

# NEC Bridge Festival

Wednesday, February 11, 2009  
Bulletin Number 2

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## The Netherlands Leads 2009 NEC Cup

The standings at the end of Day 1 will be surprising to some. What is not surprising is that The Netherlands (Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen), with four solid wins and 87 VPs, has the early lead. In second place, just 5 VPs back with 82, is HAYATA (Hiroaki Miura, Tomoyuki Harada, Keisuke Akama, Noriaki Koike), while in third place, another 2 VPs back with 80, is Fairy Tale (Kyoko Shimamura, Brian Senior, Ryo Okuno, Akira Ohara, Kazunori Sasaki, Akio Kurokawa). Two more VPs back, tied for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> place with 78, are Japan Open (Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Tadashi Teramoto, Masaaki Takayama) and China LongZhu National Women (Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Wang Wenfei, Liu Yiqian, Yan Ru, Dong Yongling, Li Guohua [NPC], Ju Chuancheng [Coach]). Pre-tournament favorites Israel (13/15<sup>th</sup> place with 68), JUICE (17<sup>th</sup> place with 64) and Hackett (22/23<sup>rd</sup> place with 60) all had a tough Day 1, but are not out of the running with eight more matches left in the qualifying rounds. The complete Day One rankings are shown below; individual results for the first four matches may be found on pages 5-6.

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

| Rank  | Team                    | VPs | Rank  | Team                  | VPs | Rank  | Team                     | VPs |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|-------|-----------------------|-----|-------|--------------------------|-----|
| 1     | The Netherlands . . . . | 87  | 17    | JUICE . . . . .       | 64  | 31/35 | MY-Bridge . . . . .      | 52  |
| 2     | HAYATE . . . . .        | 82  | 18/19 | LAS FLORES . . . . .  | 63  | 31/35 | Golden beef cutlet . . . | 52  |
| 3     | Fairy Tale . . . . .    | 80  | 18/19 | SKOTII . . . . .      | 63  | 31/35 | Henmi . . . . .          | 52  |
| 4/5   | Japan Open . . . . .    | 78  | 20    | Yeh Bros . . . . .    | 62  | 31/35 | ESPERANZA . . . . .      | 52  |
| 4/5   | China National Women    | 78  | 21    | YWC . . . . .         | 61  | 36    | Japan Youth . . . . .    | 51  |
| 6     | China Evertrust Holding | 74  | 22/23 | Kimura@Yokohama .     | 60  | 37    | Dolphin . . . . .        | 50  |
| 7/8   | ABE-chan . . . . .      | 71  | 22/23 | Hackett . . . . .     | 60  | 38    | J&J . . . . .            | 49  |
| 7/8   | Japan Seniors . . . . . | 71  | 24    | TAKA . . . . .        | 59  | 39    | NXST . . . . .           | 48  |
| 9/10  | Korea Happy Bridge .    | 70  | 25    | guriguri . . . . .    | 58  | 40    | sunflower . . . . .      | 46  |
| 9/10  | Oz Players . . . . .    | 70  | 26    | AQUA . . . . .        | 55  | 41    | PS-jack . . . . .        | 45  |
| 11/12 | SARA . . . . .          | 69  | 27    | NANIWADA . . . . .    | 54  | 42/43 | Losier . . . . .         | 44  |
| 11/12 | The Latin . . . . .     | 69  | 28/30 | Open SESAME! . . . .  | 53  | 42/43 | ROSEWOOD . . . . .       | 44  |
| 13/15 | NRT . . . . .           | 68  | 28/30 | KinKi . . . . .       | 53  | 44    | Venus . . . . .          | 43  |
| 13/15 | MAKITA . . . . .        | 68  | 28/30 | Kitty's . . . . .     | 53  | 45    | Korea Challengers . . .  | 33  |
| 13/15 | Israel . . . . .        | 68  | 31/35 | SIX ROSE 2009 . . . . | 52  | 46    | CHARMANT . . . . .       | 28  |
| 16    | HANA . . . . .          | 66  |       |                       |     |       |                          |     |

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Match will feature China Evertrust Holding vs China LongZhu National Women

## NEC Cup 2009: Conditions of Contest

A 12-round Swiss of 14-board matches will qualify the top 8 teams to the Knockout phase; no playbacks.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| V.P. Scale         | WBF 14-board scale (a copy can be found in the score book provided in your NEC Bridge Festival bag).   |
| Seating Rights     | Blind seating 10 minutes before the start of match.  |
| KO-Phase Seating   | The winner of a coin toss has the choice of seating in either of the two 16-board segments of the quarter- or semi-finals. In the four 16-board segments of the final, the choices will alternate over segments.   |
| Swiss Pairings     | First-round Swiss matches were made by randomly pairing each team in the top half with a team from the bottom half.  |
| Home and visiting  | 1st numbered team sits N/S in the open room, E/W in the closed room.   |
| Tie-Breaks         | <p>At the end of the Swiss, ties will be broken by IMP quotient. If more than two teams are involved, WBF 2008 Conditions of Contest procedures will apply.</p> <p>In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.</p>  |
| Systems            | No HUM or Brown Sticker methods are permitted in this event.   |
| Length of Matches  | 2 hours will be allotted for each 14-board segment (or 2 hours and 15 minutes for each 16-board segment of the KOs). In addition, a 5-minute grace period will be allotted to each team. Overtime and slow play penalties as per WBF 2008 Conditions of Contest.   |
| Appeals            | The WBF Code of Practice will be in effect. The Chief Director will have 12C1c authority. Appeals found to be without merit may incur a penalty of up to 3 VPs.  |
| Match Scoring      | Pick-up slips are to be completed and all match results are to be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections and notifications of appeals will be permitted up until the start of the next session.   |
| KO Draw            | <p>The team finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> group. The team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> will then have their choice of the remaining teams.</p> <p>In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.</p> |
| Smoking            | No player may leave the Annex Hall during play without permission, due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online broadcast.   |
| Screen Hesitations | When a delay in the return of the tray is suspected, a player on the <b>opposite</b> side of the screen must be the first to call attention to it (by summoning the TD). If the screenmate of the player responsible for the delay first calls attention to it, the TD will rule that no UI is present. In other words, for the TD to rule that UI is present the delay must be clearly noticeable to the players on the other side of the screen without prompting, as evidenced by one of them being the first to call attention to it.  |

## Team Rosters: 14<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

| #  | Team Name   | Members |
|----|---|---------|
| 1  | Israel: Migry Zur-Campanile, Michael Barel, Amir Levin, Nikolay Demirev   |         |
| 2  | The Latin: Frankie Frontaura, Diego Brenner, Federico Goded, Gonzalo Goded  |         |
| 3  | Oz Players: Ron Klinger, Ishmael Del'Monte, Robert Fruewirth, Matt Mullamphy  |         |
| 4  | Hackett: Paul Hackett, Tom Hanlon, David Bakhshi, Artur Malinowski  |         |
| 5  | JUICE: Joey Silver, John Carruthers, Larry Mori, Venkatrao Koneru   |         |
| 6  | The Netherlands: Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen   |         |
| 7  | Yen Bros: Patrick Huang, JY Shih, Morris Chang, Harry Lin, Chi-Chung Tsai, Chen Yeh (NPC)   |         |
| 8  | China LongZhu National Women: Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Wang Wenfei, Liu Yiqian, Yan Ru, Dong Yongling, Li Guohua (NPC), Ju Chuancheng (Coach) |         |
| 9  | China Evertrust Holding Group: Lin Rongqiang, Jiang Tong, Shi Zhengjun, Li Jie, Hou Xu, Liu Jing  |         |
| 10 | Korea Happy Bridge: Sung Kyunghae, Chan Yiu, Hwang Iynryung, Chang Jungbai  |         |
| 11 | Korea Challengers: Kim Jinkyung, Choi Yunjung, Song Insook, Kim Mihyun  |         |
| 12 | Japan Open: Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Tadashi Teramoto, Masaaki Takayama                                     |         |
| 13 | Japan Senior: Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Makoto Hirata   |         |
| 14 | Golden beef cutlet: Ryoga Tanaka, Hiroko Janssen, Sakiko Naito, Kenji Miyakuni, Ayako Amano   |         |
| 15 | TAKA: Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata, Hiroshi Kaku, Makoto Kono, Ari Greenberg, Masaru Yoshida  |         |
| 16 | Kitty's: Yoko Nenohi, Hiroko Sekiyama, Kumiko Matsuo, Makiko Sato, Toshiko Kaho, Kyoko Toyofuku   |         |
| 17 | ESPERANZA: Haruko Koshi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Misuzu Ichihashi, Michiko Iwahashi   |         |
| 18 | ABE-chan: Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Hiroya Abe, Chieko Yamazaki, Zhao Jinlong   |         |
| 19 | MAKITA: Taeko Kawamura, Sachiko Yamamura, Keiko Matsuzaki, Kimi Makita, Fumiko Kimura, Michiko Ono  |         |
| 20 | HANA: Takeshi Hanayama, Yuki Fukuyoshi, Seiya Shimizu, Yasushi Kobayashi, Yasuhiro Shimizu  |         |
| 21 | SARA: Kumiko Sasahira, Fu Zhong, Liu Zheng, Takeshi Niekawa, Shugo Tanaka, Hiroki Yokoi   |         |
| 22 | Fairy Tale: Kyoko Shimamura, Brian Senior, Ryo Okuno, Akira Ohara, Kazunori Sasaki, Akio Kurokawa   |         |
| 23 | Losier: Michiko Ono, Yayoi Sakamoto, Etsuko Hasegawa, Betty Tajiri, Shimako Yaji, Kyoko Miura   |         |
| 24 | J&J: Natsuko Nishida, Takashi Maeda, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Tadashi Jomura, Hiroyuki Noda  |         |
| 25 | sunflower: Takako Nakatani, Sachiho Ueda, Hiroko Kobayashi, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Yumi Yanagida, Keiko Fuse                                    |         |
| 26 | PS-jack: Masakatsu Sugino, Akiko Miwa, Masako Otsuka, Teruo Miyazaki, Kunio Kodaira, Akiko Kawabata   |         |
| 27 | SKOTII: Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Takehiko Tada  |         |
| 28 | Henmi: Toru: Henmi, Hideko Takeuchi, Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Aiko Banno, Hideko Kobayashi, Yoko Tokushige  |         |
| 29 | LAS FLORES: Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Yukiko Umezu, Etsuko Naito                                   |         |
| 30 | NXST: Kei Nemoto, Kazuo Saeki, Kazuo Takano, Kazuhisa Kojima, Hiroko Yanagisawa, Kai Hiraki   |         |
| 31 | Venus: Chieko Ichikawa, Kuniko Saito, Junko Den, Yoshiko Murata, Atsuko Kurita  |         |
| 32 | ROSEWOOD: Yoko Fukuyama, Takashi Sumita, Hiromu Nishida, Yoshie Nishida   |         |
| 33 | HAYATE: Hiroaki Miura, Tomoyuki Harada, Keisuke Akama, Noriaki Koike  |         |
| 34 | Kimura@Yokohama: Osami Kimura, Kinzaburo Nishino, Koichi Onishi, Mamiko Odaira, Yoko Saito, Setsuko Kimura                                  |         |
| 35 | SIX ROSE 2009: Natsuko Asaka, Ikuko Arai, Sachiko Ueno, Hideko Shindo, Toshiko Takeuchi, Kiyoko Fushida                                     |         |
| 36 | AQUA: Shoko Somemiya, Tomoko Sakai, Miyako Miyazaki, Kazuko Okamoto, Yoko Shimominami, Akiko Miyata   |         |
| 37 | YWC: Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Misae Kato, Kimiko Kamakari, Chisato Kiriya, Reiko Hoshika  |         |
| 38 | NRT: Megumi Takasaki, Sei Nagasaka, Hidenori Narita, Yuichi Masamura, Minoru Mizuta, Yumiko Mizuta  |         |
| 39 | CHARMANT: Takako Fujimoto, Ken Sakiyama, Sumiko Sugino, Kazuko Takahashi, Misako Fukazawa, Yumiko Kawakami                                  |         |
| 40 | NANIWADA: Masaru Naniwada, Hisami Kataoka, Hikoe Enomoto, Hideo Togawa, Masato Miyake, Toshiro Nose   |         |
| 41 | KinKi: Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka  |         |
| 42 | Open SESAME!: Megumi Takasaka, Ryo Namiki, Kyoko Sengoku, Mariko Matsukawa  |         |
| 43 | guriguri: Ryo Matsubara, Mark LaForge, Midori Sakaguchi, Ayako Matsubara, Atsuyo Miyake, Midori Ito   |         |
| 44 | MY-Bridge: Masafumi Yoshizawa, Noriko Yoshizawa, Yoshitaka Agata, Kuniko Miyauchi, Iwao Oishi, Aiko Nabeshima                               |         |
| 45 | Dolphin: Michiko Hatoyama, Katsuro Hatoyama, Makiyo Takikawa, Kiyoko Oki, Kazuko Ogawa, Mariko Sakamoto                                     |         |
| 46 | Japan Youth: Shunsuke Gotoda, Yoshiro Kido, Takashi Matsuda, Koichi Handa, Kentaro Murai, Tomoyuki Watanuki                                 |         |

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

### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 14<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)

# Convention Regulations for Side Games

*(An explanation for foreign players)*

Unlike the NEC Cup, which is an international event, and the Yokohama Swiss Teams, in which all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup are rated as Japanese regional or national events, for which JCBL regulations for domestic events apply strictly. We ask for your compliance with the regulations explained below. If you have any questions about what is allowed, please ask the JCBL staff. Please note that use of unauthorized conventions may be penalized. We thank you for your cooperation.

All side games at the NEC Bridge Festival (the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup) are restricted to "List C" conventions as described below. The use of the Multi-2♦ is strictly prohibited and will be subject to penalty.

## LIST C (Yokohama IMP Pairs/Asuka Cup)

### Opening Bids

1. 1♣ or 1♦ may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g.: Precision 1♣ and 1♦; Polish 1♣, etc.)
2. 2♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
  - a) a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - b) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
3. 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
  - a) at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
  - b) a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - c) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
4. Opening suit bid at the two level or higher indicating the bid suit, another known suit, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
5. Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
6. Opening 3NT bid indicating:
  - a) any solid suit or
  - b) a broken minor suit.
7. Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
8. Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

### Responses and Rebids

1. 1♦ as a forcing, artificial response to 1♣.
2. 1NT response to a major-suit opening bid, forcing for one round; may not guarantee game invitational or better values.
3. Conventional responses which guarantee game forcing or better values. May not be part of a relay system.
4. 2♣ or 2♦ response to 3<sup>rd</sup>- or 4<sup>th</sup>-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
5. Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
6. All responses to:
  - a) artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
  - b) opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points = HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

7. All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
8. Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
9. All calls after a natural notrump (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges, neither of which exceeds 3 HCP). No conventional responses are allowed over natural notrump bids with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP.

### Competitive Bids

1. Any conventional balancing calls.
2. Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
3. Notrump overcall for either:
  - a) two-suited takeout showing at least 5-4 distribution and at least one known suit. (At the 4 level or higher there is no requirement to have a known suit.)
  - b) three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
4. Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
5. Cuebid of an opponent's suit and responses thereto, except that a cuebid that could be weak, directly over an opening bid, must show at least one known suit.
6. Comic 1NT overcall.
7. Defense to:
  - a) conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
  - b) natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
  - c) opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
8. Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
9. Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

### Carding

1. All leads and signaling methods are approved except for: a) odd-even signals, b) encrypted signals, c) dual-message carding strategies, except on each defender's first discard, d) any method when the pair using it are deemed to be playing it in a manner which is not compatible with the maintenance of proper tempo.

## LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

## Tuesday's Match Results

| Match 1                            |       |                      |
|------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Israel (41)                        | 19-11 | Kimura@Yokohama (26) |
| The Latin (25)                     | 17-13 | NRT (17)             |
| Oz Players (51)                    | 25-5  | J&J (11)             |
| Hackett (56)                       | 19-11 | SKOTII (40)          |
| JUICE (40)                         | 21-9  | Henmi (15)           |
| The Netherlands (72)               | 25-4  | KinKi (25)           |
| Yeh Bros (63)                      | 25-3  | MY-Bridge (12)       |
| China LongZhu National Women (28)  | 15-15 | LAS FLORES (28)      |
| China Evertrust Holding Group (63) | 24-6  | Japan Youth (26)     |
| Korea Happy Bridge (45)            | 22-8  | Dolphin (17)         |
| Korea Challengers (5)              | 3-25  | NANIWADA (59)        |
| Japan Open (79)                    | 25-0  | AQUA (12)            |
| Japan Seniors (55)                 | 25-4  | SIX ROSES 2009 (9)   |
| Golden beef cutlet (40)            | 17-13 | HAYATE (30)          |
| TAKA (46)                          | 19-11 | ROSEWOOD (29)        |
| Kitty's (20)                       | 12-18 | guriguri (33)        |
| ESPERANZA (44)                     | 20-10 | CHARMANT (23)        |
| ABE-chan (34)                      | 15-15 | YWC (33)             |
| Makita (29)                        | 16-14 | sunflower (25)       |
| HANA (46)                          | 22-8  | NXST (19)            |
| SARA (57)                          | 25-5  | Open SESAME! (15)    |
| Fairy Tale (63)                    | 25-3  | Venus (12)           |
| Losier (38)                        | 15-15 | PS-Jack              |

| Match 2                            |       |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| Oz Playres (7)                     | 11-19 | The Netherlands (22)    |
| Yeh Bros (21)                      | 13-17 | Japan Open (30)         |
| Japan Seniors (22)                 | 9-21  | SARA (46)               |
| Fairy Tale (21)                    | 15-15 | NANIWADA (22)           |
| China Evertrust Holding Group (14) | 15-15 | Korea Happy Bridge (14) |
| HANA (30)                          | 17-13 | JUICE (21)              |
| ESPERANZA (6)                      | 14-16 | Israel (13)             |
| Hackett (45)                       | 23-7  | TAKA (14)               |
| guriguri (39)                      | 14-16 | The Latin (45)          |
| Golden beef cutlet (19)            | 14-16 | MAKITA (26)             |
| China LongZhu National Women (35)  | 22-8  | ABE-chan (8)            |
| Losier (36)                        | 17-13 | LAS FLORES (28)         |
| PS-Jack (11)                       | 15-15 | YWC (12)                |
| sunflower (0)                      | 4-24  | HAYATE (35)             |
| NRT (23)                           | 15-15 | Kitty's (23)            |
| SKOTII (31)                        | 19-11 | ROSEWOOD (14)           |
| Kimura@Yokohama (38)               | 24-6  | CHARMANT (2)            |
| Henmi (24)                         | 17-13 | NXST (14)               |
| Dolphin (12)                       | 14-16 | Japan Youth (15)        |
| J&J (38)                           | 19-11 | Open SESAME! (23)       |
| SIX ROSES 2009 (22)                | 10-20 | KinKi (44)              |
| Korea Challengers (10)             | 12-18 | Venus (22)              |
| MY-Bridge (14)                     | 15-15 | AQUA (16)               |

| Match 3                           |       |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| SARA (11)                         | 6-24  | The Netherlands (46)               |
| Hackett (30)                      | 15-15 | Japan Open (28)                    |
| Fairy Tale (37)                   | 15-15 | HANA (36)                          |
| NANIWADA (22)                     | 6-24  | China Evertrust Holding Group (60) |
| Yeh Bros (12)                     | 4-25  | HAYATE (56)                        |
| China LongZhu National Women (57) | 22-8  | Korea Happy Bridge (27)            |
| Oz Players (47)                   | 24-6  | Kimura@Yokohama (12)               |
| Israel (20)                       | 13-17 | JUICE (29)                         |
| ESPERANZA (6)                     | 11-19 | Japan Seniors (21)                 |
| The Latin (76)                    | 25-0  | Losier (6)                         |
| Makita (36)                       | 14-16 | guriguri (39)                      |
| Golden beef cutlet (14)           | 6-24  | SKOTII (50)                        |
| PS-Jack (33)                      | 13-17 | NRT (41)                           |
| YWC (30)                          | 12-18 | LAS FLORES (42)                    |
| Kitty's (28)                      | 15-15 | Henmi (29)                         |
| TAKA (35)                         | 20-10 | KinKi (14)                         |
| J&J (25)                          | 7-23  | ABE-chan (56)                      |
| Japan Youth (42)                  | 19-11 | ROSEWOOD (26)                      |
| Dolphin (58)                      | 25-4  | Venus (13)                         |
| NXST (25)                         | 15-15 | sunflower (26)                     |
| MY-Bridge (29)                    | 16-14 | Open SESAME! (26)                  |
| CHARMANT (6)                      | 0-25  | AQUA (80)                          |
| Korea Challengers (29)            | 11-19 | SIX ROSES 2009 (45)                |

| Match 4                           |       |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| The Netherlands (38)              | 19-11 | China Evertrust Holding Group (21) |
| HAYATE (49)                       | 20-10 | Oz Players (27)                    |
| China LongZhu National Women (40) | 19-11 | The Latin (23)                     |
| Hackett (20)                      | 3-25  | Fairy Tale (72)                    |
| Japan Open (61)                   | 21-9  | SKOTII (36)                        |
| HANA (25)                         | 12-18 | Japan Seniors (38)                 |
| SARA (39)                         | 17-13 | JUICE (30)                         |
| guriguri (21)                     | 10-20 | Israel (42)                        |
| Dolphin (15)                      | 3-25  | ABE-chan (68)                      |
| TAKA (17)                         | 13-17 | LAS FLORES (27)                    |
| Makita (51)                       | 22-8  | NANIWADA (22)                      |
| NRT (44)                          | 23-7  | ESPERANZA (11)                     |
| Korea Happy Bridge (70)           | 25-2  | PS-Jack (13)                       |
| Kitty's (40)                      | 11-19 | YWC (55)                           |
| Yeh Bros (44)                     | 20-10 | Japan Youth (23)                   |
| Henmi (17)                        | 11-19 | Kimura@Yokohama (32)               |
| AQUA (38)                         | 15-15 | Golden beef cutlet (36)            |
| NXST (32)                         | 12-18 | MY-Bridge (43)                     |
| sunflower (24)                    | 11-19 | KinKi (39)                         |
| SIX ROSES 2009 (39)               | 19-11 | ROSEWOOD (22)                      |
| Losier (26)                       | 12-18 | J&J (39)                           |
| Open SESAME! (57)                 | 23-7  | Korea Challengers (26)             |
| Venus (20)                        | 18-12 | CHARMANT(9)                        |

# Match One: Japan Seniors vs SIX ROSE 2009

by Barry Rigal

Everyone likes a nice quiet deal to start with, don't they, so that they can wake up? Well, this is not it!

Bd: 1  
Dlr: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ 10  
♥ AKQJ865  
♦ 64  
♣ 975

West  
♠ J9763  
♥ ---  
♦ QJ52  
♣ AJ103

East  
♠ AQ542  
♥ 1032  
♦ ---  
♣ KQ864

South  
♠ K8  
♥ 974  
♦ AK109873  
♣ 2

Open Room

| West     | North    | East | South  |
|----------|----------|------|--------|
| Shindo   | Nakamura | Arai | Hirata |
| 5♠       | 4♥       | 4♠   | 5♥     |
| All Pass | Pass     | Pass | Dbl    |

Closed Room

| West     | North    | East | South    |
|----------|----------|------|----------|
| Yamada   | Fushida  | Ohno | Takeushi |
| 5♠       | 4♥       | 4♠   | 5♥       |
| All Pass | All Pass |      |          |

On the first deal two identical auctions saw the two Souths faced with a tough competitive decision in balancing chair. Hirata doubled 5♠ while Takeushi did not. Both tables collected 12 tricks, 7 imps for Six Roses. Doubtless Shindo would have been happy to play 5♠xx but was not prepared to defend 6♥, likely down 300 at best.

That was not the best result achieved on the E/W cards; the deal was flat at 1210 for E/W in the match between The Latin and NRT. Meanwhile, a few hardy N/S pairs saved in 6♥: Oz players collected only 100 against J&Js save in 6♥ (not to worry, their teammates were going +450) while Tada-Asaoka set Hanlon-Hackett 300 but still lost 10imps to -750 in the other room.

There were 46 tables in play, and of those 13 N/S pairs were allowed to make game their way, while 17 E/W pairs made slam, doubled or undoubled. Yeh Bros broke on top in their match by making 4♥ and 6♠, never a bad way to start proceedings.

Bd: 2  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ KQJ95  
♥ 93  
♦ KQ54  
♣ 94

West  
♠ 108643  
♥ QJ82  
♦ 102  
♣ AQ

East  
♠ 7  
♥ 1065  
♦ A6  
♣ KJ108762

South  
♠ A2  
♥ AK74  
♦ J9873  
♣ 53

Open Room

| West   | North    | East     | South  |
|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| Shindo | Nakamura | Arai     | Hirata |
| Pass   | 3♠       | 3♣       | Pass   |
| Pass   | 4♠       | All Pass | 4♣     |

Closed Room

| West     | North   | East | South    |
|----------|---------|------|----------|
| Yamada   | Fushida | Ohno | Takeushi |
| Pass     | 3♠      | 3♣   | Pass     |
| All Pass |         | Pass | 4♠       |

Both tables reached 4♠, a reasonable spot 'till you look at the trump position. Of course if spades split there rates to be a diamond ruff, but we've all been in worse games than that. Both Easts led a top diamond, received discouragement, and shifted to a club. The West players won the trick and after due consideration of the possibility of giving their partner a diamond ruff continued clubs. The East players overtook (thus demonstrating that they did not have a singleton diamond) and now needed to continue clubs to try to establish their partner's trump trick; whichever hand declarer ruffs in establishes a trump trick by force for West. No, both played a heart and now declarer had the opportunity to make his game if he could pick his way home in trumps. Perhaps precisely because East had not played a third club both declarers played trumps from the top and the game went down. The old (Andrew Robson) tip that the preempter who does not lead a singleton will have a singleton trump might have been applied here.

Against Hackett, where Paul was playing 4♠, the defenders accurately cashed their three winners and did find the third club, to give declarer no chance. But there were two declarers who brought home 4♠: Ari

Greenberg of Taka and Atsuyo Miyake of guriguri.

The next three boards showed that you have to know when to bid up and when to stay low. Or perhaps it depends on the quality of the defense you get.

Bd: 3  
Dlr: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ J32  
♥ AK843  
♦ J8  
♣ 986

West  
♠ K875  
♥ 5  
♦ 1073  
♣ KJ1043

East  
♠ Q106  
♥ Q92  
♦ AQ6  
♣ AQ52

South  
♠ A94  
♥ J1076  
♦ K9542  
♣ 7

Open Room

| West          | North                | East | South         |
|---------------|----------------------|------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura Arai</i> |      | <i>Hirata</i> |
| Pass          | Pass                 | 1NT  | Pass          |
| 2♣            | Pass                 | 2♦   | Pass          |
| 2NT           | All Pass             |      |               |

Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
| Pass          | Pass           | 1♣          | Pass            |
| 1♠            | Pass           | 1NT         | Pass            |
| 2NT           | Pass           | 3NT         | All Pass        |

Ohno reached 3NT, Arai played 2NT. Neither North opened the bidding so both Souths led a diamond, giving declarer an easier time. In 2NT Arai ran the clubs (both defenders kept their hearts) and played a spade; Hirata won and got out with the ♥J; Nakamura won the ♥A—the only chance being deception—and returned a low heart. Arai put in the ...♥9. Down one. Ohno received a diamond lead, ran clubs, played spades, and the defense played three rounds of hearts; ten tricks, 12 imps to the Seniors.

In total, five tables played and made game as E/W. Of course many Norths got into the action in third chair and now the best E/W could do was make a partscore in clubs or spades.

Marriage has been said to be the triumph of imagination over intelligence.

Bd: 4  
Dlr: West  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ K82  
♥ AJ10532  
♦ 64  
♣ 53

West  
♠ AJ  
♥ 84  
♦ J8732  
♣ K942

East  
♠ 1064  
♥ K97  
♦ 95  
♣ AQJ86

South  
♠ Q9753  
♥ Q6  
♦ AKQ10  
♣ 107

Open Room

| West          | North                | East     | South         |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura Arai</i> |          | <i>Hirata</i> |
| Pass          | 2♥                   | Pass     | 2NT           |
| Pass          | 3♥                   | All Pass |               |

Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
| Pass          | 2♥             | Pass        | 2NT             |
| Pass          | 3♥             | Pass        | 4♥              |
| All Pass      |                |             |                 |

This hand is all about what you consider the acceptable minimum for a vulnerable weak two-bid. Color me yellow but I'd pass 2♥ and hope it made. Hirata was prepared to let his partner out in 3♥ while Takeushi wanted to play game on the same auction.

4♥ is little worse than on the hearts behaving (about a 35% chance) but the ♥K was uncooperative and 4♥ went down two on a diamond lead and a continuation by Ohno after winning the ♥K. Note that with diamonds five-two even 3♥ is not safe. If the defenders play spades early East can threaten the spade ruff, though declarer can thwart that plan by playing trumps from the top rather than finessing. The play was far easier in 3♥ on a diamond lead, as happened in the Open Room. Arai did his best; he ducked the ♥Q at trick two, planning to win the next heart and return a diamond. Nakamura was having none of that; he won the ♥A at trick two and prevented that ugly scenario from arising.

Take another look at the 4♥ contract on a diamond lead. Amongst others, Osami Kimura declared this contract against Israel and Fruewirth played it against J&J. You win the diamond lead and pass the ♥Q. East does best to duck of course, that way he lets his partner know he does not have a diamond ruff. But say you win the heart and now what? Both Easts returned a spade, in one case the six, in the other case the 'unambiguous' 10. The ♠10 worked

up to a point because West won the ♠A but played back...a diamond. That defense only works when partner has ♠K10x, which seems a little unlikely.

Conversely the ♠6 also failed when West put in the jack. Declarer won and drew trumps to pitch a club on the diamonds and guess spades for ten tricks.

Hideyuki Sango for Esperanza was the only other North to bring home the game here.

Bd: 5  
Dlr: North  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ QJ962  
♥ 753  
♦ J96  
♣ QJ

West  
♠ K1043  
♥ AQ  
♦ Q875  
♣ 742

East  
♠ A8  
♥ K962  
♦ AK42  
♣ 853

South  
♠ 75  
♥ J1084  
♦ 103  
♣ AK1096

#### Open Room

| West          | North           | East        | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i> |
|               | Pass            | 1♦          | Pass          |
| 1♠            | Pass            | 1NT         | Pass          |
| 2NT           | Pass            | 3NT         | All Pass      |

#### Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
|               | Pass           | 1NT         | All Pass        |

Is that West hand worth an invitation facing a 12-14 notrump opening or rebid? Yamada, facing a 1NT opening where spades were therefore still a viable trump suit, said no. Shindo, facing a 1NT rebid where spades were therefore known not to be a fit, said yes. Accordingly, the Six Roses played game, the Seniors played 1NT. The moral victory went to Six Roses; game after all is hardly worse than finding clubs four-three. Alas for them, the imps went in the other direction when the defenders cashed out the clubs at once. It was 25-7 now to the Seniors.

If you have tears prepare to shed them now for Paul Hackett, who sat North and heard his opponents bid to 3NT on the same auction that the Open Room had here. To prevent the lead of a round suit he doubled. Partner led a spade and suffered that irritation we are all familiar with of expecting that he had found the best lead and not the worst when dummy came down. Declarer rattled off his nine tricks and

managed both to gain 12 imps and to leave his opponents aggravated to the max.

East was allowed to make 3NT at five other tables (perhaps a ♣K lead allowing North to unblock the ♣Q, followed by a defensive shift?). Pride of place goes to Teramoto-Furuta who were able to punish a preemptive opening from North and collect 800 from 2♠x.

Bd: 6  
Dlr: East  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ 7  
♥ A9643  
♦ J1053  
♣ AJ8

West  
♠ Q6542  
♥ K2  
♦ 984  
♣ K97

East  
♠ K983  
♥ J108  
♦ A72  
♣ Q65

South  
♠ AJ10  
♥ Q75  
♦ KQ6  
♣ 10432

#### Open Room

| West          | North           | East        | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i> |
|               |                 | Pass        | 1♣            |
| Pass          | 1♥              | Pass        | 1NT           |
| Pass          | 2♦              | All Pass    |               |

#### Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
|               |                | Pass        | 1♣              |
| Pass          | 1♥             | Pass        | 1NT             |
| Pass          | 2♦             | Pass        | 2♥              |
| Pass          | 3♥             | All Pass    |                 |

Nakamura-Hirata survived one of the problems of standard bidding when after 1♣-1♥-1NT they could bid 2♦ natural and non-forcing (2♣ being the relay), but were unable to distinguish between four-five and five-four in the red-suits. These days the Walsh style of responding to 1♣ tends to emphasize majors first so the auction is potentially canape. Thus Hirata let Nakamura play the four-three fit, which scraped home with eight tricks (losing two hearts and one trick in each of the other suits). Not that 3♥ was an awful lot better. Fushida might well have passed 2♥ on the grounds that when he was not raised immediately he was likely to be facing a minimum. Repeated spade leads set up a force that meant that even though declarer guessed trumps he had to lose two clubs at the end for 140; but still, 2 imps to Six Roses.

Bd: 8 North  
 Dir: West ♠ 2  
 Vul: None ♥ AQJ3  
 ♦ KQ92  
 ♣ QJ87

West  
 ♠ 1097  
 ♥ K75  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ A109543

South  
 ♠ KQJ863  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ AJ43  
 ♣ K6

East  
 ♠ A54  
 ♥ 109864  
 ♦ 10876  
 ♣ 2

Open Room

| West          | North           | East        | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i> |
|               | 1♦              | Pass        | 1♠            |
| Pass          | 2♣              | Pass        | 2♥            |
| Pass          | 3♥              | Pass        | 4♦            |
| Pass          | 4♥              | Pass        | 5♦            |

All Pass

Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
|               | 1♦             | Pass        | 1♠              |
| 2♣            | 2NT            | Pass        | 4♠              |
| All Pass      |                |             |                 |

This is a delicate hand. 3NT looks to be the best game from the North hand, but South has real slam interest and indeed has enough for an old-fashioned strong jump-shift facing the 1♦ bid found in both rooms. Neither South did that. Takeushi found his partner with what he assumed to be balanced extras and jumped to 4♠—rather an underbid, but one severely punished on a diamond lead. When he played a trump (the winning line is to take a heart finesse and pitch clubs on the ♥A) the defenders flew with the ♠A and cross-ruffed for down one.

Against silent opponents it was harder for Nakamura to make 5♦ even on a heart lead. He simply led a spade up at trick two and ran into the club ruff as well for down one. No swing but opportunities missed by both sides.

Somewhat less than half the field made game here but two N/S pairs had results to remember. Fruewirth-Del'Monte doubled 2♣ for take-out, converted to penalty by North. When this came back to East he elected to redouble for rescue...and is still waiting. Is it more painful to go for 1600 in 2♣xx or 1400 in 4♣x (no redouble here)? This was the enjoyable result achieved by Shih-Huang against My-Bridge.

Bd: 9 North  
 Dir: North ♠ K8  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 109762  
 ♦ J652  
 ♣ Q3

West  
 ♠ AQ652  
 ♥ K4  
 ♦ KQ43  
 ♣ 75

South  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ J83  
 ♦ A1098  
 ♣ A9842

East  
 ♠ J10974  
 ♥ AQ5  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ KJ106

Open Room

| West          | North           | East        | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i> |
|               | Pass            | Pass        | Pass          |
| 1♠            | Pass            | 2♣(1)       | Pass          |
| 2♦(2)         | Pass            | 4♠          | All Pass      |

(1) Drury

(2) Invitational values

Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
|               | Pass           | 1♠          | 2NT             |
| 3♦(1)         | Pass           | 3♠          | Pass            |
| 4♠            | 5♦             | Pass        | Pass            |
| DbI           | All Pass       |             |                 |

The BBO commentators are generally in the right ballpark, but as soon as they predict “the flattest of flat boards,” like Hermann Goering I reach for my holster. Mind you, Takeushi’s unusual 2NT does constitute one of the more “unusual” hands I’ve seen for that action in a top-flight game, even at favorable vulnerability and facing a passed partner. Not that 5♦ had to be so terrible but the defenders could lead a spade and shift to hearts. Now a spade exit gave South a pitch he did not need. Fushida finessed in diamonds and now Yamada gave a ruff and discard (and North a pitch he *did* need); that let him throw a club and ruff on the board. He might now have followed up by playing ♣A and a club ruff, then a heart ruff with the ♦A, a club ruff and another heart ruff to score a trump at the end and escape for 800. But he cashed the ♦A prematurely and compounded his error by playing a third trump and now had to go for 1400. 13 imps and 38-9 for the Seniors.

The Sunday School teacher asked, “Now, Johnny, tell me, do you say prayers before eating?” “No sir,” he replied, “we don’t have to! My mom is a good cook!”

Bd: 10  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ Q1096  
 ♥ Q53  
 ♦ 103  
 ♣ J1082

West  
 ♠ 87532  
 ♥ AJ10  
 ♦ AJ6  
 ♣ A6

East  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ 9864  
 ♦ Q984  
 ♣ K975

South  
 ♠ KJ4  
 ♥ K72  
 ♦ K752  
 ♣ Q43

Open Room

| West          | North           | East        | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i> |
|               |                 | Pass        | Pass          |
| 1♠            | Pass            | 1NT (F)     | Pass          |
| 2♦            | All Pass        |             |               |

Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
|               |                | Pass        | 1♣              |
| 1♠            | Pass           | 1NT         | Pass            |
| 2NT           | All Pass       |             |                 |

The South hand is a 12-count we might all pass (if that were not against our religion). You might think that opening the hand would slow E/W down but somehow Yamada found a second bid when his partner corrected 1♠ to 1NT. Personally, now I'd bid 3NT as East but no doubt Ohno had been there before (for the uninitiated Ohno-Yamada are married) and she passed 2NT. The low diamond lead gave declarer an extra tempo and with hearts three-three she had her eighth winner and an eventual overtrick when South pitched diamonds. It was now 39-9 for the Seniors. The best way to achieve a good result as E/W here is to pass throughout and defend. Naniwada collected 400 against 1NT here.

The spirit of Mr. Pearson lives on; as witness our next deal where neither E/W would be particularly proud of their performance.

Bd: 11  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ K843  
 ♥ K62  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ KJ9765

West  
 ♠ A107  
 ♥ 98  
 ♦ 1087632  
 ♣ A8

East  
 ♠ 52  
 ♥ AJ754  
 ♦ KQJ54  
 ♣ 3

South  
 ♠ QJ96  
 ♥ Q103  
 ♦ A9  
 ♣ Q1042

Open Room

| West          | North           | East        | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i> |

|      |    |          |     |
|------|----|----------|-----|
| Pass | 1♣ | 1♥       | Dbl |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass     | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♣ | All Pass |     |

Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
| All Pass      |                |             |                 |

The best you can say about the auction in the Closed Room was that it caught them up to the Open Room; spades or no spades, you would not catch me passing the East cards in fourth chair. In the Open Room Arai's decision to bid just hearts and not diamonds worked poorly, though West might have driven to 5♦ if he had bid, I suppose. Over 3♣ it would not have been unreasonable to step in now. N/S may have had some dispute as to how many spades South had promised here, but 3♣ played just fine, for +130. Another 4imps for the Seniors, up 43-9 now.

4♠ was bid and made four times (finding the club ruff may not be so easy) while 5♦ was let through on only one occasion. If East declares that contract on a club lead the defenders must find an early spade shift if declarer ducks a heart at once.

Bd: 12  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ K1052  
 ♥ KJ  
 ♦ AK63  
 ♣ A106

West  
 ♠ AQ763  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ Q542  
 ♣ KJ7

East  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ AQ9652  
 ♦ J109  
 ♣ Q93

South  
 ♠ 984  
 ♥ 10843  
 ♦ 87  
 ♣ 8542

Open Room

| West          | North           | East        | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i> |
| 1♠            | 1NT             | 2♥          | All Pass      |

Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
| 1♠            | Dbl            | Rdbl        | 2♥              |
| Pass          | 2NT            | All Pass    |                 |

The Open room auction saw Arai let N/S off the hook

in perfectly normal fashion. 2♥ handled for +110, losing three minor-suit winners and two trump tricks. (Declarer actually needs hearts four-two offside or North with precisely the ♥KJ10 to avoid the trump promotion.)

In the Closed Room Ohno might have doubled 2NT (after all your side has the balance of high-cards and declarer will be playing out of his hand for the whole deal) but she passed and led her ♠J. Declarer could do little but win and return the suit and now a shift to diamonds got both pointed suits going for the defense. Declarer emerged with two spades, two diamonds and a club, but what might have been 800 was just 300 and only 5 imps to the Seniors.

2NT was indeed doubled and set 800 on a couple of occasions, but pride of place goes to Teramoto-Furuta for collecting 1100 against 2♦x—not the most elegant of contracts.

Bd: 13  
Dlr: North  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ AK972  
♥ Q7  
♦ Q84  
♣ 765

West  
♠ 865  
♥ J109  
♦ J10763  
♣ 103

East  
♠ J3  
♥ 832  
♦ A5  
♣ KJ9842

South  
♠ Q104  
♥ AK654  
♦ K92  
♣ AQ

#### Open/Closed Rooms

| West          | North           | East        | South           |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i>   |
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i>  | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
| Pass          | Pass            | Pass        | 1♥              |
| Pass          | 1♠              | Pass        | 2NT             |
| Pass          | 3NT             | All Pass    |                 |

6♠ by South is where you want to play this deal, I think, to protect yourself against an inconvenient early club lead. Even a Cole or a Gazilli 2♣ rebid by South (16+ any hand) might get you close. But the preemptive power of the jump 2NT rebid made it hard for N/S to explore with any subtlety. Both Norths closed proceedings with 3NT for an inelegant +690.

An easy way to reach slam (remember style points do not count and close only counts for horseshoes and hand grenades) is to open the North hand as Hackett did. After a 2♣ overcall Hanlon simply used Blackwood and drove to 6♠; sensible enough and

worth 13 imps for his side. In total ten tables reached the spade slam but none of them did so from South. Ah well.

Bd: 14  
Dlr: East  
Vul: None

North  
♠ Q9642  
♥ J102  
♦ J9  
♣ K87

West  
♠ 10  
♥ A98643  
♦ 7  
♣ J9632

East  
♠ J87  
♥ Q7  
♦ A10832  
♣ A105

South  
♠ AK53  
♥ K5  
♦ KQ654  
♣ Q4

#### Open Room

| West          | North           | East        | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Shindo</i> | <i>Nakamura</i> | <i>Arai</i> | <i>Hirata</i> |
| Pass          | 2♥              | Pass        | 1NT           |
| Pass          | 4♠              | Pass        | 3♠            |
| Pass          |                 | All Pass    |               |

#### Closed Room

| West          | North          | East        | South           |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Yamada</i> | <i>Fushida</i> | <i>Ohno</i> | <i>Takeushi</i> |
| Rdbl          | Pass           | 1NT         | Dbl             |
| 2♥            | 2♠             | All Pass    | 2♦              |

The final deal of the set was symptomatic of the way that everything had worked out for the Six Roses. Opinions differ as to the best lead with the West cards here against 4♠. I can see cases for leading either red-suit, and for sure a club *might* work too. But not today; the defenders continued the attack on clubs and Hirata had 10 tricks (not to my mind a just reward for that inelegant 1NT opening bid). After a weak notrump was doubled for penalties, Fushida showed a weak hand with spades and Takeushi did not try for game. On the ♥Q lead the defenders took their diamond ruff, justifying the caution, but still 6 imps to the Seniors and a 25-4 win for them.

Game was bid at half the tables and defeated roughly 50% of the time.



"No, that isn't 1700¥. It means they went down 1700 points."

## Match Two: Fairy Tale vs NANIWADA

by Rich Colker

The first deal of the second match began with a push at +450. Then came the first swing of the match.

Bd: 18  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ AQ4  
♥ K4  
♦ J43  
♣ A8642

West  
♠ 8763  
♥ QJ987  
♦ 10  
♣ QJ10

South  
♠ K92  
♥ 10532  
♦ Q952  
♣ K7

### Open Room

| West          | North         | East          | South            |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Togawa</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Miyake</i> | <i>Shimamura</i> |
|               |               | 1♦            | Pass             |
| 1♥            | Pass          | 1NT           | All Pass         |

### Closed Room

| West         | North           | East          | South       |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <i>Okuno</i> | <i>Naniwada</i> | <i>Sasaki</i> | <i>Nose</i> |
|              |                 | 1♦            | Pass        |
| 1♥           | Pass            | 1NT           | Pass        |
| Pass         | Dbl             | 2♦            | Pass        |
| 2♥           | All Pass        |               |             |

In the Open Room Brian Senior, sitting with the best hand at the table, sold out to Masato Miyake's 1NT, an odd looking decision which turned out to be the right one. Kyoko Shimamura led a low spade to Senior's queen, which held, and he shifted to a low club. Shimamura won the king, returned a club to Senior's ace, and Senior exited with a low club to dummy's queen, Shimamura erring by pitching a diamond. In dummy for the first and only time Miyake played three rounds of diamonds. Shimamura won the queen and exited with a spade to Senior's ace. Senior cashed his clubs as declarer pitched a heart and the ♠J, and declarer claimed for two down, +100 for N/S.

In the Closed Room Masaru Naniwada balanced with a double when 1NT came around to him, and Kazunori Sasaki ran to 2♦. Ryo Okuno reasonably converted this to 2♥ since he figured his hand might produce no tricks as dummy, and that turned out to be a good decision. Naniwada led the ♠A and continued with the queen and a third spade when Toshiro Nose encouraged. Nose found a good switch

to ♣K and a club to Naniwada's ace, then ruffed the third club before exiting with a diamond to the ten, jack and ace. Okuno ruffed a diamond to hand to lead the ♥Q, which Naniwada ducked. This have cost his side a trick as declarer then led a low trump to dummy's ace and claimed the remaining tricks when the king dropped. Down one, -50, and 2 imps to Fairy Tale.

Declaring this deal seemed to be poison for the vast majority of pairs. Only five N/S and six E/W pairs went plus in contracts they declared; that was 11 out of 92 declarers who managed a plus. The top N/S score on the deal was obtained by Hackett-Hanlon, who doubled and set 1NT three tricks for +500. The top E/W score was +200 by Hiraki-Yanagisawa, who set 2♣ two tricks.

On the next board Naniwada won an imp on a partscore deal to trail by 2-1. Then came the first double-digit swing of the match.

Bd: 20  
Dlr: West  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ J87  
♥ AQJ6  
♦ Q63  
♣ KQ3

West  
♠ AK96  
♥ 9753  
♦ AK10  
♣ A6

East  
♠ 432  
♥ 1084  
♦ 97542  
♣ 102

South  
♠ Q105  
♥ K2  
♦ J8  
♣ J98754

### Open Room

| West          | North         | East          | South            |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Togawa</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Miyake</i> | <i>Shimamura</i> |
| 1♦            | Dbl           | 3♦            | 4♣               |
| 5♦            | Dbl           | All Pass      |                  |



Toshiro Nose



Masaru Naniwada

# Closed Room

| West         | North           | East          | South       |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <i>Okuno</i> | <i>Naniwada</i> | <i>Sasaki</i> | <i>Nose</i> |
| 1♣*          | 1♥              | Pass          | Pass        |
| 1♠           | All Pass        |               |             |

In the Open Room Hideo Tagawa opened a natural 1♦ and Miyake raised preemptively to 3♦, vulnerable, after Senior's double. While we cannot endorse Tagawa's subsequent 5♦ bid, anything other than a double by him would likely have produced the same result. (Would Miyake really have sat for 4♣ doubled?) So the fault, dear reader, as we see it lies squarely with the 3♦ bid. Senior led the ♣K (best) and the defense was now poised to collect one spade, three hearts, one diamond and one club for down four. But there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, as the saying goes. Togawa won the ♣A and played the ♦AK, then exited with a low heart to Senior's jack. Senior cashed the ♦Q, South pitching a club, then played ♣Q and a club, ruffed in dummy. When the ♠2 was led to the five, six and eight Senior fell from grace by exiting with a second spade. Declarer now rid himself of one of his heart losers on the fourth spade and ended down (only!) three; an unnecessary +800 for N/S.

In the Closed Room Okuno managed to stay low, playing in 1♠. Naniwada led the ♣K to the ace and declarer led back a club at trick two. Naniwada won with the queen and got out the ♠7 to the jack and king. Okuno then played ace, king and a third diamond as Nose ruffed his partner's queen to play the ♥K. Naniwada overtook with the ace, cashed the ♥QJ, led his fourth heart for Nose to ruff, and the defense still had a trump trick to come. Okuno finished down one, -100 for N/S; 12 imps to Fairy Tale, who increased their lead to 14-1.

Most pairs stayed reasonably low on this dangerous partscore deal; most minuses were 100 or 200, though there were a small handful of undoubled 300s and 400s as well. Only one other pair reached the five level and were doubled: Sakiyama-Sugino played 5♣x as N/S and "escaped" for -500.



Kyoko Shimamura



Brian Senior

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| Bd: 21     | North   |
| Dlr: North | ♠ Q7    |
| Vul: N/S   | ♥ KJ642 |
|            | ♦ 8654  |
|            | ♣ K3    |

| West    | East    |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ A106  | ♠ K532  |
| ♥ Q10   | ♥ 9     |
| ♦ AJ3   | ♦ K1097 |
| ♣ AQ874 | ♣ J962  |
| South   |         |
| ♠ J984  |         |
| ♥ A8753 |         |
| ♦ Q2    |         |
| ♣ 105   |         |

# Open Room

| West          | North         | East          | South            |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Togawa</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Miyake</i> | <i>Shimamura</i> |
|               | Pass          | Pass          | Pass             |
| 1NT           | Pass          | 2♣            | Pass             |
| 2♦            | All Pass      |               |                  |

# Closed Room

| West         | North           | East          | South       |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <i>Okuno</i> | <i>Naniwada</i> | <i>Sasaki</i> | <i>Nose</i> |
|              | Pass            | Pass          | Pass        |
| 1♣*          | Pass            | 1♥(♠)         | Pass        |
| 1NT          | Pass            | 2♣            | Pass        |
| 2♦           | Pass            | 2NT           | Pass        |
| 3NT          | All Pass        |               |             |

Playing strong notrumps, Togawa-Miyake had a sensible auction to 2♦ when Miyake opted for the first viable suit contract after learning that Togawa had fewer than four hearts. Senior took away the only guess on the hand when he led a low diamond to the queen and ace. Togawa crossed to the ♠K, took the losing club finesse, won the trump return and claimed ten tricks (two spades and four tricks in each minor) when a heart switch at trick four might have made things more interesting; +130.

At the other table Sasaki must have thought his side had hearts when he "bid" the suit and invited game in notrump (though perhaps, from his perspective, Okuno might have held a better hand than he did in their system). Okuno accepted the invitation and went on to game, which did not prove to be a great success. The defense cashed five hearts on the go, ending in the South hand, and Nose exited a club so they collected their sixth trick for down two, +100 N/S. That was 6 imps back to Naniwada, who closed the gap to 7 imps at 14-7.

Five of the seven E/W minus scores came from pairs

who overreached to 3NT (no one made it). 1NT was by far the most common contract (28 times) as it is simply too dangerous to move over a strong notrump with the East cards. Those who “escaped” to diamonds, like Togawa-Miyake above, were extremely lucky to do so and are “living on borrowed time” when they act with hands such as East’s here.

Board 22 was a push. Then came...

Bd: 23  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ J942  
 ♥ Q743  
 ♦ K52  
 ♣ 96

West  
 ♠ K76  
 ♥ 10862  
 ♦ J9  
 ♣ J742

East  
 ♠ A83  
 ♥ A95  
 ♦ 8643  
 ♣ Q53

South  
 ♠ Q105  
 ♥ KJ  
 ♦ AQ107  
 ♣ AK108

Open Room

| West   | North  | East   | South     |
|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Togawa | Senior | Miyake | Shimamura |
| Pass   | 1♥     | Pass   | 2NT       |

All Pass

Closed Room

| West  | North    | East     | South |
|-------|----------|----------|-------|
| Okuno | Naniwada | Sasaki   | Nose  |
| Pass  | 1♥       | Pass     | 1♦    |
| Pass  | 3NT      | All Pass | 2NT   |

It is hard to find fault with Senior’s pass of 2NT, but the N/S hands fit well and there was nothing the opponents could do to stop declarer from taking at least nine tricks. Togawa started with a low spade and the defense cashed their two top tricks in that suit before Togawa exited with...the ♦J. Shimamura played the ♥K, ducked, then the ♥J, ducked, then shrugged and cashed out his eleven tricks for +210.



Hideo Togawa



Masato Miyake

In the other room Naniwada-Nose managed to reach the notrump game, perhaps aided by Naniwada’s diamond holding, the suit Nose opened. The defense was a bit more exacting as Okuno led a low club. Nose won the queen with the ace and placed the ♠Q on the table. Okuno won the king and shifted to a low heart to the ace and jack, followed by a club to the king. Now the defense had a club to cash when declarer knocked out the ♠A to hold him to nine tricks. Still, +600 was good for 9 imps to Naniwada, who took the lead for the first time at 16-14.

Only six of the 92 declarers failed to reach 3NT with the N/S cards. Of those who stopped short, all but one played in 2NT (the other somehow managed to stop in 1NT—names have been withheld to protect the guilty, but for the right price...).

Naniwada added another imp to their total over the next five boards and led 17-14 going into Board 29.

Bd: 29  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ Q108  
 ♥ J62  
 ♦ Q8642  
 ♣ Q9

West  
 ♠ A7642  
 ♥ KQ74  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ 754

East  
 ♠ K95  
 ♥ 108  
 ♦ A103  
 ♣ KJ1082

South  
 ♠ J3  
 ♥ A953  
 ♦ KJ97  
 ♣ A63

Open Room

| West   | North  | East   | South     |
|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Togawa | Senior | Miyake | Shimamura |
| Pass   | 1NT    | Pass   | 1♦        |
| Dbf    | Pass   | 2♣     | Pass      |
| Pass   | 2♦     | 2NT    | All Pass  |

Closed Room

| West  | North    | East   | South |
|-------|----------|--------|-------|
| Okuno | Naniwada | Sasaki | Nose  |
| 1♠    | 1NT      | 2♦     | 1♦    |
| 2♠    | All Pass |        | Pass  |

Togawa’s failure to bid his suit on this deal cost him a partscore swing. We prefer Okuno’s 1♠ overcall to Togawa’s balancing action but at some point the suit must be bid if E/W get into the auction. Against Miyake’s 2NT Shimamura led the ♦7 to the queen and ace and Miyake cashed the ♠K, then ducked a spade. Senior won, led back a diamond, and

Shimamura cashed out for down one, +100 for N/S.

Okuno declared a sensible, if not optimal, 2♠. He won the opening diamond lead in dummy and played a heart to the queen, then a club to the ten and ace. Nose cashed the ♥A, then tried to cash the ♦K, but Okuno ruffed, ruffed his losing heart in dummy, then played the ♠AK and claimed ten tricks. Plus 170, 7 imps to Fairy Tale, who retook the lead at 21-17.

Reaching 4♠ on the E/W cards was difficult (it does, after all, require finesse through the non-opening bidder). Four pairs managed it: Bakhshi-Malinowski for TAKA, Lin-Tsai for Japan Open, Yokoi-Tanaka for SARA, and Henmi-Tokushige for NXST. Well done.

|           |          |          |  |
|-----------|----------|----------|--|
| Bd: 30    | North    |          |  |
| Dlr: East | ♠ 2      |          |  |
| Vul: None | ♥ A95432 |          |  |
|           | ♦ KJ106  |          |  |
|           | ♣ 96     |          |  |
| West      |          | East     |  |
| ♠ AJ      |          | ♠ Q98543 |  |
| ♥ 107     |          | ♥ K6     |  |
| ♦ A754    |          | ♦ 98     |  |
| ♣ K8432   |          | ♣ J105   |  |
|           | South    |          |  |
|           | ♠ K1076  |          |  |
|           | ♥ QJ8    |          |  |
|           | ♦ Q32    |          |  |
|           | ♣ AQ7    |          |  |

Open Room

| West          | North         | East          | South            |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Togawa</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>Miyake</i> | <i>Shimamura</i> |
|               |               | 2♠            | 2NT              |
| 3♠            | 4♥            | All Pass      |                  |

Closed Room

| West         | North           | East          | South       |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <i>Okuno</i> | <i>Naniwada</i> | <i>Sasaki</i> | <i>Nose</i> |
|              |                 | Pass          | 1♣          |
| Pass         | 1♥              | Pass          | 1NT         |
| Pass         | 2♥              | All Pass      |             |

We like Miyake's decision to open 2♠ non-vulnerable, though it certainly wouldn't be everyone's choice. We also like Togawa's raise, pushing N/S to

the four level, even though it seems fairly likely that they would have arrived there even if left to their own devices. Togawa won the opening spade lead with the jack and made a nice switch to a low diamond, ducked to dummy's queen. Next the ♥Q was passed to the king and Miyake now played a diamond to Togawa's ace and got his ruff to beat the game. Now Miyake switched to a club, but Senior rose with the ace, ruffed out the ♠A, reentered dummy in trumps and pitched his losing club on the ♠K to get out for down one, -50 for N/S.

The contract could have been made after the spade lead if Senior had refused the trump finesse and simply played ace and another heart. Now he could have set up the ♠K for a club pitch as he did in the actual play and the defense could not have obtained their diamond ruff. The only way to beat the contract double-dummy is to lead a club at trick one.

Against Naniwada's 2♥ the defense started with a diamond to the ace and a diamond back. Naniwada won in hand and played ace and a heart. Sasaki won and switched accurately to a club, and now declarer had to lose a trick in each suit. Plus 140 was 5 imps for Naniwada, who came back on the final deal to win the match by 1 imp, 22-21.

A third of the field bid and made 4♥ here—we're sure most of them did not give themselves the chance of the diamond ruff. Eleven pairs managed to beat 4♥ (one of them, Hanayama-Fukuyoshi for HANA, beat it two) and one pair (Namba-Sugiura for KinKi) beat 3♥. The top E/W score on the board went to Miura-Yagi of Losier, who set 6♦(!) four tricks.



Ryo Okuno



Kazunori Sasaki

## Corrections

In yesterday's bulletin we inadvertently reported that Nik Demirev won the Blue Ribbon Pairs with Ralph Katz when we "knew" that they won the Life Master Pairs; it was our fingers that just wouldn't cooperate.

We must also report that our recollection that Patrick Huang did not attend the 2005 NEC, even though his name appeared on the Chinese Taipei team's roster, was in error. Patrick says he was there, though we may not have noticed it due to his team's lackluster performance. We're sure that was not the reason for our faulty recollection. We are betting on senility.

# Match Three: China Women vs Korea Happy Bridge

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 1  
Dlr: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ A4  
♥ 5  
♦ Q9753  
♣ KJ976

West  
♠ 10765  
♥ AK2  
♦ 42  
♣ AQ83

East  
♠ KQ832  
♥ J64  
♦ J  
♣ 10542

South  
♠ J9  
♥ Q109873  
♦ AK1086  
♣ ---

## Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
|             | 1♦ (*)     | 1♠          | 2♥(NF)      |
| 3♥          | Pass       | 3♠          | All Pass    |

## Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
|            | Pass         | Pass        | 1♥           |
| Dbl        | Rdbl         | 2♠          | 3♦           |
| Pass       | 4♦           | Pass        | 5♦           |
| All Pass   |              |             |              |

Whatever the merits and demerits of Precision, a board like this shows it up very poorly. Or perhaps it is Dong's judgment that should be faulted—after all, how terrible could it be to bid 4♦ over 3♠? 3♠ is easy enough to defeat in the abstract, but not after a top diamond lead unless declarer misreads the position. Naturally, declarer did *not* work out what was going on. After two rounds of diamonds he ruffed, crossed to a top heart to lead a spade to hand, then tried to cross back to dummy to repeat the spade play. North ruffed and exited with a diamond, not a club, so declarer could shake his heart loser; +140.



Kyunghae Sung



Yiu Chan

In the other room, Chang evaluated his cards well for 5♦ and although Liu did well not to double, it was still 11 imps to Korea Happy Bridge.

Only one other team was allowed to buy the board as E/W in a spade partscore but 5♦ was doubled at ten tables. Did anyone redouble? Funny you should ask. Yes, Nagasaka-Mizuta recorded +800 the hard way.

The imps went back the other way, to China, on the next deal.

Bd: 2  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ QJ62  
♥ 9876  
♦ K52  
♣ J4

West  
♠ 109  
♥ AK2  
♦ Q94  
♣ AQ975

East  
♠ A87543  
♥ J54  
♦ A106  
♣ 6

South  
♠ K  
♥ Q103  
♦ J873  
♣ K10832

## Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
|             |            | 1♠          | Pass        |
| 2♣          | Pass       | 2♠          | Pass        |
| 4♣          | All Pass   |             |             |

## Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
|            |              | 1♠          | Pass         |
| 2♣         | Pass         | 2♠          | Pass         |
| 2NT        | Pass         | 3♠          | Pass         |
| 4♣         | All Pass     |             |              |

Both tables reached 4♠ on auctions where East had to bid spades more times than the suit deserved. Both Souths led an unfortunate ♥3—only a club lead is safe but not easy to find. Both declarers ran the lead to their hand—a good start. But Wang led out the ♠A and now knew not to ruff out the clubs. She ended up clearing the spades, then leading the ♦Q from dummy and making ten tricks in a canter. By contrast Chan played a club to the ace and ruffed a club, then ducked a spade. When he regained the lead he cashed the ♠A and now could not avoid losing three spades and a diamond.

It is far more difficult to make 4♠ if you (sensibly) pass the East cards; then a strong notrump auction gets West to be declarer on a top heart lead. Bertens declared 4♠ as West on just this start. The ♠10 went to the ♠A and ♠K, and now declarer took the club finesse before a low spade revealed the position there. Back came a heart, so Bakkeren cashed his heart and club winners, then carefully ruffed a heart and exited with a top trump to North. He ruffed the heart return, drew the last trump, and now knew that if South had the ♦K he would be down, since there would be club losers at the end. He needed North to be 4=4=3=2 with the ♦K, so that he could get two diamond tricks from the position —and he was. (Maybe instead of ruffing a heart to dummy at trick seven a low diamond up would have been better.)

Game made about 50% of the time here. Other than three unsuccessful pairs in 3NT everyone played 4♠.

I doubt whether Larry Cohen is reading this article but if so, I'm going to ask him to skip the next deal or he may burst a blood-vessel.

Bd: 3  
Dlr: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ 763  
♥ 87  
♦ AQ953  
♣ A75

West  
♠ J9  
♥ 109542  
♦ KJ106  
♣ 108

East  
♠ 10542  
♥ AKQJ3  
♦ 4  
♣ K63

South  
♠ AKQ8  
♥ 6  
♦ 872  
♣ QJ942

#### Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
| Pass        | 2♦(1)      | 2♥          | 2♣          |
| Pass        | 3♣         | All Pass    | 2♠          |

#### Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
| Pass       | 1♦           | 1♥          | 1♣           |
| 2♥         | 3♣           | All Pass    | 1♠           |

Alas, there are no misprints in these auctions. Both Souths played 3♣ peacefully enough on a hand where E/W can make 3♥, collecting 130 for no swing. It is not clear that anyone would have bid on to 4♣ had either West bid their cards.

Bd: 4  
Dlr: West  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ 985  
♥ 9652  
♦ Q983  
♣ 84

West  
♠ J10  
♥ J84  
♦ J1075  
♣ QJ93

East  
♠ K763  
♥ AK3  
♦ 6  
♣ A10762

South  
♠ AQ42  
♥ Q107  
♦ AK42  
♣ K5

#### Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
| Pass        | Pass       | 1♣          | Dbl         |
| 1♦          | Pass       | 1♠          | Pass        |
| 2♣          | All Pass   |             |             |

#### Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
| Pass       | Pass         | 1NT         | Dbl.         |
| Pass       | 2♦           | Dbl.        | All Pass     |

Wang Wenfei does not have a reputation for holding back in the auction (that's the bowdlerized version) but her combined actions on this hand certainly fooled Liu. While 2♣ was a peaceful +110 for the Koreans in the Closed Room, 2♦x was going to be touch and go. Wang did well in a sense to start with a trump to the queen. Hwang tried a club (taking the spade finesse would have made her life easier) and Wang hopped up with the ace and shifted innocently to a low heart. Hwang thought, then rose with the ♥Q. Nicely done. Now she cashed a top trump to find the bad news, then took the ♣K and got out with a heart. The defenders could take a club, two hearts, a spade and a diamond but that was it. Plus 180 was a satisfying 7 imps for Korea Happy Bridge, up 18-10

Bd: 5  
Dlr: North  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ Q4  
♥ Q94  
♦ J10532  
♣ Q86

West  
♠ 962  
♥ AK52  
♦ K8  
♣ J742

East  
♠ 1087  
♥ 10863  
♦ Q974  
♣ A3

South  
♠ AKJ53  
♥ J7  
♦ A6  
♣ K1095

# Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
|             | Pass       | Pass        | 1♣          |
| Pass        | 1♦         | Pass        | 1♠          |
| Pass        | 1NT        | All Pass    |             |

# Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
|            | Pass         | Pass        | 1♠           |
| Pass       | 1NT          | All Pass    | 2♣           |
| Pass       | 2♠           | Pass        | 2NT          |
| All Pass   |              |             |              |

Both tables coped sensibly with this awkward deal. Dong could not bid 2♣ over 1NT because that would tend to be canape, while in the other room Chang treated his hand as a mild invitation in the 16-18 range. Both defenders led a second highest heart and now all that was at stake for the declarers was the overtrick. China Women gained an imp to make the score 18-11.

This was a flat board in SARA-The Netherlands, by the way, with both tables bidding and making 3NT. Only seven pairs bid and made game here. Kudos also to Nik Demirev in 3NT as North on a diamond lead. If he ducks a heart shift beats him at once. He guessed to take the ♦A and pass the ♠10, and could not be defeated now.

Bd: 6  
Dlr: East  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ Q105  
♥ Q2  
♦ Q4  
♣ KJ10863

West  
♠ J986  
♥ A8  
♦ 73  
♣ 97542

East  
♠ A3  
♥ J965  
♦ KJ9865  
♣ Q

South  
♠ K742  
♥ K10743  
♦ A102  
♣ A



Wenfei Wang



Yiqian Liu

# Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
|             |            | 1♦          | 1♥          |
| Pass        | 2♣         | Pass        | 2♠          |
| All Pass    |            |             |             |

# Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
|            |              | 1♦          | 1♥           |
| Pass       | 2♣           | Pass        | 2NT          |
| Pass       | 3NT          | All Pass    |              |

Is the auction from the Open Room a forcing one? I suspect Yan with her collection of queens and jacks would not have cared if it were technically forcing. 2♠ was as good a partscore as any. The cross-ruff handled beautifully with all the lengths in the right places, and after a diamond lead nothing could prevent nine tricks.

In the other room Chang tried 2NT over 2♣, a sensible choice since no one had really bid diamonds yet. It worked like a dream since Liu "knew" to lead spades. Declarer wasted the ♠10 at the first trick and now won the ♠K at trick two to cash the ♣A and get the good and bad news there. With four clubs, two spades and one diamond in the bag it looked logical to play hearts now. Liu ducked her ace so Dong won the ♥Q and cashed out the clubs before exiting with the fifth club to West. Now he had nine winners, and 6 imps. Korea Happy Bridge led 24-11.

When the Godeds defended 3NT Gonzalo (Goded Jr.) led a diamond around to the queen. Declarer unblocked clubs and led a heart up. Federico (Senior) hopped up with the ace to play a diamond back while his partner still had the ♠A. Since declarer needed to keep the ♥Q as his reentry for the clubs, there was no pressure against East, who could pitch hearts and spades on the clubs and still have a side entry when the defense got in. Nicely defended.

Bd: 7  
Dlr: South  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ AK10873  
♥ 6  
♦ Q102  
♣ 652

West  
♠ Q94  
♥ A9  
♦ 9743  
♣ KQ108

East  
♠ 65  
♥ KQ432  
♦ AK6  
♣ AJ4

South  
♠ J2  
♥ J10875  
♦ J85  
♣ 973

# Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
| Pass        | 2♦(1)      | Dbl         | 2♥          |
| 3♣          | Pass       | 3NT         | All Pass    |

# Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
| Pass       | 2♦(1)        | Dbl         | 2♥           |
| Dbl        | 2♠           | Dbl         | Pass         |
| 3NT        | All Pass     |             |              |

Chan's decision to bid 3NT without a spade stop looks very odd. 3♥ showing hearts and extras would have got him where he wanted to be and protected his partner's spade holding. Dong led the ♠J and the defenders wrapped up the first six tricks.

In the closed room a series of take-out doubles got Liu to the best spot, and she rubbed salt in the wound by leading a heart to the nine early on for what transpired to be an irrelevant overtrick. The match score was 24-24 now.

Quite a few pairs overreached here or played 4♥, far from the worst game you've ever seen but sunk by the five-one hearts. On the Butler scoring making 3NT was worth 7 imps.

|           |         |            |  |
|-----------|---------|------------|--|
| Bd: 8     | North   |            |  |
| Dlr: West | ♠ Q6    |            |  |
| Vul: None | ♥ A3    |            |  |
|           | ♦ AQJ84 |            |  |
|           | ♣ K875  |            |  |
| West      |         | East       |  |
| ♠ 32      |         | ♠ A1098754 |  |
| ♥ KJ64    |         | ♥ 1085     |  |
| ♦ 762     |         | ♦ 10       |  |
| ♣ AJ109   |         | ♣ 63       |  |
|           | South   |            |  |
|           | ♠ KJ    |            |  |
|           | ♥ Q972  |            |  |
|           | ♦ K953  |            |  |
|           | ♣ Q42   |            |  |

# Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
| Pass        | 1NT        | Pass        | 2♣          |
| Pass        | 2♦         | 2♠          | 3NT         |
| All Pass    |            |             |             |

# Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
| Pass       | 1♦           | 2♠          | Dbl          |
| Pass       | 3♠           | Pass        | 3NT          |
| All Pass   |              |             |              |

After that notrump opening it is nearly impossible for N/S to go plus;—to be fair I think it is impossible after any start. On a spade lead 3NT took six tricks and no more when declarer won in hand and led a club up. Mind you, the Koreans had a chance after 1♦-(2♠). If both players took pessimistic views one could see an auction that might stop in 3♦. However, neither team had come all the way to Yokohama to play partscores. In 3NT Chang won the first spade in hand and stole a club trick, then ran the diamonds. At this point in the six-card ending East was down to four spades and two hearts, West to a spade, two hearts and three clubs. When declarer exited with a spade East was on lead for the last time. If she cashed all her spade winners West would be squeezed in hearts and clubs. Wang cashed three spades, then paused for some while before exiting with a heart, to relieve her partner from the squeeze and save herself a few hundred years in Purgatory. Still, 3 imps to Korea Happy Bridge.

It is rather surprising that North was allowed to make 3NT six times (South managed it just once). Perhaps the defenders bid spades and thus did not lead them.

|            |            |          |  |
|------------|------------|----------|--|
| Bd: 9      | North      |          |  |
| Dlr: North | ♠ K1076432 |          |  |
| Vul: E/W   | ♥ 10       |          |  |
|            | ♦ 83       |          |  |
|            | ♣ 1083     |          |  |
| West       |            | East     |  |
| ♠ 8        |            | ♠ J9     |  |
| ♥ 97       |            | ♥ AQJ653 |  |
| ♦ AJ76     |            | ♦ KQ5    |  |
| ♣ 976542   |            | ♣ KJ     |  |
|            | South      |          |  |
|            | ♠ AQ5      |          |  |
|            | ♥ K842     |          |  |
|            | ♦ 10942    |          |  |
|            | ♣ AQ       |          |  |

# Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
|             | 3♠         | 4♥          | 4♠          |

# All Pass

# Closed Room

| West                  | North        | East        | South        |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i>            | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
|                       | Pass         | 1♣(STR)     | Pass         |
| 1♦(WK)                | Pass         | 1♥          | Pass         |
| 2♣(1)                 | Pass         | 2♥          | Pass         |
| 3♥                    | All Pass     |             |              |
| (1) 5-7 fewer than 3♥ |              |             |              |

In the Open Room N/S bid accurately to their best spot and wrapped up 420. In the Closed Room North had temporarily entered a Trappist Monastery and

was bound by a vow of silence for the entire deal. (I cannot think of any other plausible explanation, so this will have to do.) E/W stayed out of their playable game and emerged with nine tricks after a diamond lead, a spade to North for a heart back to the jack and king, and a second heart. 11 imps to China Women, leading 35-27.

For Hackett, Tom Hanlon opened 3♠ and Paul Hackett bid 4♠ over 4♥, then redoubled 4♠ when East stretched to take a second bid. West ran to 4NT—you can hardly blame him—and East selected 5♦, doubled by South with alacrity. On two rounds of spades declarer ruffed and led a club to the jack and queen. Back came a trump, and a second trump on winning the ♣A. Declarer now had four trump tricks, a spade ruff and the ♥A, and that was it. (Yes he could have managed “only” –1100 but it is always hard to criticize someone unduly under such circumstances.) Nobody else found Hackett’s redouble here, but there were a few other 590s floating around.

Bd: 10  
Dlr: East  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ K4  
♥ AQ62  
♦ QJ9  
♣ 10942

West  
♠ A107  
♥ 1087  
♦ A832  
♣ QJ7

East  
♠ 963  
♥ J953  
♦ K65  
♣ AK8

South  
♠ QJ852  
♥ K4  
♦ 1074  
♣ 653

Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
| 1♦          | Pass       | 1♣          | Pass        |
| 2NT         | All Pass   | 1NT         | Pass        |

Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
| Pass       | 1♣           | Pass        | Pass         |
| Pass       | 1NT          | All Pass    | 1♠           |

Stop the presses! Someone opened a hand that Wang Wenfei passed. Right she was, of course, although her side might have played 1NT had she opened. It worked fine to defend 1NT, and the three-three spade break that let 1NT make was also enough to have defeated 2NT two tricks on the E/W cards. 3 more imps to China Women, up 38-27 now.

Bd: 11  
Dlr: South  
Vul: None

North  
♠ A1094  
♥ A3  
♦ A10876  
♣ 72

West  
♠ J52  
♥ 8742  
♦ KQ2  
♣ QJ8

East  
♠ KQ73  
♥ K  
♦ 95  
♣ AK10643

South  
♠ 86  
♥ QJ10965  
♦ J43  
♣ 95

Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
| Pass        | 2♥         | 3♣          | 2♦(1)       |
| 4♣          | Pass       | 5♣          | Pass        |
| Pass        | Dbl        | All Pass    | Pass        |

Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
| Pass       | 1NT(WK)      | Dbl         | 2♦(♥)        |
| Dbl        | Pass         | Pass        | 2♥           |
| Pass       | Pass         | 3♣          | All Pass     |

Chan’s decision to bid on to 5♣ with the wasted ♥K looks a little aggressive; after all, partner produced three useful cards and 5♣ was still down in top tricks. The controlled auction in the Closed Room was a lot easier, of course, without the initial preempt. 3♣ produced a quiet 130 and 6 imps for China Women, to broaden the lead to 44-27.

The big numbers came when a few pairs were allowed to make 4♥x with the N/S cards. It does look rather hard to see how the defenders can avoid cashing three black-suit winners and a diamond, but I guess they might never get their spade trick.



Lynryung Hwang



Jungbai Chang

Bd: 12  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ 8643  
 ♥ J1042  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ A1084

West  
 ♠ AQJ10  
 ♥ A87  
 ♦ J64  
 ♣ Q97

East  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ Q3  
 ♦ AQ982  
 ♣ KJ632

South  
 ♠ K752  
 ♥ K965  
 ♦ K1053  
 ♣ 5

Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
| 1♣          | Pass       | 1♦          | Pass        |
| 1NT         | Pass       | 3NT         | All Pass    |

Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
|            |              | Pass        | Pass         |
| 1NT        | Pass         | 2♠(1)       | Pass         |
| 2NT        | Pass         | 3♠(2)       | Pass         |
| 3NT        | All Pass     |             |              |

(1) Minor-suit Stayman  
 (2) short spades

Yet another wrong-sided 3NT here, though this was a little unlucky. After a heart lead by Yan declarer ran into a pair of vile minor-suit breaks and ended up down three, where perhaps seven tricks were manageable on good guesswork.

Hwang's low club lead is harder to understand. Declarer won and took a diamond finesse, Chang ducking the king. Now came a club to the queen and ace followed by the ♥J, covered by the queen and king and ducked. The defenders cleared hearts so Liu won the third heart, tested diamonds to find the bad news, then ran the clubs. She had six tricks in the minors and the two major-suit aces, and South was squeezed in the pointed suits on the clubs. So when declarer finessed in spades the ♠K came down and she had ten tricks. The lead was up to 55-27.

David Bakhshi declared 3NT after a Stayman auction, which put his North off the heart lead. He won the club lead cheaply in hand and took an unsuccessful diamond finesse. When a spade came back he rejected the finesse (since if diamonds split he had nine tricks, and he did not want to let the defenders play hearts through him). He knocked out the ♣A, North erring by taking the ♣Q, and the defenders correctly shifted to hearts. Declarer won the third heart and still had an entry to dummy with a

club to run his tricks in that suit. After five clubs, one diamond, one spade and three hearts he reached a three-card ending with South unable to keep spades and diamonds guarded.

Bd: 14  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A9854  
 ♥ QJ10843  
 ♦ K10  
 ♣ ---

West  
 ♠ J63  
 ♥ A76  
 ♦ J64  
 ♣ KQJ7

East  
 ♠ KQ2  
 ♥ 52  
 ♦ A52  
 ♣ A10986

South  
 ♠ 107  
 ♥ K9  
 ♦ Q9873  
 ♣ 5432

Open Room

| West        | North      | East        | South       |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Sung</i> | <i>Yan</i> | <i>Chan</i> | <i>Dong</i> |
|             |            | 1♣          | Pass        |
| 2♣(F)       | 3♣         | 3♦          | Pass        |
| 3NT         | All Pass   |             |             |

Closed Room

| West       | North        | East        | South        |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Liu</i> | <i>Hwang</i> | <i>Wang</i> | <i>Chang</i> |
|            |              | 1♦          | Pass         |
| 2NT        | Pass         | 3NT         | All Pass     |

Both tables led the ♥Q, overtaken by South to clear the suit. Declarer ran five rounds of clubs and in the six-card ending North had to decide whether to play for down two by keeping all the hearts and baring the ♦K, or to play safe by keeping two diamonds—in which case declarer can knock out the ♠A and escape for down one. The Chinese registered the extra undertrick to win the match 57-27, 22-8 in VPs.

In the match between Makita and guriguri, Makita managed the dual coup of making 3♥x with the N/S cards and making 3NT with the E/W cards when the defenders blocked the hearts. 14 imps to them, but still a 16-14 loss overall.



Yongling Dong



Ru Yan

# Discard That Textbook

by Barry Rigal

This deal, from the second final session of the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs a couple of years ago, does not present an advanced technical problem in 4♠ (hands rotated).

Dlr: North ♠ Q985  
Vul: N/S ♥ K53  
♦ AJ5  
♣ 1064

♠ 7  
♥ 974  
♦ KQ10864  
♣ K87

♠ KJ10432  
♥ AJ10  
♦ 3  
♣ A53

♠ A6  
♥ Q862  
♦ 972  
♣ QJ92

| West     | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
|          | Pass  | Pass | 1♠    |
| 2♦       | 3♦    | Pass | 4♠    |
| All Pass |       |      |       |

West leads the ♦K. You win with the ace, play a trump, win the club return, eliminate diamonds while drawing trumps, then exit with a club and claim.

That's what all the experts did—but not JoAnna Stansby.

In 4♠ as South, she *ducked* the opening lead of the ♦K, hoping that West would assume she could not have a singleton diamond. Assume West had the ♠A. Might he not continue with a diamond, trying to give partner a ruff or kill the discard?

So it proved. After a diamond continuation, JoAnna got both clubs away and guessed hearts to take 11 tricks for a spectacular result.

Of course, on a club switch, she would have turned a 100% contract into one hinging on the heart guess, but you can't make an omelet without breaking the odd egg or two.

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## NEC Bridge Festival Smoking Policy

### NEC Cup:

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

### Other events:

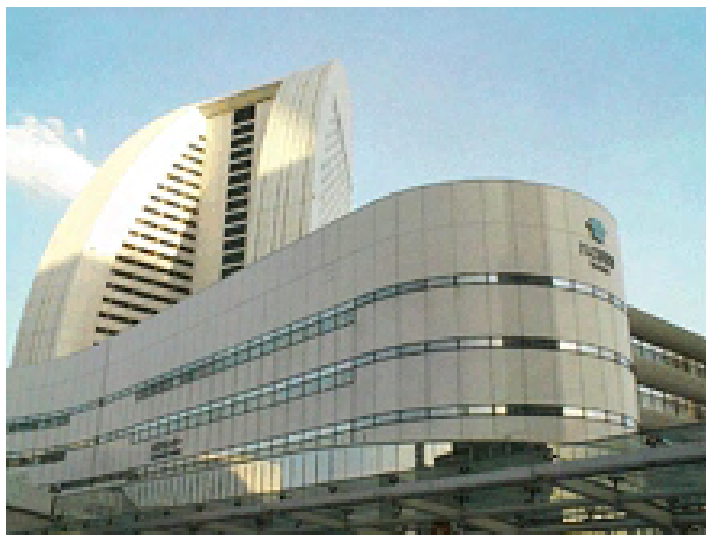
Once a session has started, and until all tables have finished, smoking is prohibited at ALL times other than a single designated smoking break, to be announced by the Director.

### Smoking area:

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

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

| Day/Date            | Time        | Event                      | Venue               |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday (Feb. 11) | 10:00-12:00 | NEC Cup Swiss (5)          | F201/F202           |
|                     | 12:20-14:20 | NEC Cup Swiss (6)          |                     |
|                     | 14:20-15:30 | Lunch Break                |                     |
|                     | 15:30-17:30 | NEC Cup Swiss (7)          |                     |
|                     | 17:50-19:50 | NEC Cup Swiss (8)          |                     |
| Thursday (Feb. 12)  | 10:00-12:00 | NEC Cup Swiss (9)          | F201/F202           |
|                     | 12:20-14:20 | NEC Cup Swiss (10)         |                     |
|                     | 14:20-15:30 | Lunch Break                |                     |
|                     | 15:30-17:30 | NEC Cup Swiss (11)         |                     |
|                     | 17:50-19:50 | NEC Cup Swiss (12)         |                     |
| Friday (Feb. 13)    | 10:00-12:15 | NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)  | E204                |
|                     | 12:35-14:50 | NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)  |                     |
|                     | 14:50-16:00 | Lunch Break                |                     |
|                     | 16:00-18:15 | NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)     | (16-board segments) |
|                     | 18:35-20:50 | NEC Cup Semi-Final (2)     |                     |
|                     | 10:00-17:00 | Open IMP Pairs             |                     |
| Saturday (Feb. 14)  | 10:00-12:15 | NEC Cup Final (1)          | E204                |
|                     | 12:35-14:50 | NEC Cup Final (2)          |                     |
|                     | 14:50-16:00 | Lunch Break                |                     |
|                     | 16:00-18:15 | NEC Cup Final (3)          | (16-board segments) |
|                     | 18:35-20:50 | NEC Cup Final (4)          |                     |
|                     | 10:00-17:00 | Yokohama SRR & Swiss Teams |                     |
| Sunday (Feb. 15)    | 10:00-17:00 | Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)     | F203-206            |
|                     | 18:30-20:30 | Closing Ceremony           | F201-204            |

Qualifying Swiss: 12 rounds of 14-board matches

Quarter- & Semi-Finals: two 16-board segments

Final: four 16-board segments

