

NEC Bridge Festival

Thursday, February 12, 2009
Bulletin Number 3

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

The Netherlands Hold On to NEC Cup Lead

At the end of Day 2 The Netherlands (Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen), with four more wins, is holding on to an even slimmer lead than they had yesterday. Their 157 VPs have them just 2 VPs ahead of second place Oz Players (Ron Klinger, Ishmael Del'Monte, Robert Fruewirth, Matt Mullamphy). In third place, 13 VPs behind Oz with 142 VPs, sit the China LongZhu National Women (Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Wang Wenfei, Liu Yiqian, Yan Ru, Dong Yongling, Li Guohua [NPC], Ju Chuancheng [Coach]). Just 1 VP back, tied for 4th/5th place, are Japan Open (Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Tadashi Teramoto, Masaaki Takayama) and TAKA (Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata, Hiroshi Kaku, Makoto Kono, Ari Greenberg, Masaru Yoshida). NRT and HAYATE are tied for 6th/7th with 140 VPs and the Yeh bros, Hackett and China Evertrust Holding Company round out the top ten with 138, 137 and 136 VPs respectively. With four matches still to come most other teams are still in the running for qualification. The complete Day Two rankings are shown below; and individual results for Matches 5-8 may be found on pages 5-6.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day Two (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	The Netherlands . . .	157	17	ABE-chan	127	33/34	ROSEWOOD	109
2	Oz Players	155	18/19	SARA	125	33/34	Kitty's	109
3	China Nat'l Women .	142	18/19	NANIWADA	125	35/37	guriguri	106
4/5	Japan Open	141	20	JUICE	124	35/37	Japan Youth	106
4/5	TAKA	141	21	HANA	121	35/37	KinKi	106
6/7	NRT	140	22	Kimura@Yokohama	119	38	LAS FLORES	105
6/7	HAYATE	140	23	Golden beef cutlet .	118	39/41	YWC	104
8	Yeh Bros	138	24	ESPERANZA	117	39/41	MY-Bridge	104
9	Hackett	137	25	NXST	114	39/41	Losier	104
10	China Evertrust Hold	136	26/27	MAKITA	113	42	Open SESAME	98
11	Israel	134	26/27	sunflower	113	43	PS-jack	96
12	The Latin	133	28	Henmi	112	44	AQUA	95
13/14	Japan Seniors	129	29/31	Venus	111	45	CHARMANT	92
13/14	Korea Happy Bridge	129	29/31	Dolphin	111	46	Korea Challengers . . .	57
15/16	J&J	128	29/31	SKOTII	111			
15/16	Fairy Tale	128	32	SIX ROSE 2009 . . .	110			

Today's 1st VuGraph Match will feature Israel vs The Latin

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 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.

In the Knockout Phase, the team with the higher position from the Swiss will be assumed to have a ½-IMP carryover.

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 The team finishing 1st in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4th-8th. The team finishing 2nd will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4th-8th group. The team finishing 3rd will then have their choice of the remaining teams.

In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1st in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

Smoking No player may leave the Annex Hall during play without permission, due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online broadcast.

Screen Hesitations When a delay in the return of the tray is suspected, a player on the **opposite** side of the screen must be the first to call attention to it (by summoning the TD). If the screenmate of the player responsible for the delay first calls attention to it, the TD will rule that no UI is present. In other words, for the TD to rule that UI is present the delay must be clearly noticeable to the players on the other side of the screen without prompting, as evidenced by one of them being the first to call attention to it.

Team Rosters: 14th 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 Inryung, 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 Kiriyama, 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 14th 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

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♣ 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♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
 - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
 - at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
 - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
 - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- 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.
- Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
- Opening 3NT bid indicating:
 - any solid suit or
 - a broken minor suit.
- Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
- Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

Responses and Rebids

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

- All constructive calls starting with the opening bidder's second call.
- Calls that ask for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids, trump quality and responses thereto.
- 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

- Any conventional balancing calls.
- Conventional doubles and redoubles and responses (including free bids) thereto.
- Notrump overcall for either:
 - 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.)
 - three-suited takeout (as with a takeout double, at least 3 cards in each of the 3 suits).
- Jump overcalls into a suit to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits, and responses thereto.
- 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.
- Comic 1NT overcall.
- Defense to:
 - conventional calls (including takeout doubles).
 - natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
 - opening bids of 2♣ or higher.
- Nos. 5 through 9 under "Responses and Rebids" above apply to both pairs.
- Transfer overcall to show a specified suit at the four level.

Carding

- 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

Wednesday's Match Results

Match 5

The Netherlands (25)	14-16	HAYATE (29)
Fairy Tale (26)	17-13	Japan Open (18)
China LongZhu National Women (35)	21-9	China Evertrust Holding Group (9)
ABE-chan (35)	23-7	Japan Seniors (3)
Korea Happy Bridge (17)	6-24	Oz Players (53)
SARA (16)	9-21	The Latin (39)
NRT (48)	19-11	Makita (31)
Israel (43)	22-8	HANA (14)
JUICE (41)	20-10	LAS FLORES (20)
SKOTII (27)	11-19	Yeh Bros (43)
YWC (30)	14-16	Kimura@Yokohama (34)
Hackett (61)	25-2	guriguri (1)
TAKA (59)	25-5	AQUA (17)
NANIWADA (50)	25-5	Open SESAME! (10)
KinKi (20)	10-20	Kitty's (39)
SIX ROSES 2009 (43)	22-8	MY-Bridge (14)
Golden beef cutlet (28)	16-14	Henmi (23)
ESPERANZA (34)	16-14	Japan Youth (27)
Dolphin (23)	9-21	J&J (47)
NXST (24)	16-14	PS-Jack (21)
sunflower (20)	14-16	Losier (26)
ROSEWOOD (26)	11-19	Venus (41)
Korea Challengers (26)	8-22	CHARMANT (54)

Match 6

The Netherlands (27)	15-15	China LongZhu National Women (27)
HAYATE (39)	17-13	Fairy Tale (31)
Oz Players (65)	25-3	ABE-chan (16)
Japan Open (33)	16-14	Israel (26)
The Latin (16)	8-22	Hackett (44)
NRT (35)	13-17	TAKA (43)
JUICE (4)	9-21	China Evertrust Holding Group (28)
Yeh Bros (16)	9-21	NANIWADA (40)
Makita (28)	10-20	SARA (50)
Japan Senior (6)	10-20	Kimura@Yokohama
Korea Happy Bridge (43)	24-6	YWC (7)
SIX ROSES 2009 (29)	18-12	SKOTII (18)
HANA (18)	9-21	Kitty's (44)
LAS FLORES (17)	11-19	J&J (33)
Golden beef cutlet (51)	25-5	ESPERANZA (9)
Henmi (30)	18-12	Japan Youth (16)
NXST (36)	17-13	KinKi (27)
Venus (12)	13-17	Losier (20)
sunflower (9)	14-16	MY-Bridge (15)
AQUA (18)	15-15	guriguri (19)
PS-Jack (1)	9-21	Dolphin (27)
Open SESAME! (28)	13-17	CHARMANT (37)
ROSEWOOD (52)	25-4	Korea Challengers (8)

Match 7

Oz Players (47)	21-9	China LongZhu National Women (23)
The Netherlands (40)	21-9	Fairy Tale (17)
HAYATE (44)	14-16	Hackett (47)
Japan Open (29)	14-16	China Evertrust Holding Group (36)
Israel (14)	5-25	TAKA (53)
Korea Happy Bridge (35)	19-11	NANIWADA (17)
NRT (48)	19-11	SARA (31)
The Latin (63)	25-5	ABE-chan (21)
Kimura@Yokohama (35)	16-14	Kitty's (28)
Golden beef cutlet (28)	12-18	JUICE (42)
SIX ROSES 2009 (24)	5-25	Yeh Bros (64)
J&J (55)	22-8	Makita (25)
Japan Senior (26)	16-14	SKOTII (20)
Henmi (34)	14-16	LAS FLORES (40)
HANA (36)	21-9	YWC (11)
NXST (41)	14-16	ROSEWOOD (45)
Dolphin (30)	14-16	Losier (34)
Japan Youth (22)	13-17	MY-Bridge (30)
KinKi (79)	25-1	14) AQUA
guriguri (26)	13-17	Venus (34)
sunflower (40)	22-8	Open SESAME! (11)
ESPERANZA (86)	25-1	Korea Challengers (23)
PS-Jack (32)	17-13	CHARMANT (23)

Match 8

Oz Players (18)	15-15	TAKA (20)
The Netherlands (53)	20-10	the Latin (34)
HAYATE (30)	11-19	China LongZhu National Women (45)
Hackett (38)	14-16	China Evertrust Holding Group (45)
Japan Open (24)	20-10	Korea Happy Bridge (5)
NRT (32)	21-9	Fairy Tale (6)
Yeh Bros (37)	23-7	Kimura@Yokohama (5)
J&J (27)	17-13	JUICE (17)
NANIWADA (33)	14-16	SARA (38)
Israel (76)	25-1	Kitty's (10)
Golden beef cutlet (11)	13-17	HANA (19)
Japan Senior (47)	25-5	KinKi (4)
ABE-chan (46)	25-5	LAS FLORES (7)
SKOTII (18)	11-19	ESPERANZA (33)
Henmi (24)	14-16	Makita (27)
SIX ROSES 2009 (24)	13-17	sunflower (33)
ROSEWOOD (29)	13-17	Dolphin (38)
NXST (19)	19-11	Losier (4)
MY-Bridge (19)	11-19	Venus (36)
Japan Youth (45)	16-14	YWC (39)
guriguri (33)	18-12	CHARMANT (22)
PS-Jack (12)	11-19	Open SESAME! (28)
AQUA (34)	19-11	Korea Challengers (18)

Match Four: HAYATE vs Oz Players

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 17
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ K965
♥ Q95
♦ AQ85
♣ 72

West
♠ 83
♥ A10872
♦ J109
♣ J86

East
♠ AQ104
♥ K
♦ K32
♣ AK1043

South
♠ J72
♥ J643
♦ 764
♣ Q95

Bd: 18
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ A10874
♥ 54
♦ A862
♣ 84

West
♠ K9
♥ A876
♦ QJ53
♣ 1052

East
♠ Q
♥ KQ103
♦ K1097
♣ J963

South
♠ J6532
♥ J92
♦ 4
♣ AKQ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
	1♣*	Dbl.	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	1♦	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Most tables had no problem in reaching 3NT despite a possible opening bid from North. Del'Monte was treated to a club lead. He won in dummy, led a spade to the queen, cashed a second club and then followed up with the ♦K. Had North ducked this I like the defenders' chances. But he took the trick to play a second spade. Del'Monte took the ace, cashed the ♥K, and led a diamond up and had nine winners.

By contrast Klinger led a heart and Akama played three rounds of clubs to Mullamphy. Klinger pitched his ♦5 on this trick and I'm sure Mullamphy was prepared to pay off to the one distribution under which a diamond play would cost: namely, finding West with precisely ♦J109. But that was how the cards did in fact lie. Had Mullamphy played a heart declarer must win the ace, pitching a spade from dummy, and play the ♦9. North can win and lead a spade through declarer, who should insert the queen, cash out the clubs, and eventually endplay one defender or the other for an extra red-suit trick. In fact, both tables ended up with 430, on a deal where 3NT was only defeated at three tables.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
		1♣	1♠
Dbl	2NT(♠)	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	3♦(♥)	3♥	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Both Easts thought their motley collection was worth an opening bid (it is curious that at no less than six tables when East passed, the deal was passed out; let that be a lesson to all the wild opening bidders). When South overcalled, Klinger chose to show a limit raise with four trumps and Mullamphy drove to game because he could infer that he was facing short hearts. Right he was. On a top diamond lead he had 11 tricks; it is not easy to see where West's double came from. By contrast, Miure was prepared to show a limit raise but Koike would not compete any further over 3♥ and so the auction came to a stop in 3♠. Australia led by 13imps.

In the match between The Netherlands and China Evertrust Holding Group, Li opened the East cards a weak notrump! That was enough to silence the normally effervescent Verhees and +100 was a poor return against the 650 from the other room.

After a quiet board in our featured match (but one on which the Chinese N/S had missed a relatively simple game to give The Netherlands 8imps)...

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K
 ♥ J1075
 ♦ 875
 ♣ AQ1086

West
 ♠ 10976
 ♥ K3
 ♦ 96432
 ♣ K3

East
 ♠ Q4
 ♥ Q9862
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ 9742

South
 ♠ AJ8532
 ♥ A4
 ♦ AQ10
 ♣ J5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♥(♠)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦(GF)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠

All Pass

I'm sure if Mullamphy had realized that Klinger was allowed to pass his rebid of 2♠ he would have invented a new suit or bid an appropriate number of notrump. As it was, HAYATE had a gift 10 imps and trailed 14-10.

A couple of other pairs had a similar accident: after a 1NT response by North, South chose the underbid of 2♠ to end proceedings, another good reason to consider playing a 2♣ rebid as any good hand on this sequence.

Bd: 21
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ KQ1083
 ♥ 102
 ♦ KJ7
 ♣ QJ5

West
 ♠ J
 ♥ QJ95
 ♦ 1043
 ♣ A8643

East
 ♠ 9
 ♥ A8643
 ♦ AQ9862
 ♣ 9

South
 ♠ A76542
 ♥ K7
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K1072

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
	1♠	2♠	4♣(fit)
4♥	4♠	5♦	5♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	1♠	2♠	4♦(SPL)
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠

All Pass

It is, I suppose, relatively unusual to find a deal at this level of the game where nobody has made a contract. Here the field was split 13-31 in favor of E/W setting N/S (almost always at the five-level) and N/S setting E/W, always in 6♥. The two exceptions were the table where the Director awarded an average when declarer made the opening lead and the true opening leader put down her dummy (names available on request), and the heroes of ABE-chan (Yoshida and Ogihara) who played 4♦ and made 130...for a loss of 2 imps.

Bd: 22
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KQ1064
 ♥ 108
 ♦ K965
 ♣ K10

West
 ♠ A95
 ♥ KQJ9754
 ♦ 84
 ♣ 8

East
 ♠ 72
 ♥ A63
 ♦ Q
 ♣ QJ76542

South
 ♠ J83
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AJ10732
 ♣ A93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
		Pass	1♦
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		1♣	1♦
1♥	2♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

An excellent vulnerable save by Del'Monte saw a 5♥ contract that had real play on any lead but a top

spade. Not surprisingly, Miure led a top spade to collect 200. In the other room it looks as if 4♠ should be trivial. Akama led a top club and Klinger made the “expert” play to cut the defenders communications of a heart. Akama won and shifted to the ♦Q. Oops. Now declarer could not prevent East from ruffing a diamond and West a club. The simple line of leading a trump at trick two prevents all such nastiness, but how do you get your name in the bulletin for that?

Equally amusing, in its own way, was what happened in The Netherlands-China Evertrust. Li Jie played 4♣ on the lead of the ♦Q. Declarer won in dummy and led a spade to his hand, Bertens ducking because he could see that the ruff would only gain his side one trick and that this would not be enough. Now declarer played a heart. The defenders took their diamond ruff and led a club, won in North. Now, when a second trump was played, Bertens took his ♠A and played a second heart, forcing dummy to ruff. In the six-card ending dummy had four diamonds and two clubs and West was out of both minors and still had a trump. Bertens showed his hand to declarer and asked him to lead a diamond, just so that he could explain to his teammates that the way the game had been set was for the defense to have taken two diamond ruffs.

These were the only two tables to go down in 4♠ but it was possible for N/S to do worse, since nine E/W pairs were allowed to play and make 4♥.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ A6
 Vul: Both ♥ KQJ10
 ♦ KQ42
 ♣ AK5

West	East
♠ QJ843	♠ K1052
♥ 93	♥ 7542
♦ J	♦ 9
♣ 109842	♣ QJ76

South
 ♠ 97
 ♥ A86
 ♦ A1087653
 ♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
Pass	4NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	7NT	All Pass	5♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

This might look like one of the worlds easier grand slams to bid, but if South deems it appropriate to pass in first seat, vulnerable (and we all know people who would), getting to the grand slam is not nearly as easy. I'm sure Klinger never envisaged that a grand slam might be possible on the cards, but if partner has six diamonds and two aces there are 13 top tricks. Certainly a bid of 5♥ over 5♣, promising the ♠A and looking for the grand slam, would have got the job done.

There was one partscore, two games, 20 small slams, and 23 grand slams here. Making the grand was therefore worth 10 imps on the Butler scoring.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North ♠ K97
 Vul: E/W ♥ AK1076
 ♦ A109
 ♣ 65

West	East
♠ 1065	♠ 3
♥ QJ53	♥ 92
♦ 2	♦ KQ8654
♣ AJ873	♣ K1042

South
 ♠ AQJ842
 ♥ 84
 ♦ J73
 ♣ Q9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT(♠)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
Pass	1♥	2♦	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Do you or don't you overcall as East? I'm assuming that no one would bid 3♦ here (all right, no one we care to know) but how about a 2♦ bid? I'm strongly opposed at unfavorable vulnerability, and this deal suggests why. If you play 4♠ as South on a low

diamond lead you will surely duck if your auction was unopposed, but if East has bid might you work out how to play the hand? Win the $\diamond A$, play three rounds of hearts, then draw two rounds of trumps via the finesse and ruff another heart before going to dummy with the $\spadesuit K$ to cash the fifth heart.

Klinger played $4\spadesuit$ as North on a revealing auction, and the top diamond lead made things easy. Even if the defenders had led a club, he might well have known enough to follow the winning route home. By contrast, Koike stood no chance with Del'Monte silent in the auction (contrast some later "overcalls").

$4\spadesuit$ by North made four times, by South eight times, one of which was when Liu Jing of China Evertrust played the game from South. He received a double of an artificial diamond bid by Bakkeren so he hopped up with the $\diamond A$, took the $\spadesuit A$ followed by three rounds of hearts, and came to the critical moment of the deal. If East has eight red cards and West five, the odds heavily favor the spade finesse of the $\spadesuit 9$ to generate the extra entry—although East's failure to overcall makes the more balanced hand type rather more likely. The Editors differ as to how much the odds shift from the failure to overcall. The fact remains that Liu guessed correctly to finesse and thereby achieved every schoolboy's dream of getting his name in the paper with an Editorial Gold Star attached.

Bd: 27 North
 Dlr: South \spadesuit KJ7
 Vul: None \heartsuit 5
 \diamond 64
 \clubsuit KJ109872

West \spadesuit 6543 \heartsuit K987 \diamond 109 \clubsuit A54	East \spadesuit AQ82 \heartsuit AQ643 \diamond AKQ5 \clubsuit ---
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South \spadesuit 109 \heartsuit J102 \diamond J8732 \clubsuit Q63	
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
Pass	$3\clubsuit$	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dbl.	$4\clubsuit$
$4\heartsuit$	Pass	$5\clubsuit$	Pass
$5\heartsuit$	Pass	$6\heartsuit$	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
Pass	$3\clubsuit$	Dbl.	Pass
$4\clubsuit$	Pass	$4\diamond$	Pass
$4\heartsuit$	Pass	$5\clubsuit$	Pass
$5\heartsuit$	Pass	$7\heartsuit$	All Pass

Arguably the board of the tournament came up here. When you look at the two contracts you can see how many imps Australia is likely to win for getting to the sensible small slam and not the no-play grand slam. Fasten your seat belts, it's going to be bumpy ride.

Miure, on lead against $6\heartsuit$, knew about the bulletin editors' penchants for idiosyncratic and imaginative experiments, not to mention alliteration. He led the $\spadesuit 7$ against $6\heartsuit$! Now put yourself in Fruewirth's position. If the spade finesse was wrong why bother to take it and risk a ruff? Why not hop up with the $\spadesuit A$, draw trumps, and then take the diamond finesse to dispose of two spades? And that was what he did. To quote a journalistic colleague, "Up went the ace and down went the contract."

In the other room declarer in $7\heartsuit$ realized he needed both the spade and diamond finesses. After drawing trumps while playing a spade to the queen he ran the $\diamond 9$ —which held. South had heard him call for the $\diamond A$ and rather than look at dummy (who pays attention in a grand slam?) South followed low, and had no recourse. 17 (count 'em) imps to HAYATE, up 49-27.

The opening spade lead was found against the slam a surprising number of times (in total West went down in $6\heartsuit$ seven times, East five times—rather less explicably). Of course, $7\heartsuit$ was also defeated a handful of times.

Bd: 28 North
 Dlr: West \spadesuit 95
 Vul: N/S \heartsuit 63
 \diamond AK4
 \clubsuit KQJ984

West \spadesuit J1063 \heartsuit 94 \diamond Q109753 \clubsuit A	East \spadesuit Q42 \heartsuit KQ85 \diamond J2 \clubsuit 10765
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	South \spadesuit AK87 \heartsuit AJ1072 \diamond 86 \clubsuit 32
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Miure</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Koike</i>
	1♣*	1♥	Dbl
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
2♦	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT by N/S looks easy to make. In fact, it was only set four times. But as Ron Klinger demonstrated, a little care and attention was necessary. He won the

diamond lead and crossed to a top spade to lead a club towards his hand. When the ♣A appeared he had demonstrated that safety plays have their role in places other than books. In the other room we had indicated that Del'Monte's overcalls decline in strength as his temperament darkens. No finer indication of this rule can be seen than our current deal. Fruewirth, who has been there before, led a diamond against 3NT. Declarer won and saw no reason to protect against the unlikely club break and led the ♣K from the board. A diamond back now would have left declarer struggling mightily. No, Fruewirth shifted to hearts and the danger was past. HAYATE had a win by 22 imps, 20-10 in VPs.

Taking Your Chances

Tom Hanlon reached a delicate contract here, and when he was given a small chance he grabbed it with both hands.

Bd: 27 North
Dir: South ♠ AK5
Vul: None ♥ Q832
♦ AQJ2
♣ A9

West	East
♠ Q109876	♠ 432
♥ A1095	♥ J6
♦ K	♦ 10973
♣ 43	♣ K1082

South
♠ J
♥ K74
♦ 8654
♣ QJ765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT(♣+♦)

On the lead of ♠10 (can you make a case for leading the queen here?) Hanlon scored his ♠J and took an immediate diamond finesse. The sight of the ♦K was both good and bad news; now he needed to find three more tricks from the hearts and clubs. The natural thing to do was to lead a heart to the king. When West won the ace he knew his partner needed the ♣K for the defenders to have a chance to set the game, so he shifted to a club, ducked by Hanlon to the king. Back came a spade and now Hanlon won in dummy, ducked a heart, and won the spade return. When he cashed his red-suit winners East had to pitch a club on the last heart. Now Hanlon threw him in with a diamond at trick 12 and the forced club return to declarer's queen at trick 13 was declarer's ninth trick.

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.

Match Five: China LongZhu National Women vs China Evertrust Holding Group...this time it's serious!

by Barry Rigal

The match on VuGraph featured the China Evertrust Holding Group Men vs the China Longzhu National Women.

We began with a quiet first board (involving a four-four heart fit with marginal slam values but off the $\diamond AK$) dealt with competently by both teams, unlike the 11 pairs who got too high here. It resulted in an overtrick for the men, and was followed by this Hamman-approved slam. (Bob Hamman regards any making slam as a good one, and while 6NT is no bargain the cards lie disgustingly well for the optimists.)

Bd: 2
Dir: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ K74
♥ AQ95
♦ KJ9
♣ A105

West
♠ J9
♥ J63
♦ AQ85
♣ 8764

East
♠ 8532
♥ 8742
♦ 1074
♣ 92

South
♠ AQ106
♥ K10
♦ 632
♣ KQJ3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	4NT	Pass	1NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	5NT(1)
All Pass		Pass	6NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♠

(1) Stayman

I like Wang's view of simply inviting; as the auction developed, she would have found a heart fit if she had needed to. Lin's Stayman route meant that he would have missed slam facing a maximum non-fitting hand. There again, slam was nothing special.

Liu won the passive club lead in hand and was faced with a bewildering range of options: playing on any of the suits might have been right, but the risk of tackling a major before playing diamonds was obvious. She found what I regard as the best line of a diamond to dummy, hoping that if she misguessed the defenders might not cash a second trick in that suit and she might still manage 12 tricks from the other three suits. When

the $\diamond J$ held she cashed out her winners in the other suits and made seven. The Women led 13-1.

Roughly speaking, half the field stayed out of slam here, so bidding and making slam was worth 7 imps; one pair actually managed to go down...and no, we won't be analyzing their line.

Bd: 3
Dir: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ AQ1075
♥ 10
♦ K63
♣ J984

West
♠ 94
♥ AK932
♦ A9742
♣ 3

East
♠ J832
♥ Q654
♦ 10
♣ AQ65

South
♠ K6
♥ J87
♦ QJ85
♣ K1072

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
1♥	1♠	4♥	Pass
			All Pass

Precision shows up well on deals like this where the jump to 4♥ can be just about anything, since East will often know that their side cannot make slam even with an opening hand. This time, of course, N/S did not have a great sacrifice but it is surprising how often a player can be tempted into indiscretion on an auction like this. 4♥ handled very nicely on a club lead. Declarer cross-ruffed and eventually emerged with 11 tricks in one room, 10 in the other. A few pairs missed game, a few N/S pairs found a paying sacrifice in clubs. The China Men led 2-1 at BAM scoring, but trailed 13-2 overall.

Bd: 5
Dir: North
Vul: N/S

North
♠ A1095
♥ 10542
♦ Q3
♣ KQ4

West
♠ Q863
♥ K76
♦ K10752
♣ 10

East
♠ 4
♥ 983
♦ AJ98
♣ AJ963

South
♠ KJ72
♥ AQJ
♦ 64
♣ 8752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Passed Out		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

I know I'm getting old, but somehow in second seat the East hand does not look remotely like an opening bid, whatever the vulnerability. But if you are going to buy that hand, bidding diamonds looks like a great idea. 2♦ made 110 in great comfort; score one for aggression. The Women led 16-2.

Guess how many pairs passed this one out. Just 18 of the 46; one pair actually bid and made 5♦x. I'm not sure if we should congratulate Zhao-Chieko on their impudence in the bidding or the excellence of their card play. Of course early heart leads do make 11 tricks tough, even with the club honors falling.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q
Vul: E/W	♥ A43
	♦ AKQJ98
	♣ QJ6

West
 ♠ K1085
 ♥ 62
 ♦ 105
 ♣ K10985

East
 ♠ A9763
 ♥ KQJ95
 ♦ 43
 ♣ A

South
 ♠ J42
 ♥ 1087
 ♦ 762
 ♣ 7432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♠	Pass
3♠	Dbl	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
		1♠	Pass
3♠	4♦	4♠	All Pass

Wang Wenfei, as we have said, is not backward about coming forward; she committed her side to 5♦ and was able to avoid suffering the club ruff, and so escaped for -500. All well and good, but how would 4♠ do? After a diamond lead you would expect declarer to guess spades; in fact, North won the diamond lead and shifted to ace and another heart so declarer did not need to guess trumps: his diamond loser could be discarded from each hand. The Women led 19-2.

Four Easts did misguess the spades here; the field was by and large collecting 500 or 620 with the E/W cards, but four pairs did manage to get the club ruff by underleading in spades to West early on.

One N/S pair found Christmas had come when they were able to defend 6♣x; that was just the 1700.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ 632
Vul: Both	♥ K
	♦ KQ1073
	♣ J1083

West
 ♠ AKQ9
 ♥ A62
 ♦ J865
 ♣ A5

East
 ♠ J1085
 ♥ 104
 ♦ A94
 ♣ 9764

South
 ♠ 74
 ♥ QJ98753
 ♦ 2
 ♣ KQ2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
			2♦(1)

2NT All Pass

(1) Multi

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
			3♥

3NT All Pass

You can understand both Souths' perspectives here (put me in Liu's camp because of the honors in the club suit making the hand too skewed for a weak two). The extra level of preemption got Dong too high—in a sense.

3NT went quietly one down, declarer establishing a second diamond trick. But in 2NT Wang led her singleton heart, cashed the ♦K, and shifted to a club, was won by West. Instead of setting up the diamond declarer ran his spades and exited with a low club. Wang went up with the ten (oops), exited in clubs, and could now be squeezed. No, West won the first heart and exited in hearts and South claimed for down one. No swing and still 19-2.



"All right, troops, you go for the tootsie rolls, I'm going for the chocolate nougat center."

Three pairs found a way to bring home 4♠ here. You can see that on a top diamond lead declarer must win and draw two rounds of trumps, then play back a diamond. So long as North wins and puts a small black card on the table, the defense will prevail.

Bd: 8
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North	♠ KJ1095
	♥ J542
	♦ A
	♣ 1084

West	♠ 6
	♥ KQ10987
	♦ 96
	♣ QJ92

East	♠ AQ73
	♥ A
	♦ Q1085432
	♣ A

South	♠ 842
	♥ 63
	♦ KJ7
	♣ K7653

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
3♦(♥)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The transfer preempt served its purpose of making East declarer. Against 4♥ a top diamond lead and trump shift left Dong helpless. But in the other room the low club lead to the ace gave declarer hope. Hou won his ♣A and led a diamond to the jack and ace. Back came the ♠J. Declarer rose with the ace, unblocked hearts, crossed to dummy with a spade ruff and now led the ♥KQ and a top club. The fall of the ♣10 let him out for down one. 19-4, the Women.

In 4♥ by West on an initial spade lead declarer must finesse. He can then unblock the aces, take a diamond discard, and rely on the hearts splitting or the ♣10 falling. Today was his lucky day as, indeed, three tables discovered. Amongst others, Federico Goded scored this one up for The Latin against Sara.

Bd: 9
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ K62
	♥ KJ8642
	♦ 9
	♣ KQ3

West	♠ 73
	♥ 95
	♦ AKQ6
	♣ J10762

East	♠ QJ4
	♥ AQ3
	♦ 108732
	♣ 95

South	♠ A10985
	♥ 107
	♦ J54
	♣ A84

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
	2♥	All Pass	

We've all been in worse games than 4♠ here. As North would you contemplate a spade raise rather than a 2♥ rebid? I know I would. Both defenses led clubs, but where the Women took the club ruff to hold declarer to eight tricks the ruff got away in the other room. 20-4 for the Women.

Bd: 10
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

North	♠ K74
	♥ KQ94
	♦ K106
	♣ AK2

West	♠ A95
	♥ 753
	♦ 954
	♣ QJ54

East	♠ J10
	♥ AJ82
	♦ AQJ72
	♣ 107

South	♠ Q8632
	♥ 106
	♦ 83
	♣ 9863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	Dbl	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♦	2♣
			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
1NT	Dbl	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass	Pass	2♠

Score two for the undisciplined action. Hou's 1NT opening allowed him to buy the contract low, but maybe we should credit theimps to Liu's strange decision never to mention her spades. On the lead of the ♥10 Hou ducked, finessed the return, drew two trumps, played to ruff a heart, and emerged with +90. That was worth 5imps; 20-9 to the distaff side.

Bd: 11
 Dlr: South
 Vul: None

North	♠ 4
	♥ KQ87
	♦ AQ1073
	♣ Q82

West	♠ J1073
	♥ A
	♦ K864
	♣ AK107

East	♠ AK95
	♥ J96432
	♦ 2
	♣ J5

South	♠ Q862
	♥ 105
	♦ J95
	♣ 9643

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
1♦	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) 5+♥, 4♠, less than invitational

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠(!)	All Pass

Dong received a club lead against 4♠ and had an easy ten tricks. Li received a trump lead. He won the ♠K and finessed in clubs, leading the five to his ten. Wang won her queen and shifted to hearts. Li took his ace, crossed to the ♣J to ruff a heart, and discarded the diamond loser on a top club. Now the next top club revealed the position: when North could not ruff all was clear. Li ruffed a diamond to dummy and led another heart. The best Liu could do was ruff high and play a trump, but declarer had ten tricks in the form of three clubs, a heart and six trumps.

The spade game went down at only seven tables. Generally if West did not mistime the hand he could arrange to ruff the minors in dummy and set up a club, and there was nothing the defenders could do.

Bd: 13
Dir: North
Vul: Both

North
♠ A109876
♥ A6
♦ Q10
♣ J76

West
♠ 532
♥ Q1073
♦ 983
♣ 843

East
♠ KQ4
♥ 9
♦ KJ74
♣ Q10952

South
♠ J
♥ KJ8542
♦ A652
♣ AK

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥(1)	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Doubleton heart

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT was an unhappy spot as the cards lay; the ♦9 lead left declarer needing to take five heart tricks for

his contract. You or I would lead the ♥J from hand, wouldn't we? Not Jiang. The normal play of low to the ace left him down three when the defenders established both their spades and diamonds.

Liu also selected the 2NT rebid, but in her case it was a relay. Wang could raise hearts, apparently to suggest this approximate pattern; with three trumps she would have bid higher than 3NT. The fate of 4♥ (cold at double-dummy) changed hands three times on the second trick. It was cold when East led the ♥9, down when South covered, and cold again when West played the ♥Q. To make, now, declarer needs to reduce trumps as many times as possible while ruffing a diamond in dummy. After, for instance, ♠A, spade ruff, ♣AK, ♦A, diamond ruff, club ruff, declarer exits with the losing diamond in the four-card ending. She has left the ♥K85, West the ♥1073, and declarer is assured two more tricks however trumps lie. But Liu simply ruffed the diamond without reducing her trumps and now the four-one split was too much for her. Still, 5 imps to the Women, up 25-9.

Tom Hanlon played 4♥ on an uncontested auction. He won the club lead in hand to lead a diamond to the ten and jack. Back came the ♥9. He won the ♥A, played ♠A, ruff a spade, unblocked clubs, played ♦A, ruff a diamond, then ruffed a club. He had reduced himself down to his losing diamond and the ♥KJ8, and the losing diamond exit assured him of two of the last three trump tricks. Contract made.

Michael Barel recovered from missing Hanlon's line. After the same start: club, diamond, heart to the ace, he crossed to hand in clubs and played two rounds of diamonds, ruffing, then ruffed a club and played two rounds of trumps to West. That player fell from grace by playing his last trump and exiting in clubs, squeezing his partner in spades and diamonds.

Only nine players found their way home in 4♥ (not that 3NT was such a bad spot, though it does not stand a realistic chance as the cards lie). So +620 was worth 12 imps on the Butler scoring.

Bd: 14
Dir: East
Vul: None

North
♠ J842
♥ AJ1076
♦ 83
♣ 96

West
♠ KQ
♥ 9852
♦ AJ10654
♣ 8

East
♠ 763
♥ 43
♦ Q972
♣ K1072

South
♠ A1095
♥ KQ
♦ K
♣ AQJ543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Hou</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		Pass	1♣
2♦	Dbl	3♦	Dbl
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dong</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Yan</i>	<i>Jiang</i>
		Pass	1♣
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

4♥ was not a happy spot. Declarer was forced to ruff the second diamond in dummy. Lin overtook the ♥K creating a trump loser to allow himself to finesse in

clubs. After that start, two down was the best he could do. Since 4♠ was the normal spot, +100 represented a superb result for the ladies.

Meanwhile, 4♠ on repeated diamond leads saw Liu ruff in hand and unblock hearts, overtaking the ♥K to take a trump finesse. Li won his ♠Q, and thought for a long time about giving up a ruff and a discard. That might have been good enough to defeat the hand. But when he actually returned the ♣8 Hou put up the ♣K and the defense was over. West could ruff the next club but declarer could draw trumps, ending in dummy, and claim the rest.

The Women had won 36-9 and scored one for Women's Lib everywhere, while putting their male counterparts firmly in their place.

Match Six: Japan Open vs Israel

by Barry Rigal

The Israeli defenders had not only changed their personnel, but their partnerships as well. Micheal Barel was playing with Amir Levin rather than Migry Campanile while Migri was starting a new partnership with Nik Demirev. The Japanese squad included four of the losing semi-finalists from last year, plus Masaaki Takayama and Tadashi Teramoto.

The match started off with a quiet deal. Both Easts opened a strong notrump and were left to suffer there. The Japanese broke on top by an undertrick, but then something more substantial came along.

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ KQ98
 ♥ KQ5
 ♦ A7
 ♣ AK86

West
 ♠ A753
 ♥ 103
 ♦ 10962
 ♣ 954

East
 ♠ 6
 ♥ AJ742
 ♦ Q854
 ♣ Q107

South
 ♠ J1042
 ♥ 986
 ♦ KJ3
 ♣ J32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Campanile's diamond lead gave nothing away. Declarer finessed, played two rounds of trumps, ducked by West, and led an impassive low club from his hand. Fooled by Teramoto's bland countence, Campanile ducked and now declarer had his contract with an overtrick. In fact, there was no defense even had Campanile taken her ♣Q; declarer can arrange a heart ruff in hand and the trump spots are just too good.

It was a little unfortunate for Barel to run into the one lie of the majors that meant he could be defeated on a heart lead if he elected to win the trick; but maybe he should have ducked. After all, if the lead was from AJxxx wasn't the ♠A a favorite to be with West, given East's initial pass? Without that lead, Barel's game only had eight winners, of course, but then 4♠ did not have ten tricks either.



"Bridge players are sooo strange."

There was some excellent cut and thrust in the match between China Open and JUICE. In 3NT Babu Koneru led a heart and Li did indeed duck. The defenders cleared hearts (East signaling for spades) but declarer had no option but to knock out the ♠A. Back came a spade so declarer ran the suit to reduce to this position.

<p>North</p> <p>♠ ---</p> <p>♥ ---</p> <p>♦ A7</p> <p>♣ AK86</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ ---</p> <p>♥ 2</p> <p>♦ Q8</p> <p>♣ Q107</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ ---</p> <p>♥ ---</p> <p>♦ 1096</p> <p>♣ 954</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ ---</p> <p>♥ ---</p> <p>♦ KJ3</p> <p>♣ J32</p>

Koneru let go two diamonds without any discomfort. Li cashed the ♣AK and the ♦A and had a real guess now. Should he try to endplay West with the ♣Q to lead diamonds into the tenace, or should he play for the actual lie of the cards? He got it right. Well done.

Almost exactly half the field went down in game here, so bringing home the vulnerable game was worth 8imps on the Butler scoring.

<p>Bd: 19</p> <p>Dlr: South</p> <p>Vul: E/W</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♠ Q32</p> <p>♥ 3</p> <p>♦ J108732</p> <p>♣ 632</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ ---</p> <p>♥ KQ108742</p> <p>♦ AK</p> <p>♣ J1054</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ A875</p> <p>♥ 9</p> <p>♦ 654</p> <p>♣ AKQ98</p>
	<p>South</p> <p>♠ KJ10964</p> <p>♥ AJ65</p> <p>♦ Q9</p> <p>♣ 7</p>

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
3♥	3♠	4♥	1♠
5♥	All Pass		4♠
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
3♥	3♠	4♣	1♠
4NT	Pass	5♦	4♠
6♣	All Pass		Pass

In the Closed Room it looks as if 4NT was intended to be forward going in clubs or hearts, and 5♦ was a keycard response. Be that as it may, 6♣ was a splendid spot while 5♥ was the limit of the hand in hearts. On a diamond lead Furuta won in dummy, crossed to a top club, and drew a second round of trumps. He then led a heart up and Levin could see nothing better than to win and hope his partner had the master trump. Had he ducked, declarer wins in dummy and ruffs a heart, crosses to a trump to ruff a heart, goes back to the ♦A to draw the last trump and concedes a heart. Japan led 27-0 now.

As you might expect, getting to 6♣ was the exception rather than the rule; about a quarter of the field managed it.

<p>Bd: 20</p> <p>Dlr: West</p> <p>Vul: Both</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♠ 873</p> <p>♥ Q42</p> <p>♦ Q42</p> <p>♣ K965</p>
<p>West</p> <p>♠ K95</p> <p>♥ K109</p> <p>♦ J975</p> <p>♣ 1074</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ Q1064</p> <p>♥ AJ73</p> <p>♦ 10</p> <p>♣ Q832</p>
	<p>South</p> <p>♠ AJ2</p> <p>♥ 865</p> <p>♦ AK863</p> <p>♣ AJ</p>

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Furuta has never been known to pass when bidding is a viable option and he did not disappoint this time either. Vulnerable, facing a passed partner, he did not hesitate (well, actually he did take some time, but you know what I mean) to come in over 1NT. Double showed one minor or both majors and he came to rest in 2♥ on the lead of a top diamond and a low diamond continuation, ruffed. That should have tipped him off to the five-three diamond break (how else would South be able to underlead at trick 2?). Declarer played a spade to the king, and a spade back to the jack. Now the defenders had two spades, a diamond, two clubs and a ruff or three natural club tricks. Levin shifted to a trump (reasonable enough, though it solved a guess for East) and then played another trump when he got in with the ♠A. Furuta won in dummy, ruffed a diamond, then led the fourth spade. Barel ruffed in and declarer simply had his

trump trick for down 200.

Since 2NT by North on a spade lead was going to go down either two or three (East pitched a heart on a top diamond so it ended up down 200), Israel had their first imps of the set and trailed 27-9. 1NT making 90 was the normal result here. West has a tough lead and a diamond of course simplified declarer's task enormously.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ KQJ2
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ1053
 ♦ K9
 ♣ 103

West
 ♠ 1095
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 8652
 ♣ AQJ95

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q9874
 ♦ AJ43
 ♣ 8762

South
 ♠ A87643
 ♥ A6
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ K4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT(♠)
All Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
All Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠

Campanile led a club and Demirev won to shift to the ♦8. After much thought Campanile ducked, and now declarer had 11 tricks by establishing the hearts after drawing trumps. In the other room, where 4♠ was played the normal way up, a heart lead made the play very straight forward for 11 tricks. (Win the ♥J, draw trumps in three rounds, unblock the hearts, then cross to a trump in the North hand to pitch a club from the South hand on the ♥K. Then all you have to do is run the ♦9.) No swing.

Notice the cheap save for E/W in clubs, by the way. Any West prepared to poke his head above the parapet and overcall at his first turn can (a) apply for the certificate for a free lobotomy, available now while stocks last, or (b) collect his 8 imps. Or maybe not. Kyoko Shimamura was forced to 5♠ (doubled no less) over the sacrifice and followed the line of play detailed above, on a heart lead, to collect 850 for Fairy Tale.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ J1075
 Vul: E/W ♥ K2
 ♦ 95
 ♣ Q8654

West
 ♠ Q62
 ♥ Q654
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ KJ102

East
 ♠ A943
 ♥ A98
 ♦ K732
 ♣ A9

South
 ♠ K8
 ♥ J1073
 ♦ AJ1064
 ♣ 73

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
3♣(1)	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♣(2)	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Puppet Stayman			
(2) Hearts			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
2NT(1)	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass	3♣	Pass
(1) Puppet Stayman			

Both tables led a diamond, Takayama a small one and Levin the jack. Both declarers won in dummy. Campanile guessed to lead a heart to the ace and a heart back, covering the jack. That was swift two down. By contrast, Furuta led a spade to the ace at trick two. Levin sat deciding whether to unblock for a long time; he eventually decided not to. He won his ♠K and shifted to the ♥J, covered around. Declarer was up to seven top tricks now but still was long way from home. He played back a sneaky ♥8. Levin paused for some more thought but eventually won and played back the suit. Furuta finally settled for the club finesse, his best chance in the abstract, and that was two down the hard way. No swing.

We've already seen one fine piece of declarer play from the Chinese Open team this match. Time for a second. This time it was Liu Jing demonstrating that he can keep pace with his teammate Li Jie. In 3NT he won the lead of the ♦6 with the queen and led a club to the nine. Now a low spade from his hand saw Carruthers win and exit with a spade. Declarer's next move was a low diamond from hand to cut the communications. Carruthers won and led the ♥J. Liu won in hand, unblocked clubs, crossed to the ♠Q and exited with a low heart. North was in with the ♥K and could cash a spade, but then had to lead clubs into dummy's tenace. Declarer took four clubs, one diamond, and two tricks in each major. Nine declarers in total found the way home here, for a 12 imp pick up on the Butlers.

Bd: 23
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AQ75
 ♥ K3
 ♦ A64
 ♣ KJ104

West
 ♠ KJ9
 ♥ Q976
 ♦ K853
 ♣ AQ

East
 ♠ 832
 ♥ A82
 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ 9652

South
 ♠ 1064
 ♥ J1054
 ♦ 1097
 ♣ 873

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
1NT	All Pass		Pass

Both tables played 1NT on a club lead into their tence. Both crossed to a diamond and led a heart from the board. Demirev played the ♥Q, losing to the king, and a heart back left him badly placed. The defenders won the ♦J, returned the suit, and now declarer was endplayed in hand to go off when he exited with a top spade before cashing the ♣A. North could win the spade honor and get out with a club honor, and now West had to lead a spade or a heart; either was fatal.

In the other room, Chen led a heart to his seven: a good but far from obvious choice. North took the ♥K but now the three-three diamond break meant that all that was at stake was overtricks. Japan led 32-9.

The match between ABE-chan and Oz Players had no less than six double-figure swings in it. This was one of the five that went to the Antipodeans. Klinger's strong notrump was doubled for penalties and redoubled by Mullamphy. Declarer won a cheap club trick, crossed to a diamond to duck a heart to North, and later endplayed him in clubs for a spade trick and the relatively unusual score of 1160.

Bd: 24
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q92
 ♥ KJ1054
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AK92

West
 ♠ K4
 ♥ Q973
 ♦ J10843
 ♣ 106

East
 ♠ J87653
 ♥ 862
 ♦ KQ75
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ A10
 ♥ A
 ♦ A92
 ♣ QJ87543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

It was going to be far harder for the Japanese N/S to reach the grand slam after the intervention, but obviously the partnership interpretation of the 5♣ bid was what caused the problem. If 4♣ was non-forcing over 3♠ (and why should it be forcing?) then 5♣ was extras. But maybe a 4♦ bid was more appropriate anyway.

The Israeli auction was easier to understand and all that Levin needed was the top clubs once he found the singleton diamond opposite. The 14imps made the margin 32-23 for Japan.

Okay, time for me to take your money again. How many pairs bid and made 7♣? I suppose 11 is not far from what you might expect, though you'd hope for more in a top-standard event. Rather tellingly, six of those 11 came at tables 1-6 of the 23 in play.

The next deal saw the Israeli defenders manage to cash out four tricks against notrump with AK10x facing Q9x; the Japanese could not do so. 3imps to Israel and fully deserved too. It was 32-26 now.

Bd: 27
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AJ54
 ♥ J65
 ♦ A10
 ♣ AQJ4

West
 ♠ KQ987
 ♥ 107
 ♦ Q76
 ♣ 986

East
 ♠ 10
 ♥ AQ983
 ♦ J432
 ♣ 1072

South
 ♠ 632
 ♥ K42
 ♦ K985
 ♣ K53

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
All Pass			3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The auction told Campanile to lead a heart, letting declarer build two tricks in that suit, but it suggested to Furuta that he try something else; dummy might or might not have four of them. The low diamond lead was just as unsuccessful as the heart in its own way; but the difference was that declarer still had no sure heart tricks. One possible line might be to duck a spade or to lead the ♠A and a low one. Nothing looks very attractive. Barel avoided instant annihilation by leading the low spade from hand. Furuta won the ten and shifted to the ♥Q, a good idea even if the wrong moment for it. Barel could cover and that was his ninth trick. He led a spade to the king and ace and settled for his contract.

Only five tables found a way not to bring home nine tricks here but it was a flat board at -50 in The Netherlands vs China Women. Bertens was able to overcall hearts as East and when South became declarer the defenders cleared hearts at once. Now Wang Hongli tried to set up a diamond by cashing the ace and running the ten. When this failed to develop an extra trick she did not try to lead a spade up to the AJ; as the cards lay this might still have worked. In the other room van Prooijen received the ♥8 lead and ran it to his jack. He later tried to endplay West in spades after cashing the ♠A as opposed to leading up to the ♥K. No swing!

Bd: 28	North
Dlr: West	♠ 642
Vul: N/S	♥ 9643
	♦ A75
	♣ AQ9

West	East
♠ 983	♠ QJ75
♥ Q10	♥ 852
♦ Q1083	♦ 642
♣ J1053	♣ K64
	South
	♠ AK10
	♥ AKJ7
	♦ KJ9
	♣ 872

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♣(1)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Balanced 4♥ raise

Again the Japanese judged better when to look for a four-four fit. 3NT on the lead of the ♠9 had 11 tricks when declarer guessed hearts. 4♥ on the low diamond lead was a tough play problem. Declarer took an immediate heart finesse and put the ♣9 on the low club shift. That was a good start, but he still needed either spades or diamonds to behave. The diamond finesse lost and Barel was down to the last of his nine lives. He took the double spade finesse and was doubtless even more surprised than pleased when the ♠10 held. Only four pairs went down in 4♥ here; two went down in slam.

Both tables bid a sensible game making two overtricks when an unlikely finesse worked, but the Dutch rescued a draw against the Chinese Women by bidding the poor slam.

As we entered the last deal it was still 33-26 Japan. Remember, they had led 27-0 after three deals.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: East	♠ 10965
Vul: None	♥ KJ2
	♦ 983
	♣ K72

West	East
♠ K	♠ Q8432
♥ 10763	♥ AQ4
♦ AKQ	♦ J1064
♣ AQ843	♣ 9
	South
	♠ AJ7
	♥ 985
	♦ 752
	♣ J1065

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demirev</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Takayama</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Barel</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Levin</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North's diamond lead saw both declarers with an awkward guess as to how to continue. Chen took the heart finesse; when it held he unblocked diamonds and led out the ♠K. When that held he crossed to the

♥A, cashed the fourth diamond, then set up the long heart for his ninth trick. The defenders could take only two spades, a heart, and a club at the end. Had Levin won the ♠A and played a high club through West, the defenders would have been well placed to defeat the contract by winning the trick and then going back to spades, though there are some endplay chances against North.

Demirev won the diamond lead and ducked a club to South. He won the diamond return, played ace and another club, and was safe at nine tricks when the king appeared. He rejected the heart finesse and just cashed out.

No swing, and a 16-14 win for Japan Open but there is no doubt that after the first three deals Israel would have settled for that result.

Match Seven: Hackett vs HAYATE

by Rich Colker

It did not take long for the action to get hot and heavy.

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North	♠ J8
	♥ AKQ62
	♦ A84
	♣ AQ3

West	♠ KQ43
	♥ J104
	♦ 10765
	♣ 87

South	♠ A76
	♥ 53
	♦ J2
	♣ KJ10954

East

♠ 10952
♥ 987
♦ KQ93
♣ 62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♣(1)
Pass	3NT(2)	Pass	4♣(3)
Pass	4♦(4)	Pass	5♣(5)
Pass	5♥(6)	Pass	6♣(7)
Pass	7♦	Pass	7NT

All Pass

- (1) Puppet Stayman
- (2) Five hearts
- (3) Slam try in diamonds
- (4) RKCB(♦)
- (5) 2 plus the ♦Q
- (6) Asks for kings
- (7) ♠K

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote, "...Was there a man dismayed? Not though the soldier knew, someone had blundered." Hiroaki Miura was that soldier. Trust us, we're professionals.

North and South were clearly on very different wavelengths here, South thinking his bids were natural and North thinking South was inviting slam in diamonds. (The annotations in the auction above are from the North player's perspective; presumably explaining what their system notes say the bids mean.) But all's well that ends well, and Miura was a happy soldier when, after winning the opening ♦K lead, he tested hearts, found them to be three-three, and claimed 13 tricks for +1520.

At the other table Paul Hackett and Tom Hanlon had a simple (which is not to say simple-minded) auction to 3NT. It is easy to try to blame Hanlon for signing off in game over 3♥, but where is it written that Papa Hackett needed to have a source of tricks in the form of a "running" heart suit. Give Hackett something like ♠KQx ♥AKQJx ♦Qxx ♣Qx and 3NT is the limit of the hand after a diamond lead. Plus 520 was 14imps to HAYATE.

Two other pairs reached 7NT (Frontaura-Brenner for The Latin, Odaira-Saito for Kimura@Yokohama), one pair reached 7♣ (Rongqiang-Tong for China Evertrust Holding group), one pair reached 6NT, and 18 pairs reached 6♣.

Bd: 2
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ K953
	♥ 98742
	♦ Q6
	♣ 85

West	♠ AQ64	East	♠ J8
	♥ KQ105		♥ A
	♦ K53		♦ AJ984
	♣ Q6		♣ AKJ103

South	♠ 1072
	♥ J63
	♦ 1072
	♣ 9742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

David Bakhshi and Artur Malinowski conducted a careful auction to reach the good 6♦ contract, given that Bakhshi did not know about the ♣Q and might have had to ruff the suit good. The play is instructive. Bakhshi won the opening spade lead with dummy's ace, unblocked the ♥A, and crossed to dummy with the ♣Q to pitch his spade loser on the ♥K. Now he had time to attack trumps with care. He played a low diamond to the ace and the ♦8 towards dummy, ducking when South followed low. Now even four-one trumps could not defeat the contract. Well played; +920.

At the other table Tomoyuki Harada and Keisuke Akama had an auction that only a mother could love. Akama's 3♣ bid was a bit of a stretch, though in his defense he might have thought he had too good a hand not to force. But then 3♠ had us scratching our head, and 4♠ had us positively apoplectic. (Look that up in your Funk & Wagnalls.) When our head stopped reeling we finally came up with a sensible explanation of their auction, so we'll pretend we know what it meant.

3♠ was a sort of "4th suit forcing" bid; 4♦ was Roman key card for diamonds (the 1430 variety). 4♠ then showed 0 or 3 key cards, and 4NT was ostensibly a signoff (in case Akama had 0). But Akama had 3 so he cue-bid his ♣K over 4NT and Harada went on to 6NT—he did not pass go nor did he collect \$200. What he did collect, however, was 3 imps when 6NT came home easily (no problem, man) when Hackett's low spade lead presented declarer with his twelfth trick. Harada captured the ten with the queen, unblocked the ♥A, came to hand with a club, and cashed the ♥KQ. When the jack fell he claimed all 13 tricks for +1020. After two deals, HAYATE led Hackett 17-0.

A grand slam on this deal depends on bringing in the diamond suit without loss; we estimate it at around 35%. Six pairs bid a grand (either 7NT or 7♦) while only two pairs failed to bid any slam (one played 3NT and one played 4♦).

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ 654
Vul: E/W	♥ J984
	♦ KJ7
	♣ J109

West	East
♠ AKQJ9	♠ 10732
♥ 2	♥ 103
♦ AQ53	♦ 10642
♣ A75	♣ 843

South
♠ 8
♥ AKQ765
♦ 98
♣ KQ62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
			1♥
Dbl	2♦	Pass	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
			1♥
Dbl	3♥	Pass	4♣
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Both N/S pairs competed (unwisely) to 5♥, got doubled, and went down one when the defense had three top winners and cashed them. No swing; still 17-0 HAYATE.

5♥x was quite a popular contract, reached by 19 pairs. The top score N/S went to Odaira-Saito for Kimura@Yokohama who managed to double 4♠ for +800. Five N/S pairs scored up +590 in 4♥x, while three more played in 4♥ and made either 10 or 12 tricks.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ A7
Vul: Both	♥ QJ8
	♦ A93
	♣ AK952

West	East
♠ K964	♠ J832
♥ 964	♥ 1053
♦ Q108	♦ 42
♣ 1063	♣ QJ74

South
♠ Q105
♥ AK72
♦ KJ765
♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♦
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

We wish we could tell you what Koike's 1♠ bid meant (points? controls? hearts? GF? something else?) but the remaining auction looks pretty straight forward. Over Miura's 2NT rebid 3♦ and 4♦ look natural and 4♥ looks like a cue-bid. Miura then asked for key cards, found out two, and bid the diamond slam. When Malinowski led a low spade Koike rose with the ace, cashed the ♦AK, played four round of hearts pitching dummy's spade loser, and a moment later was claiming twelve tricks; +1370.

We wish we could tell you with any degree of confidence what the Hackett-Hanlon auction meant; we can only guess at some of the later actions. 2♦ looks like a reverse, intending to show heart support next, and 4♦ looks like a BIG diamond raise. 4♥ was then the natural support Papa always intended, but here the meanings of the bids becomes a bit more murky—for them, we suspect, as well as us. 5♣ looks to be a control bid, Italian style (cue-bid any 1st- or 2nd-round control at will, in the most economical order), and 5♠ was a return cue-bid. 5NT may have been intended as the Grand Slam Force (GSF) in diamonds, but Hackett seems to have interpreted it as pick-a-slam—which he did by bidding 6♥. Hanlon, who had reason to think that his jump to 4♦ set trumps, now converted to 7♦, a fatal error given the adverse lie of the trumps. Hackett then showed little faith in Hanlon's 4♦ bid and told his heart story a third time. But nothing mattered at that point since both slams fail. Down one, -100, was 16 moreimps to HAYATE, whose lead had now swelled to 33-0.



"Yeow! Who bids like that?"

6♦ was a popular contract; 21 pairs played there. 6NT was also a popular contract (matchpoints!); 15 pairs playing that honey and eight of them made it (presumably on a spade lead from West and a good guess by declarer).

Bd: 5	North	
Dir: North	♠ Q75	
Vul: N/S	♥ Q52	
	♦ Q3	
	♣ 86532	
West		East
♠ KJ1043		♠ A96
♥ AJ10964		♥ 73
♦ A		♦ 7652
♣ 7		♣ QJ109
	South	
	♠ 82	
	♥ K8	
	♦ KJ10984	
	♣ AK4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♣(1)	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥(2)	All Pass		

- (1) Majors
- (2) Invitational, longer hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♦(1)	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠(2)	All Pass		

- (1) Majors
- (2) When you got it, flaunt it

Both South's decided to open a slightly skewed 1NT here and both Wests showed their majors. Where Malinowski chose a delicate invitational sequence to show his relative major-suit lengths in the process, Harada chose the more subtle game try—4♠, now try to make it, partner!

Against Malinowski's 3♥ Miura led a club to the ace and Koike shifted to the ♦J. In with the ♦A Malinowski banged down the ♥AJ, ruffed the diamond return, and claimed his contract after losing the second-round spade finesse; 140 for E/W.

Against 4♠ Hanlon led the ♣A, then shifted to a low diamond. Akama won perforce, played a low spade to the ace, and made a good decision to play on hearts, leading low to the jack and queen. He ruffed Hackett's ♦Q continuation, cashed the ♥A noting the fall of the king from Hanlon, ruffed a heart with dummy's ♠9, and took the spade finesse, claiming when it lost. Plus 420 was another 7imps to HAYATE, pitching a shutout and leading now 40-0.

Twenty-nine E/W pairs reached game in one of the

majors; all but three of them made it, many with an overtrick.

Alert! The worm was about to turn.

Bd: 6 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 54
 Vul: E/W ♥ J1092
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ AQJ108

West
 ♠ A102
 ♥ AQ8765
 ♦ 72
 ♣ 92

East
 ♠ KQ8
 ♥ 43
 ♦ K10984
 ♣ 754

South
 ♠ J9763
 ♥ K
 ♦ AJ53
 ♣ K63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
2♥	2NT	Pass	1♠
		All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
2♥	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The auctions at the two tables started out identically, until Hanlon decided to move over 2NT. A wise man once told us that you are playing good bridge if you make what you bid, and that is precisely what the North player did at each table—though we suspect it was better bridge for Hackett than it was for Miura. Akama led the ♥4 to the king and ace and Harada shifted to the ♦7, which rode around to dummy's jack. Hackett played a club to the queen followed by the ♥J to Harada's queen, and it was now time to fish or cut bait. Would Harada find the killing spade shift? Harada continued with another diamond and Hackett quickly cashed his nine tricks before they went away; +400.



"I'm sorry, you want to print WHAT?!"

The defense at the other table was short and sweet. Bakhshi led a heart. Malinowski captured dummy's king with his ace, cashed the queen, and shifted to a low spade. The defense cashed their three spades and declarer was soon claiming the remaining eight tricks for +120. That was 7 imps to Hackett, who was finally on the scoreboard, trailing 40-7.

Only seven pairs reached 3NT on the N/S cards; six made it.

Bd: 7 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 7
 Vul: Both ♥ QJ96543
 ♦ 9532
 ♣ 9

West
 ♠ A
 ♥ A82
 ♦ K864
 ♣ K8543

East
 ♠ Q10954
 ♥ K7
 ♦ AQJ7
 ♣ A10

South
 ♠ KJ8632
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 10
 ♣ QJ762

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
Dbl	Rdbl(1)	Pass	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
(1) Rescue			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
Dbl			1♠
	All Pass		

In the Open Room Miura redoubled, asking Koike to pick another suit, but Koike thought the redouble was to play, explained it the way to Malinowski, and passed. As you can see, E/W bid to 3NT from there and the result at the table was that it made with two overtricks for a modest +660. But wait a minute. What was the real meaning of Miura's redouble? Well, it turns out the Director determined that North was right: the redouble was for rescue. But then didn't South misinform West about the meaning of the bid? You betcha. Sir Richard of Grenside to the rescue. After consulting expert player(s) as to what might have happened if West had decided to pass and defend 2♠xx, he determined that it would have gone down four. And that is the score he assigned: 2♠xx down four, -2200 for N/S.

At the other table Hanlon got to play his spades only doubled, and a level lower. Harada led the ♠A, followed by the ♥A and a heart to the king. Akama ruffed and led the ♦10, passed around to the jack. Akama next cashed the ♣A, led the ♣10 to the queen and king, ruffed a club, and exited with the

♦A. Declarer ruffed and conceded two more trump tricks for down two, -500. (Better defense has East leading spades when he gets in to stop declarer from scoring his low trumps.) That was 17 imps to Hackett, who in two boards had narrowed HAYATE's lead to 16 imps at 40-24.

Twelve pairs reached 2♠ (or 3♠) and nine of them played there doubled. Five other unfortunate N/S pairs also played in doubled contracts (3♥x or 4♥x) and went for anywhere from 800 to 1400.

The comeback was not over yet.

Bd: 8 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q3
 Vul: None ♥ 10
 ♦ KJ865
 ♣ Q9632

West
 ♠ 9
 ♥ AQJ96
 ♦ A9432
 ♣ K4

East
 ♠ 7542
 ♥ K875
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AJ107

South
 ♠ AKJ1086
 ♥ 432
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ 85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
1♥	Pass	4♦	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Due to the favorable location of the ♥10, 6♥ is cold. But unless East is able to splinter (he is normally too weak to do so unless the pair uses what are called mini-splinters) West has no way to envision a slam. Malinowski-Bakhshi had an uncontested auction to game and crossruffed twelve tricks on the lead of the ♠Q and a spade; +480 for E/W.

Best defense will set 4♠ three tricks, but that was not achieved in the other room. Harada led the ♦A against 4♠x and gave Akama a diamond ruff at trick 2. Best defense is now for Akama to exit with a trump and lead a second trump when he gets in next. But Akama tried for another ruff by leading a low club to Harada's ace. Knowing Akama had no more ruffs coming Harada, instead of exiting with his trump, tried the ace and another heart. Now declarer could not be stopped from scoring two heart ruffs in dummy for down two, -300. That was 5 more imps to Hackett, who now trailed by just 11 at 40-29.

Two E/W pairs reached 6♥. The one that was

doubled made it; the one that wasn't doubled didn't. Go figure.

On the next four boards HAYATE picked up 4 imps and Hackett 2. The score was 44-31 when Board 13 was placed on the table.

Bd: 13 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 5
 Vul: Both ♥ K7
 ♦ A109842
 ♣ KQ54

West
 ♠ KQ743
 ♥ A109842
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 8

East
 ♠ 1062
 ♥ J53
 ♦ KJ3
 ♣ J1073

South
 ♠ AJ98
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ Q75
 ♣ A962

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Koike</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harada</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Akama</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	3♥	Dbl
4♥	Dbl	All Pass	

With what seems an adequate number of points, but maybe not a lot of tricks and only one heart stop, Miura-Koike bid to an unmakeable 3NT. Malinowski led the ♥A and continued with the ♥10 (Bakhshi unblocking his jack) to show his spade entry, leaving Koike to try to find a way home. He cashed the ♣A, then tried for his only legitimate play by leading the ♦Q, hoping to pin East's stiff jack. Alas, Bakhshi won the ♦K and led his third heart to Malinowski, who cashed out the suit and exited with a top spade. Koike won and tried to find the diamonds two-two, but when that failed he was forced to cash out for down three, -300.

At the other table Harada made a reasonable 4♥ bid after Akama's pushy raise, but dummy's hand fit like O.J.'s glove—in other words, not! A passive defense will net N/S five tricks: two spades, one heart, and one trick in each minor. An aggressive defense will also net N/S five tricks: one spade, two spade ruffs, and one trick in each minor. (Declarer can ruff a fourth spade to dummy and finesse South's ♥Q6.) Hackett chose the former defense and Harada lost the obvious five tricks, though not in an obvious way, to finish down two, -500. 13 imps to Hackett, who had returned from the ashes to miraculously tie the

match at 44 all.

Only a handful of N/S pairs went plus on this deal. The top score went to Yamamura-Kawamura for MAKITA, who played 3NT and made it with an overtrick. All of the other N/S pluses were in minor-suit partscores.

Could Hackett yet snatch defeat from the hands of victory or would HAYATE still be able to salvage a win out of this match? Alternatively, might this match end in an excruciating tie? One board to find out.

Bd: 14	North		
Dlr: East	♠ KJ8643		
Vul: None	♥ ---		
	♦ J87		
	♣ 10873		
West		East	
♠ 10752		♠ Q9	
♥ 109653		♥ AK4	
♦ Q10		♦ A654	
♣ A6		♣ QJ54	
	South		
	♠ A		
	♥ QJ872		
	♦ K932		
	♣ K92		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Malinowski	Miura	Bakhshi	Koike
Pass	2♥	1NT	2♦(♥)
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Harada	Hackett	Akama	Hanlon
Pass	2♦	1NT	2♣*
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

There was a lot of flailing in both the play and the defense of this hand. Against 2♥ Bakhshi led the ♣Q, K, A, 3 and Malinowski returned his low club for a ruff, then exited with the ♠10, 8, 9, A. Miura played the ♥2 (?) from dummy, losing to Malinowski's five. He exited this time with the ♦10, J, A, 2. Bakhshi now gave his partner a second club ruff and Malinowski got out with a spade, declarer winning the king while pitching the low diamond from dummy. Declarer crossed to dummy's ♦K and led a low heart to the king. On the diamond return he ruffed high and exited with a heart, claiming the last trick with dummy's remaining trump. Down three, -150.

In the other room Akama led a low diamond against Hackett's 2♦. Hackett, in light of Akama's 1NT opening, rose with the king, ruffed a heart in hand, crossed to the ♠A, and ruffed another heart in hand with his last trump. Next he cashed the ♠K, pitching a club from dummy, then played the good ♠J and overruffed Akama with dummy's ♦9. He then led a low heart to the ace. The play record ends there and says that declarer claimed seven tricks for -50. But with East on lead after winning the ♥A, the defense has the rest of the tricks, and declarer has taken only six (for -100, not -50). The only thing that makes sense is if the play did not stop at the point indicated and if East then led his *low* diamond to West's queen instead of cashing the ace, gobbling up his partner's queen, and then cashing the trump six. That would allow declarer to score one more trump trick *en passant*. Perhaps that is what really happened.

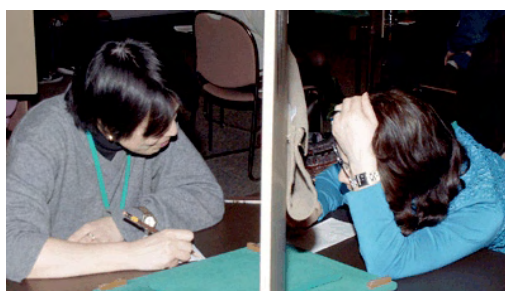
In any case, Hackett gained 3 imps on the final board to complete an exciting comeback, and win the match 47-44.

The top N/S score on this deal was recorded by Koshi-Ichihashi for ESPERANZA, who sawed off 3♥ and collected 800. Paradoxically, two other N/S pairs (Abe-Ogihara for ABE-chan and Tamura-Ishizuka for KinKi) collected 300 against 4♥x.

Images of Our Game



"I'm so good sometimes I just can't stand myself."



"These silly screens sure make the best part of my game, socializing, difficult."



"Now do we play Roman Key Card Blackwood in this situation or is partner cue-bidding? Maybe it's that "Last Train" thing, whatever the hell that is!"

14th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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-board segments)
	16:00-18:15	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	
	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-board segments)
	16:00-18:15	NEC Cup Final (3)	
	18:35-20:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama 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

Registration Required for the Open (Yokohama) IMP Pairs

The Open (Yokohama) IMP Pairs will be held tomorrow: Friday, February 13. Those planning to play in the event must register by 21:00 hours (9 pm) today in the Secretariat (E206).

