



NEC Bridge Festival

Monday, February 11, 2008
Bulletin Number 7

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

Chen-Hirata Triumph in Asuka Cup Yokoe-Yoshino Win JCBL Pairs



2008 Asuka Cup runners up



2008 Asuka Cup winners



2008 JCBL Cup Winners

Top Finishers in Asuka Cup And JCBL Pairs

Rank	Asuka Cup		JCBL Pairs	
	Pair	Score	Pair	Score
1	Chen Dawei-Takahiko Hirata	2894.67	Miyoko Yokoe-Keiko Yoshino	47
2	Natsuko Nishida-Tomoe Nakao	2757.27	Takako Ijuin-Akio Ijuin	41
3	Takeshi Niekawa-Kazuhiko Yamada	2714.28		
4	Toru Shimoichi-Kyoko Matsuo	2658.10		
5	Doron Yadlin-Israel Yadlin	2625.44		
6	Federico Goded-Akiko Kawabata	2619.82		
7	Hidenori Narita-Makiko Sato	2564.17		
8	Kunio Kodaira-Teruo Miyazaki	2559.06		
9	Kyoko Sengoku-Masayuki Ino	2558.23		
10	Takeshi Hanayama-Yuki Fukuyoshi	2552.91		

Narita Bus Schedule

From the Intercontinental
(120 minutes)
¥3,500

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

From the YCAT
(90 min)
¥3,500

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

Another Defensive Thought

by Mike Lawrence

Some plays are automatic. Does that make them right?

West deals, both vulnerable

East

♠ 108654
♥ QJ762
♦ 875
♣ —

South

♠ K92
♥ A4
♦ Q632
♣ Q1098

West	North	East	South
1♥	3♦	4♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

North leads the ♦A, ruffed by West. West starts trumps by leading the ten to dummy's queen. You, South, win the ace and return a diamond. Or do you?

If you agree with the safe diamond return, go ahead and read on. If you don't like it, then what do you like?

Here is what happens if you return the automatic diamond. West ruffs. He goes to dummy with a trump, and ruffs another diamond. West now plays the ♣AK and ruffs a club in dummy. Inevitably come the last three hearts.

You want to know what your partner played on the clubs, don't you? He played the two, three, and five. This doesn't tell you what you want to know so I will show you what you want to know. I will show you all four hands. Here they are.

♠ J
♥ 8
♦ AKJ1094
♣ 76532

♠ AQ73
♥ K10953
♦ —
♣ AKJ4

♠ 108654
♥ QJ762
♦ 875
♣ —

♠ K92
♥ A4
♦ Q632
♣ Q1098

By the time the last heart comes at you, you will have to come down to three cards. This is unfortunate because you need to keep one club to stop declarer's jack from scoring and you need to keep three spades. That is one more card than you are allowed to keep. According to your discard, West takes a spade finesse and wins the thirteenth trick with the ♣J or the ♠7.

This is sad, but it is preventable. If South returns a trump, or even a spade, West won't be able to ruff three diamonds in his hand and still be able to squeeze you. Only if you return the automatic diamond (or a club) can West come to twelve tricks.

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

From Our Department Of: "Upon Further Review"

John Carruthers of the *International Bridge Press Association* has been reading the Daily Bulletins and sends us this thought on an early deal.

Bd: 5 North
 Dlr: North ♠ K62
 Vul: N/S ♥ K63
 ♦ 108432
 ♣ 62

West
 ♠ 8
 ♥ A2
 ♦ AKJ76
 ♣ AKQ107

South
 ♠ AQJ5
 ♥ 75
 ♦ Q95
 ♣ J983

East
 ♠ 109743
 ♥ QJ10984
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 54

Open Room

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

Closed Room

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

- (1) ♥+another
- (2) Forcing
- (3) ♥+♠

In the match between NAITO and Lithuania we saw 4♥ making and 5♥ defeated. The defenders to 5♥ led a club. Declarer played a spade, and South won to find the heart shift. We suggested that declarer made the right play when he rose with the ♥A and tried to dispose of his four spade losers via the ruff and dummy's plain-suit winners. But North could ruff in with a low trump on the third round of clubs, and spoil the party.

John suggests that declarer does best to duck the heart shift in dummy. If North wins the ♥K to return a trump, declarer wins the ace, ruffs a diamond, draws the last trump and now has the four discards he needs in the dummy, due to the fall of the ♦Q; now there are no awkward trumps around to inhibit him. This line always makes the hand whenever clubs split (as before) but also provides the additional chance in diamonds. If North plays back a spade declarer can take the ruff, come back to hand with a diamond ruff, and is in complete control. And if North plays back a club, declarer runs the clubs and can overruff and draw trumps whenever North chooses to ruff in.

So North must duck the ♥K to stand a chance of defeating the game. Declarer now does best, both at single- and double-dummy, to draw a second trump himself and ruff a diamond. Then he goes to dummy with a top club and cashes two diamonds; if the queen has not appeared he needs clubs three-three. When it does appear he has to decide who has the last trump. If South, he must cash two clubs then the ♦J; if North, he must take the diamond *before* playing on clubs. So we guess it is all down to the tempo at trick three. If North ducks his ♥K without a flicker he deserves to beat you.

Guessing a Queen

by Richard Pavlicek

One of the sharpest card players of all time was the late John Crawford. Legend has it that he never misguessed a queen—he had such incredible table feel that he could always tell who held the lady.

One day a fellow gambler offered Crawford a bet: "You leave the table and I'll arrange the trump suit. When you come back, I'll bet you \$100 you can't tell me which defender has the queen." Sure enough, Crawford accepted the bet.

When he returned to the table, Crawford stared first

at his left-hand opponent, and then at his right-hand opponent. Puzzled, he looked at each opponent again and again. "Darn it!" he said, "Neither one of 'em looks like he has it. I can't believe this!" Crawford was just about to concede the bet when the gambler tossed him a hundred-dollar bill—he had removed the queen of trumps from the deck.

How good is your queen guessing? Can you find the proper play to make this 4♥ contract?

See next page

♠ 7643
 ♥ K98
 ♦ 104
 ♣ K532
 ♠ KQ52
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ Q976
 ♣ Q109
 ♠ A98
 ♥ 542
 ♦ 8532
 ♣ J87
 ♠ J10
 ♥ AJ1076
 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ A64

Would an expert actually guess this queen? Well, not exactly. An expert would not lead trumps! After ruffing a diamond, the proper play is to cash both top clubs ending in dummy; then lead the last spade and ruff it in your hand. Now exit with a club. Voila! Whoever wins will have to lead trumps (or a diamond) which guarantees your contract.



“Sorry partner, I’d have bid it better if I’d remembered you’d be playing it.”

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

After winning the opening lead of the ♠K, West leads a low spade to East’s ace, and you ruff the next spade with the ♥6. The typical play is to ruff your third diamond, cash the ♥K and finesse East for the queen. As you can see, this would not be a success.

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

Am I Chicken?

Satoshi Imaz gave us this story from the Sunday Yokohama Swiss Teams. His partner was Takashi Maeda, coach of the JAPAN OPEN team. Here is how Satoshi described it.

Dlr: North ♠ Qxxxx
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKxx
 ♦ Qxx
 ♣ x
 ♠ A9 ♠ K10x
 ♥ 108xx ♥ xx
 ♦ Kxxx ♦ J
 ♣ xxx ♣ AKQJxxx
 ♠ Jxx
 ♥ QJx
 ♦ A10xxx
 ♣ xx

West	North	East	South
Maeda		Imaz	
	1♠	1NT	Dbf
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♠
3NT!	All Pass		

When North opened 1♠ I thought my hand was powerful, close to 3NT, but I decided to just overcall 1NT. When my partner saw this he decided to invite with his good 7 HCP, but when South doubled he felt relieved (now he didn’t need to worry about missing game; if we could make 3NT we would be at least +380). So he passed. When the double came back around to me I escaped to 2♣, which made him angry. So now he bid 3NT, which didn’t get doubled.

After South led (the ♠J) partner put down his dummy saying, “Why did you escape? Was my Pass a transfer to 2♣? You’re a chicken!”

Nine tricks were easy after the ♠J lead, but I finessed the ♠Q and made ten tricks to prove I’m not a chicken.

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?
 A: He didn't. He was chicken.

NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2008

Domo Arigato

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to congratulate our corporate sponsor **NEC** for once again joining with **JCBL** to produce a bridge event of the highest quality and competitiveness. We see more and more each year that the **NEC Bridge Festival** attracts the interest of the best players in the world. Many participants consider the NEC tournament one of their best bridge experiences. Once again, congratulations to the sponsors and especially to the **JCBL** staff.

Yokohama, and especially the Pacifico, are wonderful places and get better and better each year. The Exhibition Hall is a first-class playing venue. The weather was great—if occasionally a bit damp—for this year's festival and the people were warm and friendly, as always. It is our continuing great pleasure to be reunited with our many friends and to share once again the happy times, the fun and the excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts.

The significant prizes and broad participation continue to make the **NEC Bridge Festival** an important event on the bridge calendar, one which continues to grow in prestige. This year's field of 39 teams in the NEC Cup, while smaller than in several past years, still included some of the strongest teams in the world, and the quality of play continues to be impressive.

The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who provided us with deals, stories and other material to help us keep you informed. Many thanks to *Yoshida-san* for his leadership and friendship. Thanks also to *Richard Grenside*, tormented Director, who as always ran a smooth and pleasant tournament; to *Sue Grenside* for her excellent support and good humor; to *Omasa-san*, for his remarkable technical and computer support—who suffers with us well into the wee hours of the morning (though not as wee as in past years); to *Nakamura-san*, *Watanabe-san* and *Tashiro-san* for their wonderful pictures (which as always we subjected to our peculiar sense of humor); to *Suzuki-san* for his help with many things, both technical and otherwise; to *Ogawa-san* his supervision of all things BBO, to the many who brought us gifts, food and moral support during our work sessions. Thanks also to the many volunteers who performed the myriad functions critical to making this tournament a success, while we remained absorbed in our work. We consider all of you part of our extended family here in Japan. And finally, thanks to the players, who produced such a rich source of exciting, top-level bridge for us to write about.



Warmest regards, *Rich, Barry, Sue, and the Bulletin Staff*

Diamond Decisions

by Peter Gill

Here are two bidding problems from the Qualifying Stage of the Yokohama Swiss Teams on Saturday afternoon.

(1) What would be your opening bid with ♠AQ65 ♥KQJ ♦K1054 ♣AQ?

Say you open 2NT (21-22) and the bidding proceeds:

You	Partner
2NT (21-22)	3♣ (Puppet Stayman)
3♦	3♠ (four hearts)
3NT	4♦

What now?

(2) You hold: ♠QJ64 ♥AKQ9 ♦A742 ♣Q. You open the bidding with 1♦ and the bidding proceeds:

You	Partner
1♦	2♣
2♥ (reverse)	2♠ (4SF to game)
3♠	4♦
4♥ (cue-bid)	4NT (RKCB)
5♥	5NT (specific kings)

Do you bid 6♥ or not?

(1) The full deal (on Board 14 of the second session) was:

♠ 832	
♥ 1073	
♦ J2	
♣ J9652	
♠ 10	♠ AQ65
♥ A986	♥ KQJ
♦ AQ873	♦ K1054
♣ K73	♣ AQ
♠ KJ974	
♥ 542	
♦ 96	
♣ 1084	

The Japanese ladies, Kazuko Nakagawa and Fumiko Sakabe, bid as above. Over 4♦, 4NT is surely regressive with a hand such as ♠AKQJ ♥QJx ♦Jx

♣AQJx. 4♥ sounds like a cue-bid, but it might be interpreted as an attempt to play in a four-three fit. 4♠ is a cue-bid, but how will partner ever be able to tell that you have such suitable hearts? Sakabe found the solution. She leapt to 6♦, which surely meant that she had perfect cards. It's a good descriptive bid, since 4♦ might be much weaker. Nakagawa realized that the only hands good enough to jump to 6♦ must include four diamonds to the king, the black aces, and either the ♥KQ or ♥Kx. (If partner had ♥Kxx the ♣Q would provide a discard for the third heart.) So she raised to 7♦, for +1440; a 9-imp pickup against 6NT at the other table.

(2) The N/S cards (on Board 9 of the same session) were:

North	South
♠ QJ64	♠ A
♥ AKQ9	♥ 1076
♦ A742	♦ KQJ6
♣ Q	♣ AJ965

18-year old Justin Howard, from Australia, bid 6♥, corrected to 7♦ by his partner. With partner having delayed showing diamond support until the third round of the auction, there's a strong case to bid only 6♦ over 5NT due to concern about the trump holding. But teenagers are not known for their underbidding.

The lead was the ♥3 to the nine. Justin played the ♣Q to the ace, club ruff, spade to ace, club ruff low, diamond to dummy, club ruff with the ♦A, spade ruff, draw trumps and claim. Plus 1440 was an 11-imp gain over +920 at the other table. The full deal was:

♠ QJ64	
♥ AKQ9	
♦ A742	
♣ Q	
♠ K1092	♠ 8753
♥ 42	♥ J863
♦ 1093	♦ 85
♣ K832	♣ 1074
♠ A	
♥ 1075	
♦ KQJ6	
♣ AJ965	

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

The Finals (continued): The Latin vs Israel

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64, by Barry Rigal):

The final stanza started with Israel's lead cut to 23, but with the momentum firmly in their camp. They had been leading by only 3 imps until in the last three deals they had conjured 20 imps from nowhere

Bd: 49 North
 Dir: North ♠ A953
 Vul: None ♥ Q543
 ♦ A1032
 ♣ A

West
 ♠ 876
 ♥ 10
 ♦ KQJ8765
 ♣ 83

East
 ♠ KQJ4
 ♥ A72
 ♦ 94
 ♣ KJ75

South
 ♠ 102
 ♥ KJ986
 ♦ ---
 ♣ Q109642

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
	1♦	Dbl.	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

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

Federico Goded was happy to take a shot at 4♥ once he found the fit and the extra values opposite; ten tricks might be accessible via a crossruff. But how would the hand play on a trump lead and continuation? That would leave declarer with three aces and only six trump tricks. But declarer changes tack and simply unblocks the ♣A and uses a trump entry to run the ♣Q, then the ♣10, and gives up two clubs only.

Barel led a club, Frontaura a top diamond, so both declarers made eleven tricks without breathing hard. But since Doron Yadlin had taken the low road in the auction and Gonzalo Goded had taken the high road, The Latin had 6 imps and the margin was down to 17imps at 104-87.

After a dull game with ten top tricks and a finesse for an eleventh, Israel created a swing when untypically Barel preempted on a deal where his counterpart did not.

Bd: 51 North
 Dir: South ♠ AK2
 Vul: E/W ♥ 10643
 ♦ J832
 ♣ A7

West
 ♠ QJ9863
 ♥ J7
 ♦ 9
 ♣ QJ84

East
 ♠ 74
 ♥ A852
 ♦ AK764
 ♣ 105

South
 ♠ 105
 ♥ KQ9
 ♦ Q105
 ♣ K9632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
			Pass
2♦(1)	Multi	2♠(2)	All Pass
(1) Weak in ♥ or ♠			
(2) Pass or correct			

Closed Room

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

The Israelis have tended to preempt less than their opponents, so I would guess that Barel might only have opened because he expected them to bid in the other room, too. As it was, the Multi 2♦ bought the hand and let Migry make nine tricks after a slight mis-defense. (After the spade lead North should cash the ♣A to get an encouraging signal as he did, but then he should take the second top spade to ensure the ruff. But the chance of the overruff was very hard to spot.) In the other room Israel Yadlin's improvised three-card major response looks unnecessary, but it scored a huge goal. Frontaura passed, awaiting a second turn, but never got one. The defenders were also totally unprepared for the possibility (wouldn't you be too?) of the three-card suit and let declarer maneuver two diamond tricks without scoring their own diamond ruff. Whether or not perfect defense might set 1♥, Israel ended up with eight tricks and 6 imps; back in front by 23.

The next two deals were delicate 3NT contracts where the lead and subsequent defense looked critical.

Bd: 52
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q743
 ♥ KQ4
 ♦ 8642
 ♣ 105

West
 ♠ 106
 ♥ J6
 ♦ 109753
 ♣ A942

East
 ♠ A85
 ♥ A10
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ KQJ863

South
 ♠ KJ92
 ♥ 987532
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

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

When Israel Yadlin as South was on lead to 3NT he led a heart, as who would not? He had to find five discards on the clubs and eventually, after the three easy ones, he let go a heart then a spade to bare his ♠K, in response to a signal from his partner; that was down one. Federico Goded heard Barel respond 1♦, potentially with a three-card suit, and Migry then jumped to 3NT to suggest a long club suit. With weak majors Federico rejected the heart lead (understandable) and had he led a spade I would have had some sympathy with him. But his choice of the ♦A looks extremely random, and it did develop a ninth trick for declarer. The margin was 35; 122-87.

Bd: 53
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J108
 ♥ AQJ85
 ♦ 105
 ♣ 932

West
 ♠ AK
 ♥ K104
 ♦ 972
 ♣ AKQ104

East
 ♠ 532
 ♥ 973
 ♦ KQ6
 ♣ J865

South
 ♠ Q9764
 ♥ 62
 ♦ AJ843
 ♣ 7

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On the next deal both declarers in 3NT won the ♥Q lead and knew they needed to steal a ninth trick if the hearts were breaking badly. It is hard to see what else to do but lead a diamond up and hope for a mis-defense; Barel got it (when South ducked) and Frontaura did not. Maybe a Smith Echo in positions like this (to indicate the quality of North's heart suit) is really essential. It was now 132-87; 45 imps and 12 deals to go.

A dull 3NT followed, in which both declarers took two overtricks on a very favorable lie of the cards. Then came a deal that demonstrates the two different approaches to rebidding balanced hands. Was the swing here luck or judgment?

Bd: 55
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K65
 ♥ KJ84
 ♦ 1095
 ♣ AJ8

West
 ♠ AJ4
 ♥ Q1073
 ♦ J86
 ♣ KQ10

East
 ♠ 92
 ♥ 92
 ♦ AK432
 ♣ 9632

South
 ♠ Q10873
 ♥ A65
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ 754

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	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
1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

The Israeli (or for want of a better word, the Acol) approach tends to be to bid suits up the line in response to 1♣. So opener does not bypass majors and does not guarantee club length if he does bid one. By contrast, the mainstream American, or Walsh, approach is for responder to bid majors in

front of minors with one-bid hands. Accordingly, opener bypasses majors after 1♣-1♦ unless he is unbalanced. Our Washington editor is non-committal on the subject, the transplanted Brit is now if not a die-hard Walshite, somewhere closer to the concept of never bidding a major in a 4-3-3-3 pattern and having discretion with a four-four pattern. Thus, when Frontaura rebid 1NT and got to 2♦ it seemed to BR like a far more sensible auction than that of Migry, who had to rebid 2♣ here. Not surprisingly, the four-three fit lost an extra trick. Although the defenders did not tap the long trump hand effectively, eventually South could not be prevented from scoring a diamond ruff to set the game. 2♦ was no bargain either but the fall of the ♦Q allowed Brenner to find his eighth trick. That was 5 imps to The Latin, trailing 92-132.

On the next deal an eleven-trick 4♥ game was just what the Israelis wanted. No swing, and now it appeared that the Latin might have to go out and search for some swings. Time was running out but the remaining boards still possessed quite a high "swing-factor." Paradoxically, the two pairs then produced duplicated auctions on consecutive deals—the first time this has occurred this week.

Bd: 57 North
 Dir: North ♠ 873
 Vul: E/W ♥ KQ
 ♦ 86
 ♣ AJ10863

West	East
♠ A94	♠ KJ52
♥ A952	♥ J106
♦ 743	♦ A92
♣ 754	♣ KQ2

South
 ♠ Q106
 ♥ 8743
 ♦ KQJ105
 ♣ 9

Open/Closed Rooms			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
	Pass	1♣	2♦
DbI	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Both Souths took the opportunity to make a weak-jump overcall because of the position and vulnerability (indeed, that might be the 'standard' expert strategy here). Both Wests felt obliged to bid...why? Since two of the three editors feel obliged to act here, maybe I'm being biased by the result; 2♦ would probably have taken +90, so no real harm was done by bidding. That got East to 2♠. Both defenses

scored four red-suit tricks, a club a ruff, and a trump trick. Flat boards were no good anymore to the trailing team with the margin still 40 imps.

Bd: 58 North
 Dir: East ♠ 1085
 Vul: Both ♥ Q432
 ♦ Q74
 ♣ AJ4

West	East
♠ J7642	♠ A93
♥ A1097	♥ K
♦ 103	♦ 98652
♣ 103	♣ Q875

South
 ♠ KQ
 ♥ J865
 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ K962

Open/Closed Rooms			
West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

And yet again sensible and identical auctions to the same (lousy) contract meant that The Latin was unlikely to get much of a swing. Both declarers won an early spade lead and were now in hand, so it was natural to misguess how to handle trumps (particularly because the spade suit was clearly five-three with West having length). They lost one trick in each black suit and four trumps. I'm sure Brenner might have considered doubling 4♥ if his singleton had not been a trump honor. No swing, though down 300 doubtless felt awful to both declarers. Still 40 imps with five deals to go.

Bd: 59 North
 Dir: South ♠ QJ86
 Vul: None ♥ KQJ9432
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 102

West	East
♠ 9	♠ 10543
♥ A6	♥ 8
♦ K108	♦ Q753
♣ KQJ9863	♣ A754

South
 ♠ AK72
 ♥ 1075
 ♦ AJ9642
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
2♣	4♥	Pass	1♦
All Pass			6♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
2♣	2♥	4♣	1♦
5♣	5♥	All Pass	4♥

Here was a moment for inspiration. Whereas Doron took the slow route, discouraged by his small doubleton club, Gonzalo jumped to 4♥ over 2♣ and now Federico closed his eyes and tried 6♥; it might make, after all. And it did. Migry, caught between a rock (*Tzur* in Hebrew) and a hard place, took the path of least resistance in the auction. But note that 7♣ might be a cheap save against the game. Elevenimps to the Latin; the margin was 29 with four deals to go. Plenty of time left...if the boards cooperated.

Bd: 60	North
Dlr: West	♠ Q4
Vul: N/S	♥ J1032
	♦ J
	♣ KQJ1087

West	East
♠ J862	♠ AK10
♥ 754	♥ ---
♦ K654	♦ A1098732
♣ 42	♣ 953

South
♠ 9753
♥ AKQ986
♦ Q
♣ A6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	4♣(fit)	4♦	4♥
5♦	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>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	3♦(SPL)	Dbl	4♥
All Pass			

As I frequently complain to my wife, "Just when I think we are going to make ends meet, you keep moving the ends." The key here was Migry's decision (nobody puts baby in a corner) to bid 4♦ rather than

double some artificial diamond bid. That got Barel to save in 5♦—some save! Federico wisely bid on to 5♥, but the defenders took their three tricks and Israel had widened the margin back to 41. They'd be safe unless too many slam hands came along...

Bd: 61	North
Dlr: North	♠ AKJ7
Vul: Both	♥ Q94
	♦ J43
	♣ 432

West	East
♠ 2	♠ 108643
♥ AKJ106	♥ ---
♦ AK8	♦ Q9
♣ AKJ10	♣ Q98765
South	
♠ Q95	
♥ 87532	
♦ 107652	
♣ ---	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
2♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass	5♣	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
2♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♠(SPL)	Pass	3♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass	4NT(1)	Pass

(1) More encouraging than 5♣

Briggida likes a good viewgraph show, of course. And just when it looked safe to go back into the water, she produced a delicate slam on limited high cards. The two auctions saw E/W find their club fit after which it was easy for West to drive to slam without much encouragement. No swing; still 41. It had to be safe now!? Not necessarily...



"My hair has grown an inch since Diego started thinking."

Bd: 62 North
 Dir: East ♠ AK105
 Vul: None ♥ 974
 ♦ AJ85
 ♣ K4

West
 ♠ J8
 ♥ Q62
 ♦ 74
 ♣ 876532

East
 ♠ 93
 ♥ J853
 ♦ Q1063
 ♣ J109

South
 ♠ Q7642
 ♥ AK10
 ♦ K92
 ♣ AQ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦(!)
Pass	3♦	Pass	2NT(GF)
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	4NT
All Pass			7♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Doron Y</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Israel Y</i>
Pass	2NT(♠)	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT(KC)	Pass	4♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			7♠

Both tables lost focus on the fact that possession of all the aces and kings does not mean you can make a Grand Slam. (I do have a partner like that—get well soon.) If the match had been about to hinge on this deal, I'm sure there would be a lot more naval contemplation.

One of the problems with continuation after the Key Card responses is that, whereas Doron knew his side had all the key cards, he did not want to give up on a Grand Slam but did not want to suggest one unless his partner had further extras. The problem was that the club duplication never came to light.

After Federico's opening bid it was very hard for the partnership to approach the deal scientifically; given the need to play for swings it is hard to criticize his actions.

Migry made sure of her diamond trick by splitting her queen-ten when a diamond was led towards the South hand, and only set 7♠ one trick. I'm sure her

teammates would understand. 39 was the margin with two deals to go.

Bd: 63 North
 Dir: South ♠ J8
 Vul: N/S ♥ 53
 ♦ J1096
 ♣ AKQJ4

West
 ♠ Q9632
 ♥ 74
 ♦ 832
 ♣ 932

East
 ♠ AK75
 ♥ KQ98
 ♦ AK54
 ♣ 8

South
 ♠ 104
 ♥ AJ1062
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ 10765

Open Room

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

We've mentioned before in these pages that balancing your opponents into game or slam is about as irritating an experience as one can have at the bridge table. The Godeds would no doubt agree, although one can entirely understand why Federico reopened here. Frontaura's brave balance had Brenner looking for slam, more out of the euphoria of not having to defend 2♣ than him having any realistic expectation of actually being able to contract for, or make, twelve tricks. Both tables took ten tricks painlessly enough. 144-105 still.



It's not the winning or the losing, it's the counting.

Bd: 64 North
 Dir: West ♠ J1094
 Vul: E/W ♥ J1095
 ♦ QJ87
 ♣ 7

West
 ♠ K3
 ♥ AK42
 ♦ 43
 ♣ AKQJ10

East
 ♠ AQ75
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ 10952
 ♣ 952

South
 ♠ 862
 ♥ 763
 ♦ AK6
 ♣ 8643

4♠ Pass 5♣ All Pass

Both tables got to 5♣ on controlled auctions; since 3NT might go down against a five-two diamond break this was indeed sensible. Well bid, and a fitting end to a match where, apart from a stretch of ten deals where the Latin had a purple patch and scored 50 imps, Israel demonstrated yet again why they are such a formidable team in this event. They held their opponents to about an imp-and-a-half per board—always a sign of good bridge—and in the semi- and quarter-finals they lost only 120 imps in 80 deals.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Barel</i>	<i>G Goded</i>	<i>Migry</i>	<i>F Goded</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣(F)	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	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
2♥	Pass	3♣(F)	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass



The Play's the Thing

by Barry Rigal

There were two interesting play problems on this deal from the second final session of the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams.

Dir: South ♠ K4
 Vul: E/W ♥ 9852
 ♦ A962
 ♣ J76

♠ AQJ97
 ♥ K3
 ♦ J
 ♣ K9532

♠ 10832
 ♥ J106
 ♦ Q1075
 ♣ 108

♠ 65
 ♥ AQ74
 ♦ K843
 ♣ AQ4

First, as South, imagine you are defending 3♠ by West after partner has shown four hearts. The lead of the ♥5 goes to your ace. What should you do

next?

At the table, South returned a trump: not good enough, for a strange reason. Declarer played low and won the trump return in dummy to play on clubs, making nine tricks without breaking a sweat when the ♣A was onside. Note that on a passive heart return at trick two, declarer wins in hand and does not know which black-suit finesse to play for. He can lead clubs or spades out of his hand, and some of the time he will guess wrong.

At another table, by contrast, Henry Bethe declared 3♦ as South. West, who had shown the black suits, led the ♦J. Bethe guessed wrongly to run the diamond lead to his hand, then led a spade up. West won the ace and returned a spade. In dummy, Bethe passed the ♥9 to the king. Back came a heart, and now South played a sneaky low club from hand, ducked to dummy's jack.

That was all the help he needed; with a complete count of the West hand, Bethé now cashed the ♣A and ♥Q to reach this ending:

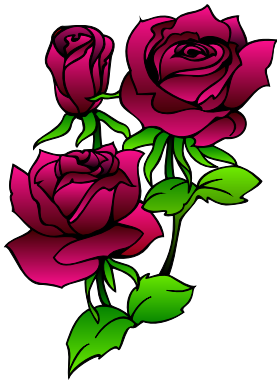
♠ QJ	♠ ---	♠ 108
♥ ---	♥ 9	♥ ---
♦ ---	♦ A96	♦ Q107
♣ K95	♣ 7	♣ ---
	♠ ---	
	♥ 7	
	♦ 843	
	♣ Q	

A club play does not work. West wins the king and exits with a club, letting East ruff high and get out with a spade for down one.

Bethé, however, played a heart. East ruffed and got out with a high diamond, but Bethé took it in dummy and returned a diamond. East won but had to give a ruff-sluff, and Bethé's club loser vanished.



"Where's Mr. Smiley Face?"



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