Yadlin, Michael Barel, Migry Zur-Campanile
2	The Latin:	Frankie Frontaura, Federico Goded, Gonzalo Goded, Diego Brenner
3	Mahaffey:	Fredrik Nystrom, Peter Bertheau, Peter Fredin, Bjorn Fallenius, Jim Mahaffey (npc)
4	Canada:	Gordon Campbell, Keith Balcombe, Judith Gartaganis, Nicholas Gartaganis
5	Not the Empire:	Paul Hackett, John Armstrong, Eric Kokish, Gerry Charney, Sue Picus
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

## 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

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

## YOKOHAMA SRR & SWISS TEAMS: FINAL STANDINGS

### Flight A 30T, 120A

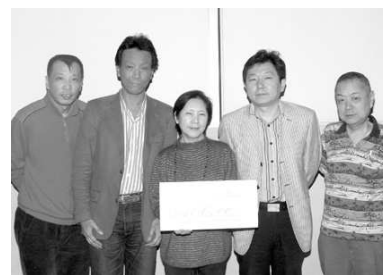
1.	YOI Returns	199	Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Chen Dawei
2.	The Netherlands	172	Ton Bakkeren, Hubb Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen
3.	TAJIMA	169	Mitsue Tajima, Tadashi Teramoto, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Fu Zhong, Zhao Jie
4.	Not the Empire	155	Paul Hackett, John Armstrong, Eric Kokish, Gerry Chamey, Sue Picus
5.	YAMADA	151	Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata
6/7.	No Problem	148	Takeshi Niekawa, Kazuko Tsumori, Hiroko Yanagisawa, Hiroki Yokoi
6/7.	PYON	148	Toshiko Kaho, Masayuki Hayasaka, Yuki Fukuyoshi, Takeshi Hanayama
8.	Lithuania	145	Vytautas Vainikonis, Wojtek Olanski, Andrey Arlovich, Valentin Zhuravel
9.	KinKi	142	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka
10.	Fairy Tale	138	Kazunori Sasaki, Takeshi Higashiguchi, Ryo Okuno, Kyoko Shimamura, Shunsuke Morimura
11.	JAPAN OPEN	125	Hidenori Narita, Yoichi Ito, Yasushi Kobayashi, Masaru Yoshida



Flight A—1st



Flight A—2nd



Flight A—3rd

### Flight B 24T, 120A

1.	NODA	190	Yuko Noda, Hiroyuki Noda, Katsuhiko Ueki, Makiko Sato, Sei Nagasaka
2.	GIBS	168	Satoshi Imai, Takashi Maeda, Makoto Hirata, Yasuhiro Shimizu
3.	MARU	154	Yoko Maruyama, Mariko Matsukawa, Kyoko Sengoku, Sachiho Ueda, Keisuke Akama
4.	NAITO	152	Sakiko Naito, Makoto Kono, Hiroaki Miura, Kikuo Tatai
5.	OTA	149	Hiroko Ota, Midori Sakamoto, Natsuko Nishida, Tomoe Nakao
6.	Kimura@Y'hama	145	Hiroko Kobayashi, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Yumiko Kichise, Mamiko Odaira, Osami Kimura, Setsuko Kimura
7.	MIYAZAKI	144	Teruo Miyazaki, Kunio Kodaira, Akiko Miwa, Akiko Kawabata
8/9.	ASAKOSHI	140	Kotomi Asakoshi, Michiko Shida, Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura
8/9.	KAZENORIBON	140	Ikuko Kinkyu, Yoshiko Fukuda, Terumi Kubo, Sumie Nakagawa



Flight B—1st



Flight C—1st

### Flight C 24T, 120A

1.	SADAKO	165	Sadako Nakajima, Yukiko Hoshi, Tomoyuki Harada, Ryoga Tanaka
2.	KAWATE	158	Wakana Kawate, Yasuko Sawama, Machiko Ohashi, Keiko Sugita
3.	TAKEDA	154	Junko Takeda, Yoko Tokushige, Sakae Takahashi, Kei Nemoto
4.	YAMASHIRO	152	Junko Yamashiro, Michiko Ono, Chie Fujita, Kayoko Miyabe
5.	ROSEWOOD	142	Hiromu Nishida, Yoshie Nishida, Takashi Sumita, Yoko Fukuyama
6.	OSHIO	141	Keiko Oshio, Akiko Minamino, Yumi Yanagida, Yoko Shimominami
7.	NAKAGAWA	137	Shizuyo Nakagawa, Chikayo Miyako, Yoko Kato, Mari Sou
8.	YOSHIZAWA	135	Noriko Yoshizawa, Aiko Nabeshima, Susumu Nabeshima, Masafumi Yoshizawa
9.	TAKAMURA	134	Shinji Takamura, Akihiro Kamiya, Chiharu Ishimura, Toshiko Hagiwara

## Debutante and Hashinosuke Cups



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### 2008/2/9 1st Debutante Cup

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1. Harumi Ogawa, Yuko Nemoto
  2. Atsuko Akabane, Nobuko Shimizu
  3. Rina Fukuhara, Naoko Kojima
- 



1<sup>st</sup> Debutante Cup winners

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### 2008/2/10 2nd Debutante Cup

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1. Kanemichi Kameo, Kenichi Kubota
  2. Eiko Okaji, Yoko Horikoshi
  3. Mieko Miike, Harumi Akashi
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2nd Debutante Cup winners

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### 2008/2/10 Hashinosuke Cup NECBF special

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1. Miyu Sasaki, Rio Hhayashi, Yuto Nakamura, Yuko Noda
  2. Rie Satoh, Risa Satoh, Toya Fukuhara, Yuma Fukuhara
- 



Hashinosuke Cup winners

# A Defensive Thought

by Mike Lawrence

There are hundreds of little questions that you must know the answers to if you and your partner will be good defenders. Should you lead, for instance, the king or the ace from the AKx? Are fourth best leads best? What does your partnership lead from the KJ103? You have to know these things. The hand here shows yet another area that needs clarification.

There is an old argument about what card you should lead from various holdings in a suit your partner has bid. Some say that you should lead the three from J93 and some say that you should lead the jack. Do you and your partner know for sure which card you would lead from the J93 when your partner opens the bidding in this suit? Does it make any difference if your suit is headed by the ten or nine or lower?

Dlr: East      North  
 Vul: Both    ♠ K8642  
                  ♥ K  
                  ♦ Q1064  
                  ♣ 642

East  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ 84  
 ♦ AK982  
 ♣ AKQJ9

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠
Pass	4♠	5♣	5♠
All Pass			

Look at the North and East hands. East bids a few times and pushes South to 5♠. West leads the ♣10.

East takes his jack and South plays the five. When East cashes the ♣A, declarer plays the seven and West plays the eight. The ♣3 is missing. Should East try to cash a third club trick or should he lead a high diamond? Or do you think it makes no difference?

♠ K8642  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ Q1064  
 ♣ 642

♠ 93  
 ♥ 97653  
 ♦ J753  
 ♣ 108

♠ AQJ105  
 ♥ AQJ102  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ 753

## DO YOU HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING?

Having good understandings will give you the answer. Does your partnership know what the partnership lead is when you have three cards in a suit? Does it make any difference to you if your partner has bid the suit? Does it make any difference to you if you have supported this suit?

Current thinking dictates that you lead a low card when you have three or four cards to an honor in partner's suit. (Count the ten as an honor.) If E/W agree with this rule, East will play West for only two clubs and will cash the ♣K. As you can see from the layout, it is necessary to defend this way.

This agreement is a good one to have. There are many, many cases where leading the honor card will cost a trick. Even if it doesn't cost a trick, your partner may be confused about how many cards you have in the suit. Adopting this lead rule will help in many ways.

A second, but equally important question, is what West should lead if his clubs are the 753. If he is going to lead this suit, should he lead the three, the five, or the seven?

In advance of this discussion, I will tell you that leading the five is awful. Do not lead the middle card when you have three of them. Your partner won't be able to read your lead and he may try to give you a ruff or he may play you for an honor. Why give your partner two ways to go wrong?

My choice is this. If I have not supported the suit, I lead the small card. My partner may err by thinking I have an honor in the suit. This is not nice, but at least my partner won't think I am ruffing the third round.

If I *have* supported the suit, then I lead the top card. Because I raised, my partner will know I don't have a doubleton, and by leading a high card, he will use the rule of eleven and determine that I don't have an honor.

This is not a perfect method, but because it is consistent, your partner will do the right thing more often than when you have no method at all.

Let me finish with this observation. Leading from three small cards is a lousy way to start a defense. When the best choice you have is to lead from three little cards, you are not having a good day.

**Opening Leads:** A number of years ago, my book *Opening Leads* was published. It covers the situation discussed here plus hundreds more. There are insights in this book that you can't find elsewhere. It

has received enthusiastic reviews from all over the world. Look in the Products Section of my web site for more information.

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

## So Bad He Trumped His Partner's Ace

by Richard Pavlicek

You've probably heard the anecdote about "the guy who played bridge so badly that he trumped his partner's ace." (Hopefully, you weren't the guy being described.) Nonetheless, there is a fine line between stupidity and brilliance; a stupid play on one deal can be a brilliant play on the next. Bridge is a fickle game.

Witness today's deal from the Knockout Teams at the Fourth of July Regional at the Sheraton Hotel in Bonaventure. South held only 10 HCP, but his 1♠ opening is correct (at least in the modern style) with the attractive five-five shape. West overcalled in hearts, North bid 3♣ (forcing), South showed his diamonds, and North went to 4♠ as intended all along.

Dir: South     ♠ AQ10  
 Vul: None     ♥ 96532  
                    ♦ 4  
                    ♣ AJ84

♠ —                     ♠ 87652  
 ♥ AKJ874             ♥ Q  
 ♦ KJ107                ♦ 863  
 ♣ 952                    ♣ KQ107

                   ♠ KJ943  
                    ♥ 10  
                    ♦ AQ952  
                    ♣ 63

First let's analyze the routine play. West leads the ♥K and, lacking anything better, continues with the ace; East throws a diamond and South ruffs. South plays the ♦A and ruffs a diamond, then a heart is led from the table. East must ruff with any spade but the deuce (else declarer has a complete crossruff), and South overruffs with the nine. A second diamond ruff; another heart, ruffed and overruffed; a third diamond ruff; and another heart. Once again, East ruffs but South now discards a club. Declarer cannot be prevented from scoring all five of his spades; together with two aces and three diamond ruffs, that's 10 tricks.

Now let's defend like a moron or an expert (pick one). West leads as before but East ruffs his partner's ace at trick two (again, with any spade but the deuce). South must overruff, else a trump lead by East would be ruinous. Declarer tries to crossruff: ♦A; diamond ruff; heart, ruffed and overruffed; diamond ruff; heart, ruffed and overruffed; diamond ruff. At this point South remains with the ♠43 and East holds the ♠82. Regardless of the play, declarer cannot win both of his trumps—down one.

Is there a moral here? I suppose. The next time you see someone trump his partner's ace, you will know he is not an average player. Either he's the Star Kist variety...or you're in serious trouble!

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

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

**NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web**  
 Follow the action at the 13<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:  
<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/game/nec/necfest.html>  
 Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

## The Finals: The Latin vs Israel

### First Quarter (Boards 1-16, by Barry Rigal):

Our match would feature a father-son combination (the Godeds) against two brothers (the Yadlins). Israel and Doron have been regular partners on the Israeli squads for at least a decade. Meanwhile, Gonzalo Goded has just emerged from Spain's Junior Program (he is 27) and will be torn between trying to play on the Spanish National Team in Beijing, or for the Juniors, since the Mind Sports Games have an upper age of 28. Where appropriate we shall call all four players by their first names.

Bd: 1                    North  
 Dlr: North           ♠ Q7  
 Vul: None            ♥ Q732  
                               ♦ KQ982  
                               ♣ A7

West  
 ♠ A8  
 ♥ AJ6  
 ♦ J1064  
 ♣ Q1054

East  
 ♠ KJ642  
 ♥ K1094  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ J862

South  
 ♠ 10953  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ A753  
 ♣ K93

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1♦	1♠	2♦
Dbl	3♦	3♥	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
	1♦	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

The first deal saw Migry (it saves column space to use her first name by comparison to Zur-Albu-Campanile) reach 3♠ after Barel's competitive double persuaded her to look for a major-suit fit. 5♣ is the optimal E/W spot, if you find the ♥Q as you figure to. But 3♠ on a diamond lead threatened to get forced.

Best defense of a low diamond lead by South (yeah, right) might establish the force. However, on the lead of the ♦A Migry ruffed, drew two rounds of trumps, then believed North's ♠Q and shifted the attack to clubs. Brenner rose with the king to lead a diamond through. Migry put up the jack and ducked Frontaura's queen. All North could do was return a low diamond; Migry pitched another heart, knocked

out the ♣A, ruffed the next diamond, cashed the ♠J and led winners. South had a trump trick but no diamonds left so declarer had +140.

In the Closed Room Doron's 3♦ contract was reached after a five-four Michaels bid from Federico, but the four-zero trump split was just too much for him. The defenders took their four major-suit winners and Doron had to lose a trump since he needed to ruff two hearts in dummy. He actually started trumps by leading the ♦K from hand (perhaps hoping for East to be 5-4-2-2 or to have a bare diamond honor). No luck; down 50 but still 3imps.

The second deal saw both Souths commit what seems to be a technical error, but one that could not be punished.

Bd: 2                    North  
 Dlr: East             ♠ A10873  
 Vul: N/S             ♥ KQ3  
                               ♦ 6  
                               ♣ 9852

West  
 ♠ KQJ2  
 ♥ J95  
 ♦ A108  
 ♣ KQJ

East  
 ♠ 54  
 ♥ A72  
 ♦ KJ7532  
 ♣ 74

South  
 ♠ 96  
 ♥ 10864  
 ♦ Q94  
 ♣ A1063

#### Open/ Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables played 3NT on a spade lead from North. West played two rounds of diamonds as North discouraged in clubs, letting South win to shift to a heart. Both Souths played the ♥6, letting West decide whether to play the jack, nine or five. What to do? Playing low would only work if South had committed the technical inaccuracy of shifting to the ♥6 and not the ♥8 from this holding. Playing the jack might easily be right, but the percentage play adopted by both Wests was the nine, covering the case where South has H106x in the suit. Mind you, if the ♥6 was fourth highest the choice between the ♥9 and ♥J was probably not going to matter. No swing, down two in both cases when South got in again with the ♣A to lead hearts again, and declarer did not try

to block the suit by ducking on the second round.

Both rooms played a dull 3NT on the next deal, with the choice of declarers making it easier for the Yadlins to hold their opponents to ten tricks, while Barel took eleven at his table. 4-0 to Israel now.

Another quiet game followed when both declarers established an endplay to protect against a bad lie of the cards, just in case, but the cards cooperated so that it was just for show. Still 4-0 to Israel.

Federico Goded was in the hot seat on the next deal.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dir: North ♠ QJ  
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK873  
 ♦ K432  
 ♣ 84

West  
 ♠ A9874  
 ♥  
 ♦ AQJ85  
 ♣ J96

East  
 ♠ K532  
 ♥ 109642  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ K105

South  
 ♠ 106  
 ♥ QJ5  
 ♦ 1097  
 ♣ AQ732

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠(R)
Dbl	2♦	3♥(1)	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl

All Pass

(1) Mixed Raise

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♥
Dbl	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Federico played 4♠ as East on a top heart lead from South. He ruffed and immediately passed the ♣J. Israel Yadlin won and took the club ruff, then another heart forced declarer to guess diamonds at once. Fortunately for him the auction had made it clear that North had the ♦K and he had enough trumps in hand and in dummy not to need the fall of the ♦109. Barel played the contract from the West seat and also ruffed the top heart lead (this time from North) and also played on clubs. Brenner carelessly gave his partner a ruff with the ♣2 and Frontaura equally carelessly (he'd seen partner produce nine HCP already) returned a low diamond. Not that declarer

was getting it wrong; 5 imps to Israel, leading 9-0.

The Latin then got on the scoreboard with a deal that was all about ranges for preemptive actions.

Bd: 6 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 76  
 Vul: E/W ♥ AK1095  
 ♦ QJ  
 ♣ AJ74

West  
 ♠ K2  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ 87542  
 ♣ Q1083

East  
 ♠ A103  
 ♥ Q642  
 ♦ K96  
 ♣ K92

South  
 ♠ QJ9854  
 ♥ J7  
 ♦ A103  
 ♣ 65

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		1♣	1♠
2♣	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
		1♣	2♠

All Pass

We've seen throughout this event that the Yadlins (who have a reputation for idiosyncratic bidding) are actually rather disciplined when opening and preempting. Israel had a classical non-vulnerable preempt that Al Roth would have been proud of, but Doron was not going to look for game on a hand where, if he were facing AKxxxx of spades, even 2♠ might be in jeopardy. 2♠ made +170 when the ♦K was where it ought to be and the spades behaved appropriately well. (Note that if West were three-three in the black suits the ♠10 would get promoted on repeated club leads).

In the other room Brenner probably thought he had too much outside spades to preempt. A slower auction saw Frontaura drive to game, and Brenner had no problem making ten tricks.

### Murphy's Eighth Law

**If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.**



Bd: 7  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ KQJ9  
 ♥ Q104  
 ♦ 64  
 ♣ Q1063

West  
 ♠ 8532  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ A92  
 ♣ 9854

East  
 ♠ A107  
 ♥ J763  
 ♦ QJ753  
 ♣ 7

South  
 ♠ 64  
 ♥ AK92  
 ♦ K108  
 ♣ AKJ2

Open/closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

On the next deal both Wests heard South show a strong balanced hand and were on lead to 3NT. Gonzalo led an untrusting club, Barel the more natural diamond. Israel Yadlin made eleven tricks when Federico won the ♠A and shifted to a low diamond to let declarer put in the ten. Brenner won the diamond lead and simply assumed that the diamonds were four-four. He knocked out the ♠A without cashing four clubs, and Israel had earned their 13 imp gain (or The Latin had deserved their loss if you want to take a harsher approach—and is that not what the bulletin is all about?).

Had declarer cashed four clubs at once East must pitch two spades and a diamond; now the spade play is safe...the defenders will only be able to set you if West led the ♦2 from a five-card suit.

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A73  
 ♥ KJ52  
 ♦ 532  
 ♣ K105

West  
 ♠ 10854  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ A84  
 ♣ AJ762

East  
 ♠ 96  
 ♥ A1098764  
 ♦ J76  
 ♣ 3

South  
 ♠ KQJ2  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ KQ109  
 ♣ Q984

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Dbf
Pass	1NT	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
Pass	Pass	2♥	Dbf
All Pass			

On the next deal Barel found a light opening bid that kept N/S out of the auction. Migry played 2♥ on a top spade lead. Brenner shifted intelligently to a top diamond, then led a low spade. Frontaura took his eye off the ball and played a third spade. That helped Migry, if she needed it. She ruffed, crossed to the ♣A to run the ♥Q, ducked all around, then ruffed a club to hand, crossed to the ♦A to ruff a club, and exited in diamonds. In the three-card ending she could ensure two trump tricks. There were Portuguese mutterings from the South seat about pearls before swine, but North was not listening; it was, after all, only +110, and as we shall see, North's defense, while not best, was not critical.

There were much higher stakes in the other room. Israel Yadlin led a top spade, shifted to a top diamond, went back to spades, and Doron as North took the ace and played a second diamond. That took an entry out of dummy prematurely; necessary, but was it sufficient? Declarer passed the ♥Q, ruffed a spade, and played the third diamond. South won and exited a club; declarer was trump bound in the four-card ending and had to lose two hearts for down one. All declarer had needed to do was to play two rounds of clubs before exiting with the diamond, and the defenders would have had to reduce declarer's trumps for him, to execute the trump coup. The only possible defense to 2♥ is surely impossible to find; Israel either had to lead a diamond or Doron had to overtake the ♠A at trick one to shift to diamonds; that does break up the trump endplay.

Anyway, with Federico swearing to himself in perfect Castilian and Israel leading 27-6, an immediate opportunity presented itself for a swing.



Monkey see, monkey do.

Bd: 9 North  
 Dir: North ♠ AQ84  
 Vul: E/W ♥ A3  
 ♦ KQ  
 ♣ AJ986

West  
 ♠ J9  
 ♥ 9875  
 ♦ 9852  
 ♣ 1052

East  
 ♠ 32  
 ♥ Q1042  
 ♦ AJ1076  
 ♣ Q3

South  
 ♠ K10765  
 ♥ KJ6  
 ♦ 43  
 ♣ K74

Bd: 10 North  
 Dir: East ♠ Q87  
 Vul: Both ♥ A108  
 ♦ K10985  
 ♣ Q5

West  
 ♠ K1043  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ Q43  
 ♣ K10942

East  
 ♠ J965  
 ♥ Q9643  
 ♦ J7  
 ♣ A8

South  
 ♠ A2  
 ♥ KJ75  
 ♦ A62  
 ♣ J763

Open Room

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

Closed Room

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣(INV ♦)	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

While Israel Yadlin was never going to make 6♠, since he had opened 2NT and kept his opponents out of the auction, Frontaura's 1♣ opening was surely an action that deserved a better fate than the initial bid in the other room. And indeed, Migry's vulnerable 1♦ overcall might have given Frontaura a chance to draw the inference that she had the ♣Q. On a trump lead declarer drew trumps, then played on diamonds with Barel giving true (upside-down) count. When North played three rounds of hearts, Migry contributed the ten on the second round and the queen on the third. Would she have overcalled only 1♦ with a six-carder at this vulnerability? The likely answer was yes, since we had already seen her sound preempts, even non-vulnerable. If she had only five diamonds, as the carding suggested, would she not also have the ♣Q in which case the Chinese Finesse, a term we have to be careful with but in the present case appropriate, would be the winning play? Run the ♣J, and when it is covered, finesse the ♣10 on the way back. Declarer misguessed what to do, but I suspect he might be kicking himself in retrospect. Down one and no swing.

We had already seen last night that when things are not going well Frontaura-Brenner will mix up their opening strategy. Perhaps that explains Brenner's decision to open 1♦ here. Facing a limit raise in diamonds I might have expected him to shoot out 3NT; but he settled for 3♦, and Barel led a spade, giving declarer an easy route to at least nine tricks. He rose with ♠Q, then ruffed a spade while drawing trumps, and could afford to misguess hearts for +110. Doron played 3NT on the normal spade lead. He won the ♠A and set up diamonds, took the ♠Q and now ran three diamonds, watching the defenders' discards. When Federico (East) pitched the ♥4-3, then a spade, declarer decided he had begun life with five hearts. So he cashed the ♥A and finessed; very well done, but perhaps Federico could have let go a club earlier and *then* hearts to give a less obvious count signal in hearts? Israel now led 37-6.



"He's definitely over exploring his feminine side."

Bd: 12 North  
 Dir: West ♠ AJ  
 Vul: N/S ♥ J1054  
 ♦ 95  
 ♣ J6543

West  
 ♠ 1087542  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ A64  
 ♣ AK

East  
 ♠ K93  
 ♥ KQ62  
 ♦ J72  
 ♣ Q108

South  
 ♠ Q6  
 ♥ A97  
 ♦ KQ1083  
 ♣ 972

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

After a quiet partscore the next deal saw only 6 imps change hands but both tables might have left feeling distinctly unhappy about their result. Both tables played 3♠ on a deal where Migry in one room and Gonzalo in the other cannot have been accused of making an overbid. Both Norths led a heart and South took the ace; what next? Israel woodenly continued hearts. Gonzalo rattled off the clubs for a discard using the ♠K as an entry and settled for +170; an opportunity missed?

It did not turn out that way. Brenner shifted to the ♦Q at trick two. Barel won, perhaps a mistake whether the lead is from ♦Qx or ♦KQ10, although he was afraid of a heart shift taking the vital entry out of dummy. He unblocked clubs and crossed to the ♥Q to cash the ♣Q and throw a diamond. Now he led the third heart and ruffed it in hand, then played a spade up. Frontaura won the ace, played a diamond to his partner for the diamond overruff with the ♠J, and now either the fourth round of hearts or clubs would promote the ♠Q. Down one and 6 imps for The Latin, down 37-12.

Next came two quiet deals that featured only the question of overtricks in dull games and did not alter the score. Then The Latin had another chance, again in a doubled 2♥, and this time it was Gonzalo Goded's chance to punish the Yadrins.

Bd: 15 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 53  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K1062  
 ♦ AQ97  
 ♣ 975

West  
 ♠ K2  
 ♥ AQJ53  
 ♦ J6  
 ♣ QJ42

East  
 ♠ 9764  
 ♥ 74  
 ♦ K854  
 ♣ K63

South  
 ♠ AQJ108  
 ♥ 98  
 ♦ 1032  
 ♣ A108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	Dbl

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
2♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
All Pass			Dbl

I do not think one has to double 2♥ in the balancing seat as South but opinions vary. Both Souths thought it mandatory. Frontaura ran from 2♥x (why?) to 2NT; many would play that action as artificial but not this pair. The defenders led a heart and shifted to clubs to establish six tricks before declarer had eight. But in 2♥x a spade to the ace and the ♠10 back to the king saw declarer go after clubs, dislodging South's entry. A third round of spades was ruffed low and overruffed, after quite a bit of thought from North. Doron now exited with a third club. All West had to do now was lead the ♥Q from hand to retain control; a diamond risks letting South in with either the queen or ace for a trump promotion. Instead, Gonzalo led a diamond to the king and was still okay, even though he was tempting fate. But he now played the fourth spade to pitch a diamond. The fifth spade then promoted the ♥10 for down one, and a sweaty 5 imps for Israel, who led 43-12 at the end of the first quarter.

For our armchair analysts, North missed a legitimate chance to set 2♥x; not that one can entirely blame him. The ♦Q, the least likely of his thirteen cards to select for his opening lead (and, I admit, the ♦A followed by the ♦Q), would also have worked to set up a force.

**Second Quarter (Boards 17-32, by Rich Colker):** Israel started the second quarter leading by 31 imps, 43-12. Judging by past finals that the Israelis have been involved in, it was time for The Latin to start samba-ing or the dance would be over *before* the fat lady would have a chance to sing.

Bd: 17 North  
 Dir: North ♠ 763  
 Vul: None ♥ KQ3  
 ♦ KJ62  
 ♣ Q93

West  
 ♠ Q4  
 ♥ A84  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ J1087642

East  
 ♠ A85  
 ♥ J10965  
 ♦ A85  
 ♣ A5

South  
 ♠ KJ1092  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ 109743  
 ♣ K

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♠	Dbl	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♣*	2♠	3♣*	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Doron's raise to 2♠ seems a bit on the conservative side of the modern style (okay, so "a bit" may be an underbid), but in practice opposite the South hand it was more than prudent since even 2♠ can be beaten by several tricks (though 2♦ has good play). Diego's 3♥ was right on target; when the smoke had cleared the Godeds had scored up +140.

In the Closed Room Barel saw images of roses dancing in his head when his partner opened in his second-best suit. He cue-bid to show a limit raise or better, but when Migry bid game and could not avoid four losers (two trumps, a spade and a club) the images turned to lilies (or maybe guns). Minus 50; 5 imps to The Latin, trailing now 43-17.



Twice on the pipe, if the answer is no.

Bd: 18 North  
 Dir: East ♠ ---  
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKJ5  
 ♦ Q982  
 ♣ J9853

West  
 ♠ AQ93  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ KJ653  
 ♣ 102

East  
 ♠ 108754  
 ♥ Q82  
 ♦ A104  
 ♣ KQ

South  
 ♠ KJ62  
 ♥ 10943  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ A764

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	2♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
		All Pass	

Wow. What a difference in style (or hand evaluation, or chutzpah) there was here between the two rooms. Barel's 1♦ opening looks normal, as do Migry's 1♠ and Frontaura's double. In fact, all the calls in the remainder of the auction look eminently reasonable to us. So why was the board passed out in the Closed Room? Maybe *The Shadow* knows, hmm?

4♥ has only three obvious losers (a diamond, a club and a trump), but that does not mean that there are nine tricks. On a trump lead (say) declarer wins and plays ace and a club. East wins and plays a spade (as good as anything), ruffed in dummy, and now declarer can either play a diamond or cash a second trump and run clubs. The defense will eventually come to four tricks as declarer will run out of trumps and have to lose three tricks at the end to go with a trump loser.

In fact, Brenner did receive a trump lead and played the hand as suggested—up to a point. He won and played ace and a club. Migry won and returned a spade, jack, queen, ruff. But Brenner failed to cash the ♥A and play on clubs. He played a diamond and Migry rose ace to play a second spade, ruffed in dummy. Brenner then ruffed a diamond, led a club to dummy (East pitching a spade), and ruffed a second diamond. But now Migry was in control. She ruffed the fourth club, stranding dummy's last club trick, and

now Brenner had to go down two; -200. 5 imps to Israel, leading 48-17.

Bd: 19 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ J53  
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q95  
 ♦ 5432  
 ♣ Q95

West	East
♠ 10	♠ Q842
♥ K6	♥ J8743
♦ AKJ1087	♦ Q6
♣ J1072	♣ A3
South	
♠ AK976	
♥ A102	
♦ 9	
♣ K864	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
			1♠
2♦	2♠	Dbf	3♦
Dbf	3♠	3NT	4♣
Dbf	4♠	Dbf	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
			1♠
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Frontaura must have sipped some sort of magic elixir between boards that instilled in him a strong sense of invincibility—or maybe it was the vulnerability. In any case, he raised spades “freely” with his modest high cards, sterile shape and (at best) mediocre trumps and now Brenner could not be contained. He made one try over East’s responsive double and, hearing Frontaura take what must have been the weakest action (3♠) over West’s double, bid 4♠ over Migry’s 3NT. Migry doubled, thinking Chanukah 2008 had come 11 months early, ending the auction. She must have been savoring the massacre that was about to come, but unfortunately Barel’s name seems to have been left off the e-mail list for the message that read, “Alert: defend cautiously.”

Barel led the ♦K and at trick two found the deadly (for the defense) switch to...the ♥K; not exactly striking fear into declarer’s heart. Brenner won the ace, cashed the ♠K (noting the fall of the ten), and placed the ♣K on the green felt. Migry ducked, won the second club (Brenner playing low from both hands), then played the ♦Q. Brenner ruffed, led the ♥10, going up with the queen when Barel followed low, and called for the ♠J from dummy: queen, ace, ♦8.

He then exited with the ♥2 to Migry’s jack. All roads led to down one now, as Brenner had to come to two trumps in hand plus either the ♣Q or the ♠5 in dummy. In practice, Migry exited with a heart and Brenner ruffed in dummy and played the ♣Q, forcing her to ruff; now he had to score his last two trumps. Down one, -100.

The goddess Bridgida, to ensure that Frontaura’s and Brenner’s transgressions were appropriately dealt with, arranged that any E/W game was doomed to failure. In the Closed Room Israel Yadlin led the ♠A against Federico’s 3NT contract. When brother Doron discouraged he continued with a low spade to the jack and queen (dummy pitching a club), so now Federico ran dummy’s diamonds, then led the ♣J to the ace. But the Yadlins made no errors in discarding and took the remaining tricks for down one, -100. 5 more imps to Israel, up now 53-17.

Bd: 20 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ A107  
 Vul: Both ♥ 954  
 ♦ KQ10843  
 ♣ K

West	East
♠ J32	♠ 94
♥ AKJ	♥ 1087632
♦ AJ972	♦ ---
♣ J9	♣ Q10865
South	
♠ KQ865	
♥ Q	
♦ 65	
♣ A7432	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
1NT	2♣	4♥	All Pass

4♥ has four top losers—but not if they don’t take them (at least the spade shaped ones). In the Open Room Frontaura led the ♦K and away went one of dummy’s spades. Now 4♥ was cold; declarer just needed to lead trumps from the top, then play on clubs. But instead of cashing a high trump, Barel ruffed a diamond and led a heart up. (We’d tell you why Michael claimed he played the hand this way but we don’t think anyone will believe it anyhow.) When the queen appeared, he must have realized that trumps were three-one and that he had lost a tempo

by ruffing the diamond. Now he could not cash the two remaining high trumps and still bring in clubs if they were five-one. So he started clubs immediately, leading the nine. Frontaura won the king perforce and played ace and a spade. Barel ruffed and now knew he was in trouble. If he drew two more trumps and clubs were five-one, the defense could duck the second club and he would have only one more trump in dummy to set up the clubs and then get back to run them. So he played a second club immediately. Brenner won the ace and tapped dummy again, and now the best Barel could do was crossruff the hand, which left him a trick short; -100.

In the Closed Room Israel Yadlin led a diamond from the South side and once again a spade went away. But Federico now played unerringly. He cashed the ♠A, noting the fall of the queen, and continued with two more trumps before playing on clubs. Now he had the timing (and trumps) to set up his clubs and was soon claiming ten tricks; +620. 12 imps to The Latin, who closed the gap to 24 at 53-29.

Bd: 21      North  
 Dlr: North    ♠ 1094  
 Vul: N/S      ♥ Q84  
                   ♦ 873  
                   ♣ 10985

West  
 ♠ K72  
 ♥ AK105  
 ♦ Q2  
 ♣ AKQ6

East  
 ♠ J865  
 ♥ J962  
 ♦ J5  
 ♣ J73

South  
 ♠ AQ3  
 ♥ 73  
 ♦ AK10964  
 ♣ 42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbf	Pass	1♠	2♦
Dbf	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbf	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

4♥ may seem a bit aggressive, but who was to say Migry couldn't have held the ♠QJ instead of the two red jacks? After all, she bid the suit. Brenner cashed two top diamonds and shifted to a club. Migry won in hand, played a spade to the king, cashed two top

trumps and three top clubs, then conceded two spades and a trump for down two, -100.

In the other room Israel Yadlin also cashed the two top diamonds but then switched to a trump. Federico finessed, won the trump return, cashed a third trump (Israel errantly pitching a spade), then played three rounds of clubs ending in hand. Now he led a spade up and it didn't matter what Israel did. (In practice he won the ace and played back the queen.) Down one, -50, and 2 imps to The Latin, 53-31.

Bd: 22      North  
 Dlr: East    ♠ K109  
 Vul: E/W    ♥ KQ10853  
                   ♦ 5  
                   ♣ KJ9

West  
 ♠ J83  
 ♥ 96  
 ♦ AJ42  
 ♣ Q654

East  
 ♠ A652  
 ♥ J742  
 ♦ KQ  
 ♣ A102

South  
 ♠ Q74  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ 1098763  
 ♣ 873

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
		1♣	1♦
1NT	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠(♣)	2♥	All Pass	

The Godeds play transfer responses to their 1♣ openings, so Gonzalo's 1♠ response showed clubs (presumably a four-card or longer raise). Federico led the ♦K, then the ♦Q, Doron ruffing. Not one to fiddle around, Doron immediately played the ♠9 to the queen, cashed the ♥A, then led a spade toward his hand and inserted...the ten. As Al Roth would have said, "What's the problem?" Federico won and exited with a spade. Doron cashed his two top hearts and exited with a heart to the jack. Federico cashed the last spade, but Doron pitched the ♣9 and now the defenders had to break clubs. Well played; +110.

The defense started the same way in the Closed Room but at trick three Frontaura led a heart to the ace followed by a spade to the king and ace. He won the spade return with the queen, led a club to the jack and ace, and eventually was down one for -50. That was 4 imps to Israel, leading 57-31.

Bd: 23  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 109654  
 ♥ AQ654  
 ♦ K3  
 ♣ Q

West  
 ♠ KQ2  
 ♥ 108  
 ♦ J108  
 ♣ AJ943

East  
 ♠ J3  
 ♥ K93  
 ♦ Q72  
 ♣ K7652

South  
 ♠ A87  
 ♥ J72  
 ♦ A9654  
 ♣ 108

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
1♣	2♣(♥+♠)	3♣	3♥
All Pass			

4♥ had four obvious losers, and with the ♣A lead at both tables nothing could go away. 6 more imps to Israel, extending their lead to 63-31.

Bd: 24  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A97543  
 ♥ Q1054  
 ♦ Q102  
 ♣ ---

West  
 ♠ 82  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ KJ843  
 ♣ K954

East  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ J8  
 ♦ A9765  
 ♣ Q10873

South  
 ♠ KQJ10  
 ♥ AK963  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ AJ62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣(1)	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	7♥
All Pass			
(1) ♣ shortness			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	5♦(1)
Pass	5♠(2)	Pass	5NT(3)
Pass	7♥	Pass	7♠
All Pass			
(1) Exclusion RKCB(♠)			
(2) One key card outside ♦			
(3) Trump ask			

With the big double fit, whoever got into the bidding first got to declare a Grand Slam. In the Open Room that was South; in the Closed Room it was Doron the Invincible. Doron's 7♥ must have shown either two of the top three honors (the extra length=the queen) or the ace plus extra length; in either case Israel knew what to do. In the Open Room 4♣ was a splinter of some sort but whether it showed a singleton or a void we cannot say. In any case, unlike in Shakespeare, the play was *not* the thing; a push at +1510.

Bd: 25  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ AKQ97  
 ♦ 10962  
 ♣ A63

West  
 ♠ Q87  
 ♥ J1065  
 ♦ KQ43  
 ♣ K4

East  
 ♠ KJ6432  
 ♥ 84  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ J1098

South  
 ♠ A109  
 ♥ 32  
 ♦ J875  
 ♣ Q752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
2♥	1♥	1♠	1NT
3♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
2♥	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In the Open Room Barel-Campanile sniffed at game but wisely stayed out—though not as out as they should have. Brenner led a heart and Frontaura won the queen, then led the king and ace. Migry ruffed with the ♠J as Brenner pitched a diamond. The ♦A was led followed by a club to the king and ace, and the defense now had two hearts, two clubs and two

spades for down two, -200.

In the Closed Room the defense also started with three rounds of hearts. Federico ruffed with the ♠K and guessed clubs, passing the ten. If you bid more you have to play better, and the Godeds certainly did both here. But in the end all roads led to Yokohama as -200 pushed the board. Still 63-31 Israel.

Bd: 26 North  
 Dir: East ♠ QJ9  
 Vul: Both ♥ 42  
 ♦ KJ743  
 ♣ K65

West  
 ♠ K10743  
 ♥ 103  
 ♦ 96  
 ♣ J1092

East  
 ♠ A85  
 ♥ AJ8  
 ♦ AQ52  
 ♣ Q83

South  
 ♠ 62  
 ♥ KQ9765  
 ♦ 108  
 ♣ A74

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Barel	Frontaura	Migry	Brenner
Gonzalo	Doron	Federico	Israel
		1NT	Pass
2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠	All Pass

With the diamond finesse on there were four losers. Both rooms stopped safely in 2♠ for a push at +140.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 943  
 Vul: None ♥ J106  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ QJ1097

West  
 ♠ 1075  
 ♥ AK3  
 ♦ A1092  
 ♣ AK3

East  
 ♠ AQ2  
 ♥ 942  
 ♦ Q87654  
 ♣ 2

South  
 ♠ KJ86  
 ♥ Q875  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ 8654

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Barel	Frontaura	Migry	Brenner
Gonzalo	Doron	Federico	Israel
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Again, identical auctions led to identical contracts, though not identical results. Both rooms received the ♣Q lead. In the Open Room Barel played the ♦10 at trick two and caught Frontaura unprepared. When he ducked Barel won the queen and Frontaura then had to watch his ♦K fall under the ace. Barel took eleven tricks for +460. In the Closed Room Gonzalo played ace and a diamond at tricks two and three, then ducked Doron's club continuation. But nothing good happened after that (the play record on BBO is not accurate here; the Yadlins did *not* both pitch away their hearts) and Gonzalo finished with ten tricks. Plus 430 and 1 imp to Israel, now 64-31.

Bd: 28 North  
 Dir: West ♠ QJ102  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K93  
 ♦ A95  
 ♣ 1032

West  
 ♠ AK9875  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ QJ763  
 ♣ Q

East  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ Q1042  
 ♦ K842  
 ♣ AJ94

South  
 ♠ 43  
 ♥ AJ765  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ K8765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Barel	Frontaura	Migry	Brenner
1♠	Pass	1NT(F)	2♥
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gonzalo	Doron	Federico	Israel
1♠	Pass	1NT(F)	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Against 3♥ Barel led the ♠A and shifted to a diamond to the ace. Brenner led the ♠Q to Barel's ace and a second diamond was ruffed by South. Brenner played a low club to the queen, and Barel continued with a third diamond, again ruffed by South. Now another low club allowed Migry to score both her jack and ace, and a fourth club was ruffed by Barel with the ♥8 and overruffed with dummy's nine. Next the ♠J was ruffed and overruffed, and Brenner could now ruff his last club with the ♥K and claim the last two tricks with his trump tenace over East; -100.

The Closed Room's 5♦ may appear to have good play at first glance, but the four-two spades and three-one trumps create problems on a forcing defense. Doron led a heart to the jack and Israel



returned a heart at trick two. Gonzalo ruffed, played the ♠A and ruffed a spade, then led a diamond to the ten, queen, and ace. A third heart forced declarer a second time and now he was down to North's trump length. At this point declarer has several play options: Cashing the ♠A loses when spades are four-two and the short hand has two or more trumps; ruffing a spade loses when spades are three-three and trumps are three-one. It is difficult to say precisely which is less likely; Gonzalo ruffed a third spade with the ♦K for down one. The contract can never be made as the cards lie, so this is all academic. Minus 50 was 4 moreimps to Israel, leading now by 37, 68-31.

Bd: 29 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ K1096  
 Vul: Both ♥ J72  
 ♦ 10543  
 ♣ K5

West  
 ♠ J87  
 ♥ K543  
 ♦ 86  
 ♣ A1097

East  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ 106  
 ♦ KJ72  
 ♣ Q86432

South  
 ♠ AQ542  
 ♥ AQ98  
 ♦ AQ9  
 ♣ J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

With the ♣A and both diamond honors outside, eleven tricks are routine. A boring push at 650.



"Remind me again, bridge is supposed to be *fun*, right?"

Bd: 30 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ QJ985  
 Vul: None ♥ KQ98  
 ♦ Q5  
 ♣ 87

West  
 ♠ A103  
 ♥ A1073  
 ♦ K8743  
 ♣ 2

East  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ 96  
 ♣ AKQ106543

South  
 ♠ K62  
 ♥ 6542  
 ♦ AJ102  
 ♣ J9

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
		3NT	All Pass

Both E/W pairs played gambling 3NT here and took eleven tricks on the ♦A lead. Israel still up 68-31.

Bd: 31 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ 8642  
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q7  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ KQ9854

West  
 ♠ A53  
 ♥ J10  
 ♦ KQ72  
 ♣ AJ103

East  
 ♠ 97  
 ♥ K854  
 ♦ AJ854  
 ♣ 62

South  
 ♠ KQJ10  
 ♥ A9632  
 ♦ 1093  
 ♣ 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Dbl	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl(T/O)	Rdbl	2♠
3♦	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Barel led the ♦K against 3♠; Migry overtook (the woman always knows what to do next) and returned a diamond, ruffed in dummy. When a spade to the

king and a club to the king were both ducked Brenner ruffed a club and tried a heart to the queen, losing to the king. Back came a trump and Barel played ace and another leaving Brenner with only the ♥A9 to come. Down two, -200.

In the Closed Room Doron led the ♣8 to the jack, and Gonzalo played the ♥10 to the queen, king, and ace. Israel switched to the ♠K, and continued two more rounds when Gonzalo ducked. Gonzalo then claimed his nine tricks for +150; 2 more imps to Israel, who led now 70-31.

Bd: 32 North  
 Dir: West ♠ J96  
 Vul: E/W ♥ A8752  
 ♦ Q84  
 ♣ AJ

West  
 ♠ Q103  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ KJ5  
 ♣ KQ8754

East  
 ♠ AK7  
 ♥ 1093  
 ♦ 1097632  
 ♣ 6

South  
 ♠ 8542  
 ♥ KJ64  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 10932

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Doron</i>	<i>Federico</i>	<i>Israel</i>
1♣	1♥	2♦(NF)	4♥
All Pass			

Both tables bid quickly to 4♥ but there were four losers (three spades and a club) and both defenses found them. The second quarter ended with Israel leading 70-31. The Latin would have to overcome a 39-imp deficit in only 32 boards to contend for the 2008 NEC Cup title.

**Third Quarter (Boards 33-48, by Barry Rigal):**

With Israel apparently comfortably in command at 70-31, The Latin would need to make a move soon to start getting some imps on the board. Mind you, 1 imp a deal would do.



Bd: 33 North  
 Dir: North ♠ AKQ6  
 Vul: None ♥ A5  
 ♦ K643  
 ♣ K42

West  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ K10943  
 ♦ A105  
 ♣ J1097

East  
 ♠ 7542  
 ♥ QJ62  
 ♦ J72  
 ♣ A6

South  
 ♠ J1083  
 ♥ 87  
 ♦ Q98  
 ♣ Q853

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
	1♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

When Gonzalo opened 1♦ it was passed around to Barel, who looked long and hard at his singleton spade and eventually sold out. The trump lead gave declarer a chance to develop the diamonds for one loser; on repeated heart leads the hand is much less fun. Plus 130 was going to be a very decent position for The Latin, but would The Yadrins be able to exercise similar restraint? No. Doron's 2NT opening bid is defined as 20-21. Israel looked for the major-suit fit and found it, but on a trump lead all declarer had was eight tricks; he guessed clubs, but the four-one spade split was too much to handle. Two down and 5 imps to The Latin.

Bd: 34 North  
 Dir: East ♠ A754  
 Vul: N/S ♥ 85  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ Q98432

West  
 ♠ J3  
 ♥ Q10  
 ♦ Q1082  
 ♣ AK1065

East  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ K7642  
 ♦ AKJ97  
 ♣ J7

South  
 ♠ K109862  
 ♥ AJ93  
 ♦ 543  
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
3♣	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
2♣	3♠	Dbl	4♣
Dbl	Pass	5♦	All Pass

The second deal saw Gonzalo Goded in the hot seat; he guessed to bid only 3♠ (4♠ even on early trump leads looks quite likely to make). Migry made a good practical bid to jump to 5♦ over the takeout double. Defending 5♦ from the East seat was a lot easier defending than from the West seat. Gonzalo won the first spade and took a few seconds before playing back the club, but he had enough of a count on the hand to know that this was likely to be the only shot to set the hand. And so it proved. On an equivalent auction Israel Yadlin led an intelligent ♠2 and that allowed the club ruff to come far more quickly. No swing. Well done both N/S pairs.

Bd: 35  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ 653  
 ♦ Q108764  
 ♣ 1076

West	East
♠ K2	♠ Q8754
♥ KQ742	♥ 1098
♦ K	♦ A53
♣ QJ954	♣ A8
South	
♠ AJ1096	
♥ AJ	
♦ J92	
♣ K32	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥(1)	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1)♥ + ♣ Max			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
2♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The third deal saw Barel make the Michaels cue-bid that even at unfavorable vulnerability might be the

mainstream action (I'm hoping Kokish does not read this). Migry's 2NT relay got a 3♥ response to show clubs and a maximum, but they were surely on their way to 4♥ anyway. Alas for Israel, getting West to be declarer made the spade ruff far easier to find. Barel did not drop the ♠K at trick one; had he done so South would surely have returned the suit (since West was five-five, there could be no slow diamond trick if he had a singleton spade) but you never know. Of course on an initial diamond lead, if 4♥ were declared by South it appears that declarer could pitch his losing spade on the diamonds, and perhaps survive thanks to the favorable location of the ♥J, once clubs are three-three.

Would Brenner be given this chance? Yes indeed. Israel led a diamond; declarer unblocked diamonds, crossed to the ♣A, and discarded that awkward spade loser. That was necessary; but was it going to be sufficient? On the first trump play Israel rose with the ♥A and played ace and another spade; Brenner had no sensible losing options: but he did not know that. He eventually ruffed with the ♥7, drew trumps, and played a club towards dummy to bring home ten tricks. It was 70-49 now.

Israel got off the schneid for the set with an overtrick imp. Then came another fine position for The Latin.

Bd: 37  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ AK65  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ KQJ2  
 ♣ KQJ4

West	East
♠ 94	♠ J87
♥ K876543	♥ 92
♦ ---	♦ A10965
♣ 7632	♣ A85
South	
♠ Q1032	
♥ QJ10	
♦ 8743	
♣ 109	

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
3♥	2♣	Pass	2♦
All Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT

Reaching 3NT and avoiding the four-four spade fit hardly seems a big deal, until you note that with diamonds five-zero and the ♣A with the long diamonds, one can set 4♠ by North on ruffs. "Can" being the operative word. The Yadlins' table was

running a little behind the other room, so it was possible to speculate that one more big swing would get the margin of the match back to single digits. No, the same sequence saw 3NT successfully declared at both tables for +430.

Bd: 38  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ Q54  
 ♥ QJ943  
 ♦ 965  
 ♣ Q4

West  
 ♠ A9  
 ♥ A107  
 ♦ 1073  
 ♣ AJ853

East  
 ♠ K103  
 ♥ 62  
 ♦ AK82  
 ♣ 10972

South  
 ♠ J8762  
 ♥ K85  
 ♦ QJ4  
 ♣ K6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
1♣	1♥	2♥	3♥
5♣	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Every deal seemed to offer some potential for swing now. The simple auction to 1NT saw the defenders lead and continue hearts. Barel won the first heart for fear of a spade shift and needed only to avoid losing too many tricks in hearts and clubs. He laid down the ♣A and had eight tricks. It is worth noting that 3NT can make if declarer ducks two hearts, then crosses to dummy to lead a club towards his hand. It is not so hard to see that happening, but Doron Yadlin introduced a variation into the notrump theme by overcalling 1♥, with that hand of power and quality. Frontaura looked for the club game, expecting to be facing a singleton heart, and now in 5♣ on a heart lead it was hard to see any practical chances for declarer. Ruffing the heart in dummy and trying for some unlikely spade-diamond squeeze was all that was available, but it would not materialize.

The commentators wrote off declarer's chances just a little too soon. After winning the club and cashing the ♥K, Israel for some unknown reason shifted to a spade rather than playing a top diamond. Fortune was with him. Although declarer could have won the

spade in dummy to isolate the spade menace, he did not quite have the timing to ruff a heart and run all his trumps, pitching diamonds, for the criss-cross squeeze. Had he ducked the first trick he *would* have had that play available. Instead, Frontera won the ♠A and ruffed a heart, but there was no way home. Back to 77-49 for Israel.

Bd: 39  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ KJ875  
 ♥ K32  
 ♦ 1086  
 ♣ 64

West  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ A8  
 ♦ AKQJ75  
 ♣ K1092

East  
 ♠ Q1042  
 ♥ J974  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ AQJ8

South  
 ♠ A63  
 ♥ Q1065  
 ♦ 432  
 ♣ 753

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

How are you supposed to bid these cards to 6♣? Barel's jump rebid in diamonds is a little ungainly but a pretty fair summary of what the hand is about. Still, it is really an understatement of the hand's trick-taking potential. No doubt the strong clubbers would rub their hands with glee here, but we had none in this match. Frontaura, though, who has not been backward about coming forward this match, found the way. He elected to jump shift into clubs and now Brenner raised happily. Frontaura's 4♦ cue-bid persuaded Brenner to bid 4NT (constructive for clubs, not Blackwood) and when Frontaura offered a choice of slams, Brenner knew where to play. On a non-heart lead the slam is almost laydown; on a heart lead it needs three-two clubs or a minor miracle. Doron led a trump—which really does not feel right here—but nothing mattered. 77-61 for Israel.

Bd: 40  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AK103  
 ♥ AQ93  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ K1074

West  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ AKJ98654  
 ♣ J86

East  
 ♠ J9742  
 ♥ K4  
 ♦ 1073  
 ♣ 952

South  
 ♠ 865  
 ♥ J108752  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ AQ3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
4♦	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
3♠	Dbl	3NT	4♥
All Pass			

More swing chances. When you're trying to protect a lead you don't want to see eight-card suits. Barel's four-level preempt took his side past 3NT, and Migry (who did not know if she could beat a slam) did not want to raise to 5♦ for fear of the penalty, but more specifically for fear of pushing the opponents into a making slam. 4♥ making five meant another chance of a small pick-up for Israel (defending 5♦x) or a big one for The Latin if the Israelis bid the slam on the losing finesse. Frontaura's 3♠ opening (solid minor?) did not do the trick; now the 4♥ bid ended the auction. No swing; Israel by 16.

Bd: 41  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AK3  
 ♥ K95  
 ♦ 10932  
 ♣ 962

West  
 ♠ QJ64  
 ♥ A87  
 ♦ AK76  
 ♣ A10

East  
 ♠ 92  
 ♥ QJ64  
 ♦ J4  
 ♣ 87543

South  
 ♠ 10875  
 ♥ 1032  
 ♦ Q85  
 ♣ KQJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Barel was doubtless not too happy to see the auction die in 1♦ and a doubleton trump come down in dummy, but it was going to be hard to defeat this contract after the lead of a top spade. It was going to be even harder (given the sight of dummy) to find the technically correct shift to a low diamond. Gonzalo played a diamond, but the ten, not the two, to the jack, queen, and king. When North got in with the ♠K to lead another trump, declarer's ♦76 represented the seventh winner: +70. Doron Yadlin led a top spade, got a discouraging signal, and shifted to a low heart (nice play). Declarer could do little but lead a club to hand and a diamond up. When the ♦J lost to the ♦Q the writing was on the wall. Declarer took six tricks only, and Israel's lead was back to 23, at 84-61.

Bd: 42  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 109843  
 ♥ J2  
 ♦ K1096  
 ♣ A2

West  
 ♠ A5  
 ♥ AQ6  
 ♦ A8732  
 ♣ J75

East  
 ♠ QJ  
 ♥ K5  
 ♦ J54  
 ♣ Q108643

South  
 ♠ K762  
 ♥ 1098743  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ K9

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In 3NT on a spade lead both tables were not prepared to look for miracles in diamonds (close but no cigar). They did not cash the ♦A; instead they simply played on clubs and settled for down one when the spades had no blockage. No swing: still 84-61.

Bd: 43  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ AJ85  
 ♥ 974  
 ♦ AK43  
 ♣ AK

West  
 ♠ K76  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ J965  
 ♣ 109863

East  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ AK1062  
 ♦ Q102  
 ♣ QJ72

South  
 ♠ Q10943  
 ♥ QJ83  
 ♦ 87  
 ♣ 54

Open Room

<b>West</b> <i>Barel</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Gonzalo</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Migry</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Federico</i>
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♦(1)

(1) Weak Majors

Closed Room

<b>West</b> <i>Frontaura</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Doron Y</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Brenner</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Pass

The 2♦ opening to show both majors deserved to score rather more of a goal when it persuaded Migry to lead a trump and not play for heart ruffs. Alas for declarer, the working spade finesse meant that his gain was limited to an overtrick. It is easy to see how it could have been more. 84-62 to Israel.

Bd: 44  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ KJ62  
 ♥ K72  
 ♦ 1097  
 ♣ 974

West  
 ♠ A985  
 ♥ 98  
 ♦ 6532  
 ♣ Q52

East  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ AQ54  
 ♦ AQJ4  
 ♣ AJ103

South  
 ♠ Q1074  
 ♥ J1063  
 ♦ K8  
 ♣ K86



"Fill 'er up...with beer."

Open Room

<b>West</b> <i>Barel</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Gonzalo</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Migry</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Federico</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3♣	All Pass

(1) Forces 3♣

Closed Room

<b>West</b> <i>Frontaura</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Doron Y</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Brenner</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

More swing potential here, as Migry opened 1♣ and opted for the reverse rather than a 2NT rebid. (I can see more of a case for opening 1♦ here myself if that is your plan, but it is horses for courses.) 2NT was a puppet to 3♣, to get out there. 3♣ played easily enough for +110, but 3NT was interesting and had plenty of play. The defenders needed to lead or shift to spades to get their tricks quickly. When Brenner led the ♣10 out of his hand at trick two, it caught Israel unaware. He eventually won and continued hearts; had he ducked he would have had a chance to find out more about the hand. Declarer won the second heart and knocked out the ♦K and had nine winners for 7 imps. Israel led 84-69 now.

Bd: 45  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ AK4  
 ♥ K52  
 ♦ K10963  
 ♣ Q6

West  
 ♠ 10972  
 ♥ A10963  
 ♦ A7  
 ♣ 105

East  
 ♠ QJ53  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ 52  
 ♣ AJ9872

South  
 ♠ 86  
 ♥ QJ87  
 ♦ QJ84  
 ♣ K43

Open/Closed Rooms

<b>West</b> <i>Barel</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Gonzalo</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Migry</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Federico</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Brenner was on lead to 3NT as was Migry after the Stayman auction. Invoking the spirit of Paul Marston (always lead your second longest suit) and knowing he needed swings, Brenner fished out the ♠Q. Bingo! Declarer had two spades and three aces to lose. In

the other room the club lead cost a trick, but did not give declarer nine sure winners. If clubs were five-three or if the defender with the long clubs was left with an entry, E/W could still prevail. No luck for Israel though: as the cards lay Gonzalo could not go wrong. He made the right play, I think, of trying to sneak a heart trick through. The defenders won and shifted to spades, but it was too late. 84-81 to Israel now, and the noise you could hear was Migry biting her fingernails.

Bd: 46 North  
 Dir: East ♠ KQ92  
 Vul: None ♥ 105  
 ♦ QJ9  
 ♣ J1063

West  
 ♠ J5  
 ♥ A98762  
 ♦ A52  
 ♣ 98

East  
 ♠ 10643  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ K108743  
 ♣ Q7

South  
 ♠ A87  
 ♥ KJ43  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ AK542

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
2♥	Dbl	All Pass	1♣

3♦ was an optimistic contract, but undoubled undertricks were not going to be important. Accordingly, Migry went all out to make her contract on the defense of a club lead and a trump shift. She tried to ruff out the hearts drawing a second trump herself in the process, and that meant she ended up with five trump tricks and the ♥A; down 150.

In the other room Israel Yadlin was well placed to pass the negative double (an interesting shot; it is my experience that people don't do this nearly enough). Perhaps he was remembering the good karma he already had from defending this contract. The defenders cashed two clubs, then played three rounds of spades. Frontaura ruffed in and guessed to lead a low heart towards the queen, which seems wrong to me. Israel won and played a third club. Declarer ruffed and now had to go to the ♦K to lead up to his ♦A to get out for two down. In fact he played

the ace and another diamond, and the ♦K was ruffed out, leaving him with a trump and a diamond to lose. Down 500 and it was back to an 11 imp margin.

Bd: 47 North  
 Dir: South ♠ AJ543  
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ53  
 ♦ A9  
 ♣ 97

West  
 ♠ 92  
 ♥ J96  
 ♦ QJ642  
 ♣ 654

East  
 ♠ Q1076  
 ♥ A7  
 ♦ 853  
 ♣ KQJ3

South  
 ♠ K8  
 ♥ 10842  
 ♦ K107  
 ♣ A1082

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both tables played 4♥ and both declarers committed the error of winning the first club, not that it was necessarily going to matter today. The point is, though, that it does free up lines of communication for the defense outside the trump suit, which may be critical if you plan to ruff spades before drawing trumps. (Compare to Board 38.) Gonzalo actually played on spades without touching trumps. West got two overruffs in, and the club and the ♥A meant one down. If declarer had taken one round of trumps early, his ♥K would have lost to the ace, letting him draw a second round of trumps and avoid all danger.

In the other room Doron did lead a heart to the king at trick two—and Brenner ducked. This was truly excellent defense. If declarer now followed the normal line of ruffing spades he would run into the buzz-saw of the over-ruffs. Now you see why ducking trick one is so important. No. Throughout this tournament the Yadlins have demonstrated their ability to do the right thing at the right time (or only to make the wrong play when it does not matter). On this deal Doron's choice of going to the ♠K to lead a

second heart would have been fatal if spades were four-two and East had ♥AJ. Not today; it was the winning line. 12 imps back to Israel, back up 104-81.

Bd: 48 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ A3  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 84  
 ♦ A4  
 ♣ J1098762

West  
 ♠ J108754  
 ♥ Q76  
 ♦ J95  
 ♣ 4

East  
 ♠ 962  
 ♥ AJ103  
 ♦ KQ82  
 ♣ AQ

South  
 ♠ KQ  
 ♥ K952  
 ♦ 10763  
 ♣ K53

### Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>Federico</i>
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Both Norths balanced daringly over a strong notrump; both Souths thought longingly about trying for 3NT—and rightly so, in a sense. Only a diamond lead sets it. Note: had West balanced with 3♣ South might have tried 3NT en route to 4♣ (but with such bad clubs would North have sat for it?). No swing at +130. It was 104-81 Israel with only 16 deals to go.

**Note: Fourth quarter coverage will appear in today's late Bulletin 7.**

## To the Rescue

by Barry Rigal

My teammates, Sue Picus and Renee Mancuso, know how to save a bad result. Look at what happened on this deal from the first qualifying session of the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams.

Dlr: East ♠ ---  
 Vul: None ♥ 52  
 ♦ KJ854  
 ♣ AQ8543

♠ K2  
 ♥ KJ876  
 ♦ A6  
 ♣ J762

♠ QJ7643  
 ♥ AQ1043  
 ♦ 92  
 ♣ ---

♠ A10985  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ Q1073  
 ♣ K109

We defended 5♥ after East opened 1♠. The lead of the ♣A was not a success and we were -480. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
1♥	2NT	4♣	5♦
Dbl	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	6♦	Dbl	All Pass

Sue, West, led a club for the ruff, and Renee underled her ♥A for a second ruff, so the ♦A meant +500 and a win on the board—never in doubt.

Dlr: North ♠ J8  
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q954  
 ♦ 932  
 ♣ AJ73

♠ AK7  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ AQJ5  
 ♣ K10954

♠ 5432  
 ♥ K1082  
 ♦ 874  
 ♣ Q8

♠ Q1096  
 ♥ AJ73  
 ♦ K106  
 ♣ 62

There is nothing more enjoyable than pulling the wool over the eyes of a regular opponent and adversary. On the above deal, we sat N/S and led a heart against 2NT, reached after a reversing auction. I led a low heart as North, and Alex Ornstein won the jack to shift to a spade. When declarer led a club to the queen and a club back, we could arrange six tricks and might have had seven.

Sue Picus played 3NT as West against a pair of New York experts. North started with the ♦9. Sue won the jack, led a club to the queen, followed by the ♦8 to the ten and queen, then a club to the 8(!). She cashed two more diamonds, then took her top spades and played a third round to South, who could cash two spades but had to concede a trick to dummy's ♥K at the end. Nine tricks made.