

NEC Bridge Festival

Saturday, February 14, 2009
Bulletin Number 5

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

It's China Women vs Japan Open in NEC Cup Final

This is the first time any of us can remember the top four teams all winning their quarter-final matches. The Netherlands (Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen), Oz (Ron Klinger, Ishmael Del'Monte, Robert Fruewirth, Matt Mullamphy), China Women (Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Wang Wenfei, Liu Yiqian, Yan Ru, Dong Yongling, Li Guohua, NPC, Ju Chuancheng, Coach), and Japan Open (Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Tadashi Teramoto, Masaaki Takayama) all took the early lead and held on to make the semi-finals. The semis, though, were upset city, at least as far as the seeding was concerned: Japan Open beat The Netherlands by 21; China Women trounced Oz by 31, winning both halves.

Quarter-final Results

Team	Carry	1-16	17-32	Final
The Netherlands	.5	63	36	99
SARA		43	52	95
Oz Players	.5	46	28	74
Japan Seniors		19	38	57
China LongZhu Women	.5	22	21	43
JUICE		15	21	36
Japan Open	.5	58	65	123
China Evertrust Holding		49	32	81

Semi-final Results

Team	Carry	1-16	17-32	Final
The Netherlands	.5	8	30	38
Japan Open		36	23	59
Oz Players	.5	29	29	58
China LongZhu Women		47	44	91

The results of all of yesterday's pair events are on page 7

Asuka Cup Entries

Those wishing entries for the Asuka Cup, held on Sunday, February 15, should purchase them today at 21:00 hours (9 pm) in the Secretariat (E206).

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.

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

14th NEC CUP Qualifying Datum Rankings (4 matches or more)

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
1	1.25	Patrick Huang	JY Shih	Yeh Bros	6
2	1.16	Setsuko Ogihara	Tadashi Yoshida	ABE-chan	4
3	1.14	Nobuyuki Hayashi	Tadashi Jomura	J & J	5
4	1.08	Ishmael Del'Monte	Robert Fruewirth	Oz Players	12
5	1.04	Ton Bakkeren	Huub Bertens	the Netherlands	12
6	1.02	Yan Ru	Dong Yongling	China LongZhu	8
7	1.01	Hideyuki Sango	Nobuko Matsubara	ESPERANZA	6
8	0.93	Kenji Miyakuni	Ayako Amano	Golden beef cutlet	4
9	0.92	Wang Wenfei	Liu Yiqian	China Women	9
10	0.84	Teruo Miyazaki	Kunio Kodaira	PS-Jack	4
11	0.74	Louk Verhees	Ricco van Prooijen	the Netherlands	12
12	0.70	Megumi Takasaka	Kyoko Sengoku	Open SESAME!	4
13	0.63	Larry Mori	Venkatrao Koneru	JUICE	12
14	0.60	Lin Rongqiang	Jiang Tong	China Evertrust	5
15	0.56	Michiko Hatoyama	Makiyo Takikawa	Dolphin	7
16	0.55	Haruko Koshi	Misuzu Ichihashi	ESPERANZA	4
17	0.54	Hideo Togawa	Masato Miyake	NANIWADA	8
18	0.52	Yoshiyuki Nakamura	Makoto Hirata	Japan Seniors	12
19-20	0.50	Sei Nagasaka	Yuichi Masamura	NRT	8
19-20	0.50	Kazuo Saeki	Kazuhisa Kojima	NXST	8
21-22	0.49	Tadashi Teramoto	Masaaki Takayama	Japan Open	6
21-22	0.49	Takeshi Hanayama	Yuki Fukuyoshi	HANA	6
23	0.48	Shugo Tanaka	Hiroki Yokoi	SARA	6
24-25	0.47	Takashi Maeda	Hiroyuki Noda	J&J	8
24-25	0.47	Kei Nemoto	Kazuo Takano	NXST	8
26	0.45	Ron Klinger	Matt Mullamphy	Oz Players	12
27	0.42	Kyoko Shimamura	Brian Senior	Fairy Tale	12
28	0.41	Paul Hackett	Tom Hanlon	Hackett	12
29	0.39	Federico Goded	Gonzalo Goded	the Latin	12
30	0.38	Setsuko Ogihara	Hiroya Abe	ABE-chan	8
31	0.36	Michael Barel	Amir Levin	Israel	12
32-33	0.35	Takeshi Hanayama	Yasuhiro Shimizu	HANA	6
32-33	0.35	Yoko Shimominami	Akiko Miyata	AQUA	8
34	0.32	Michiko Ono	Shimako Yaji	Losier	4
35	0.30	Takeshi Niekawa	Hiroki Yokoi	SARA	4
36	0.29	Kazuo Furuta	Chen Dawei	Japan Open	8
37	0.28	Shi Zhengjun	Liu Jing	China Evertrust	9
38	0.27	Migry Campanile	Nikolay Demirev	Israel	12
39-40	0.25	Michiko Shida	Kotomi Asakoshi	LAS FLORES	9
39-40	0.25	Kumiko Matsuo	Kyoko Toyofuku	Kitty's	4
41-42	0.23	Frankie Frontaura	Diego Brenner	the Latin	12
41-42	0.23	Hiroshi Kaku	Makoto Kono	TAKA	8
43	0.22	Kenichi Asaoka	Takehiko Tada	SKOTII	12
44	0.21	Teruko Nishimura	Junko Nishimura	LAS FLORES	8
45	0.20	Fumiko Kimura	Michiko Ono	MAKITA	8
46	0.19	Ikuko Arai	Hideko Shindo	SIX ROSES 2009	6
47-49	0.18	Iwao Oishi	Aiko Nabeshima	MY-Bridge	8
47-49	0.18	Natsuko Nishida	Takashi Maeda	J&J	4
47-49	0.18	Kiyoko Oki	Kazuko Ogawa	Dolphin	8
50-51	0.17	Hwang lynryung	Chang Jungbai	Korea Happy Bridge	12
50-51	0.17	Yasushi Kobayashi	Yasuhiro Shimizu	HANA	6
52-53	0.16	Kumiko Sasahira	Fu Zhong	SARA	9
52-53	0.16	Taeko Kawamura	Sachiko Yamamura	MAKITA	8
54	0.15	Takako Fujimoto	Kazuko Takahashi	CHARMANT	6

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
55-56	0.14	Ari Greenberg	Masaru Yoshida	TAKA	7
55-56	0.14	Mamiko Odaira	Yoko Saito	Kimura@Yokohama	8
57	0.13	Takako Nakatani	Sachiho Ueda	sunflower	8
58-59	0.12	Hisami Kataoka	Hikoe Enomoto	NANIWADA	8
58-59	0.12	Toru Henmi	Hideko Takeuchi	Henmi	8
60	0.11	Li Jie	Hou Xu	China Evertrust	10
61	0.09	Chieko Ichikawa	Junko Den	Venus	4
62	0.08	Hideko Kobayashi	Yoko Tokushige	Henmi	8
63-65	0.07	Kazuhiko Yamada	Takahiko Hirata	TAKA	7
63-65	0.07	Kyoko Sengoku	Yumiko Oda	Open SESAME!	4
63-65	0.07	Joey Silver	John Carruthers	JUICE	12
66	0.06	Masafumi Yoshizawa	Noriko Yoshizawa	MY-Bridge	8
67-68	0.04	Hiroaki Miura	Noriaki Koike	HAYATE	12
67-68	0.04	Hiroya Abe	Chieko Yamazaki	ABE-chan	4
69	0.01	Masayuki Ino	Tadashi Imakura	Japan Open	8
70-71	0.00	Teruo Miyazaki	Akiko Kawabata	PS-Jack	4
70-71	0.00	Shimako Yaji	Kyoko Miura	Losier	5
72	-0.01	Ryo Matsubara	Mark LaForge	guriguri	8
73	-0.03	Kinzaburo Nishino	Koichi Onishi	Kimura@Yokohama	8
74-75	-0.04	Chisato Kiriya	Reiko Hoshika	YWC	7
74-75	-0.04	Shoko Somemiya	Tomoko Sakai	AQUA	8
76-77	-0.05	Patrick Huang	Morris Chang	Yeh Bros	6
76-77	-0.05	David Bakhshi	Artur Malinowski	Hackett	12
78-79	-0.07	Yoshiko Murata	Atsuko Kurita	Venus	7
78-79	-0.07	Hiroko Sekiyama	Makiko Sato	Kitty's	4
80	-0.08	Sakiko Naito	Kenji Miyakuni	Golden beef cutlet	6
81	-0.09	Sonoko Namba	Chizuko Sugiura	KinKi	12
82-83	-0.10	Midori Sakaguchi	Ayako Matsubara	guriguri	8
82-83	-0.10	Kyoko Ohno	Akihiko Yamada	Japan Seniors	12
84	-0.11	Etsuko Hasegawa	Betty Tajiri	Losier	8
85	-0.13	Yoko Fukuyama	Takashi Sumita	ROSEWOOD	12
86-87	-0.14	Yukiko Umezumi	Etsuko Naito	LAS FLORES	7
86-87	-0.14	Minoru Mizuta	Yumiko Mizuta	NRT	6
88	-0.17	Tomoyuki Harada	Keisuke Akama	HAYATE	12
89-90	-0.18	Megumi Takasaki	Hidenori Narita	NRT	8
89-90	-0.18	Mariko Matsukawa	Hisako Takei	Open SESAME!	8
91	-0.19	Harry Lin	Chi-Chung Tsai	Yeh Bros	12
92	-0.26	Toru Tamura	Mimako Ishizuka	KinKi	12
93-94	-0.28	Misae Kato	Kimiko Kamakari	YWC	8
93-94	-0.28	Atsuko Katsumata	Yasuyo Iida	YWC	8
95	-0.29	Toshiko Kaho	Kyoko Toyofuku	Kitty's	4
96	-0.31	Ryoga Tanaka	Hiroko Janssen	Golden beef cutlet	11
97	-0.32	Yoko Nenohi	Kumiko Matsuo	Kitty's	4
98-99	-0.34	Hiroko Kobayashi	Chizuko Tsukamoto	sunflower	8
98-99	-0.34	Yoko Nenohi	Hiroko Sekiyama	Kitty's	4
100	-0.35	Chieko Yamazaki	Zhao Jinlong	ABE-chan	8
101	-0.36	Sun Ming	Wang Hongli	China LongZhu	7
102	-0.37	Natsuko Asaka	Sachiko Ueno	SIX ROSES 2009	9
103-105	-0.39	Seiya Shimizu	Yasushi Kobayashi	HANA	6
103-105	-0.39	Makiko Sato	Toshiko Kaho	Kitty's	4
103-105	-0.39	Atsuyo Miyake	Midori Ito	guriguri	8
106-107	-0.40	Tsuneo Sakurai	Atsushi Kikuchi	SKOTII	12
106-107	-0.40	Hiromu Nishida	Yoshie Nishida	ROSEWOOD	12
108	-0.41	Ryo Okuno	Akio Kurokawa	Fairy Tale	9
109	-0.42	Sung Kyunghae	Chan Yiu	Korea Happy Bridge	12
110	-0.46	Miyako Miyazaki	Kazuko Okamoto	AQUA	8

Rank	IMPs	Member1	Member2	Team	Rds
111	-0.47	Keiko Matsuzaki	Kimi Makita	MAKITA	8
112	-0.49	Yoshitaka Agata	Kuniko Miyauchi	MY-Bridge	8
113	-0.59	Masakatsu Sugino	Akiko Miwa	PS-Jack	5
114	-0.61	Hiroko Yanagisawa	Kai Hiraki	NXST	8
115	-0.64	Makiyo Takikawa	Kiyoko Oki	Dolphin	4
116	-0.65	Osami Kimura	Setsuko Kimura	Kimura@Yokohama	8
117	-0.68	Nobuyuki Hayashi	Hiroyuki Noda	J&J	4
118	-0.78	Masaru Naniwada	Toshiro Nose	NANIWADA	8
119	-0.79	Yasuyoshi Toriumi	Aiko Banno	Henmi	8
120-121	-0.80	Misako Fukazawa	Yumiko Kawakami	CHARMANT	5
120-121	-0.80	Megumi Takasaka	Yukiko Hoshi	Open SESAME!	8
122	-0.82	Yumi Yanagida	Keiko Fuse	sunflower	7
123	-0.84	Kuniko Saito	Junko Den	Venus	5
124	-0.87	Michiko Hatoyama	Katsuro Hatoyama	Dolphin	5
125	-0.88	Kim Jinkyung	Choi Yunjung	Korea Challengers	12
126	-0.93	Toshiko Takeuchi	Kiyoko Fushida	SIX ROSES 2009	9
127	-1.00	Kunio Kodaira	Akiko Kawabata	PS-Jack	4
128	-1.06	Ken Sakiyama	Sumiko Sugino	CHARMANT	11
129	-1.16	Masakatsu Sugino	Masako Otsuka	PS-Jack	4
130	-1.25	Michiko Ono	Yayoi Sakamoto	Losier	4
131	-1.68	Misuzu Ichihashi	Michiko Iwahashi	ESPERANZA	4
132	-1.74	Song Insook	Kim Mihyun	Korea Challengers	12

NEC Bridge Festival Smoking Policy

NEC Cup:

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

Other events:

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

Smoking area:

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

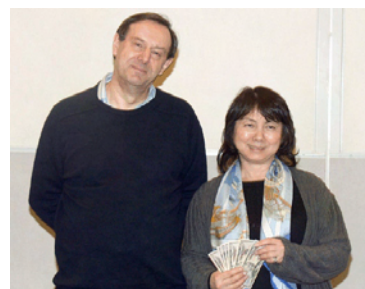
Team Rosters (KO): 14th NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	The Netherlands:	Ton Bakkeren, Huub Bertens, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen
2	Oz Players:	Ron Klinger, Ishmael Del'Monte, Robert Fruewirth, Matt Mullamphy
3	China LongZhu National Women:	Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Wang Wenfei, Liu Yiqian, Yan Ru, Dong Yongling, Li Guohua (NPC), Ju Chuancheng (Coach)
4	Japan Open:	Kazuo Furuta, Chen Dawei, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura, Tadashi Teramoto, Masaaki Takayama
5	China Evertrust Holding Group:	Lin Rongqiang, Jiang Tong, Shi Zhengjun, Li Jie, Hou Xu, Liu Jing
6	JUICE:	Joey Silver, John Carruthers, Larry Mori, Venkatrao Koneru
7	Japan Senior:	Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Makoto Hirata
8	SARA:	Kumiko Sasahira, Fu Zhong, Liu Zheng, Takeshi Niekawa, Shugo Tanaka, Hiroki Yokoi

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

Yokohama IMP Pairs

Rank	Score	Member1	Member2
1	2529	Kyoko Shimamura	Brian Senior
2	1426	Ryo Matsubara	Mark LaForge
3	1160	Paul Hackett	Tom Hanlon
4	991	Ari Greenberg	Kazuhiko Yamada
5	985	Kazunori Sasaki	Michiko Iwahashi
6	952	Misako Fukazawa	Akiko Kawabata
7	911	Yuki Fukuyoshi	Takeshi Hanayama
8	801	Atsuko Kurita	Yoshiko Murata
9	701	Morris Chang	Patrick Huang
10	647	Federico Goded	Gonzalo Goded
11	634	Kyoko Toyofuku	Katsumi Takahashi
12	584	Kenichi Ito	Yumi Yanagida
13	551	Kenji Miyakuni	Sakiko Naito
14	487	Yoshitaka Agata	Kuniko Miyauchi
15	403	Chi-Chung Tsai	Harry Lin
16	386	Misuzu Ichihashi	Haruko Koshi
17	380	Makoto Nomura	Akiko Miwa
18	372	Masakatsu Sugino	Masako Otsuka



Beginners Cup

Rank	Score	Member1	Member2
1	92.5	Yuko Yaketomi	Satiko Matsumoto
2	90.0	Chiduru Shibata	Yukari Matsuoka
3	86.0	Yoshiko Narusawa	Kyoko Murata
4	83.0	Takashi Ino	Mutsuko Ino
5	81.5	Misako Ito	Chitose Nakata
6	80.5	Yoshiko Inaba	Chieko Tamura
7	79.5	Tazuko Suzuki	Chieko Kosakawi
8	77.5	Hiroko Ishida	Misao Ukita



Debutante Cup

Rank	Score	Member1	Member2
1	92.0	Rie Okamoto	Teruo Sugimori
2	88.5	Katsuko Oteki	Eriko Nakamura
3	88.0	Michiko Mura	Ayako Tanaka
4	82.0	Takayuki Kitamura	Mariko Asaka
5	80.5	Junichi Kato	Yoshio Abe
6/7	79.5	Masumi Kobayashi	Shinichi Murakami
6/7	79.5	Kensuke Miyazaki	Akiko Sakai
8	79.0	Chieko Teramoto	Ryoko Fukuda
9	78.0	Etsuko Takahashi	Makiko Kono
10	76.0	Yukie Sasaki	Yasumasa Ito



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

NEC Quarter-finals (1st half): Japan Open vs China Evertrust (♂)

by Barry Rigal

The draw had been postponed until just before play started. It was no surprise to see The Netherlands pick SARA and Oz Players pick the Japanese Seniors. But the Chinese Women had to choose between one of the devils they knew (their Open team or Japan Open) and the *gwailos* they did not, the North American JUICE squad. They selected the unknown danger, JUICE, leaving the two remaining teams, China Evertrust Holding Group and Japan Open, to play in the fourth match. Due to a complex selection process which we cannot explain to you, under penalty of severe bodily harm, we get to watch the fourth match.

This match was effectively between the Open Chinese and Japanese teams (barring the fact that China's best known pair, Fu and Zhao, were not on this squad. (Zhao was doing VuGraph, Fu was on the Sara team that had defied an original number 21 seed to qualify.) Just for the record, Japan Open and Japan Seniors were the two other Japanese teams to qualify, but they were the highest ranked squads after the foreign invitees.

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North	♠ AQ1093
	♥ A97
	♦ K6
	♣ 765

West

♠ K86
♥ K83
♦ AJ1085
♣ 98

East

♠ J75
♥ J1065
♦ 92
♣ AKJ2

South

♠ 42
♥ Q42
♦ Q743
♣ Q1043

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥(TRF)
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Li</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Hou</i>	
	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

2♠ played like a dream—well, more like a nightmare actually. The defenders led diamonds and got their uppercut going early, and then took the club ruff for

a forth round of diamonds to promote the ♠7. The defense still had a heart and spade to come; down 150.

The defense was equally effective (with some help from declarer) in the other room. Declarer did not put up the ♠J on the lead of the ♠10 from Li. He won the ♠K and returned the suit, and Li thoughtfully did not cash out, which might have squeezed Hou. Instead, the defenders got clubs going in time to take four spades and one trick in each of the other suits. Nicely done and 5-0 to China. (Each deal has eight results in total from the four quarter-final matches ; there were four small pluses for each side here.)

The imps went in the same direction on the second deal when Chen took an action that had at least one commentator falling off his chair. Okay, it was me.

Bd: 2
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ Q973
	♥ K52
	♦ Q97
	♣ KQ2

West

♠ J10
♥ A103
♦ 1042
♣ A9873

East

♠ 85
♥ J9874
♦ AKJ3
♣ J10

South

♠ AK642
♥ Q6
♦ 865
♣ 654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		1♥	Pass

2♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Li</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Hou</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Until someone can prove it to me, I refuse to accept (and even then I won't believe it) that it can be right to pass out 2♥ as South. Even overcalling in direct seat looks more attractive to me. 2♥ might have made 140, but 110 was enough given the score from the other room, where curiously East did not open his hand of power and quality. (It is only an opening bid if you use the Liuqing Trick Count. Thank you, I'll

be here all week.) In the other room the weak notrump got North to 2♠ for a comfortable +110 and 6 imps; 11-0 to China.

Just as on the previous deal, four small pluses were recorded for each side here.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ QJ1054
 Vul: E/W ♥ K
 ♦ Q82
 ♣ AQ92

West
 ♠ K73
 ♥ AQ109
 ♦ AK109
 ♣ 83

East
 ♠ A6
 ♥ 86432
 ♦ 763
 ♣ KJ10

South
 ♠ 982
 ♥ J75
 ♦ J54
 ♣ 7654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1♣(str)	1♦(♠)	2♦(♥)	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

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

(1) DON'T

(2) Transfer break

Both tables won the spade lead and showed excellent technique by testing clubs at once. When they knew they had just one loser there, they could afford to lose one heart but not two, so they led a trump to the ace and brought down a disconsolate king. *Le roi est mort... vive le contract.* Two excellent +650s, and no swing; still 11-0 to China.

Only three tables brought the suit game home (there were three failing 4♥ contracts and two pairs going down in partscores: namely 4♦ and 2NT). If spades are known to be five-three there really seems no reason to play trumps before clubs.

If that was well played, the next swing was entirely a matter of luck.

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ J7542
 Vul: Both ♥ A
 ♦ QJ108
 ♣ 842

West
 ♠ AQ10
 ♥ 10432
 ♦ A76
 ♣ QJ9

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ QJ976
 ♦ 432
 ♣ AK65

South
 ♠ K963
 ♥ K85
 ♦ K95
 ♣ 1073

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠(1)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) INV, unbalanced

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Li</i>		<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Hou</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The question of the right hand to play 4♥ from depends on whether the ♠J and ♠K are this way or the other was around. In 4♥ by West on a diamond lead declarer needed to take the spade finesse to shake a diamond loser; contract made. By contrast, in 4♥ by East on a spade lead declarer had a choice of finesses. When he put in the ♠10 he had snatched defeat from the jaws of victory—and done nothing wrong to boot. 12 imps and 23-0 for China Evertrust.

Again, four pairs made game here, one additional pair stopping in partscore and three pairs going down in game, one managing to do so from the West seat, which seems surprising. One of our featured matches saw an Easterly declarer receive a spade lead, after which flying with the ♠A to play trumps deserved to lose at least 12 imps.

And there was still no joy in Mudville.



"Which way is Mudville?"

Bd: 5
 Dlr: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ A82
 ♥ QJ10
 ♦ A3
 ♣ QJ652

West
 ♠ KQ97
 ♥ 876532
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 873

East
 ♠ 543
 ♥ A4
 ♦ J7542
 ♣ K94

South
 ♠ J106
 ♥ K9
 ♦ KQ10986
 ♣ A10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠(1)
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass
 (1) Normally ♦s
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Hou</i>
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

At Li's table 3NT on a diamond lead saw declarer overtake his ♦10 and finesse in the suit to cash two more tricks (pitching a club and spade), then play the ♣A and ♣10, ducked perforce by East. Now declarer played hearts and had nine winners. In the other room Liu's incisive lead of the ♠5 was impossible for North to interpret. He won the ♠Q lead with the ace at trick 1 and tested clubs; the ten held, but the bad diamond break and the location of the other honors meant that when East got in with a minor-suit trick he would be able to take three spades and the ♥A for down one. It was 35-0 now for China Evertrust.

Ishmael Del'Monte played 3NT on a spade lead. He won and passed the ♥J, which held. On a diamond to the ace and two more top diamonds West pitched two hearts and a club. Now a heart to East's ace. When a spade came through, this was the ending:

North
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 10
 ♦ ---
 ♣ QJ65

West
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ 87
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 873

East
 ♠ 3
 ♥ ---
 ♦ J7
 ♣ K94

South
 ♠ J
 ♥ ---
 ♦ K98
 ♣ A10

Declarer has five tricks in the bag and the defenders two. If West cashes his two spades and leads a club (best) declarer can put up the jack and be sure of an entry to hand to untangle his heart, diamond, and two club tricks. In fact, West went back to hearts but that let Del'Monte squeeze East for the overtrick.

In the other room Mullamphy led a top heart in response to Klinger's "lead-directing" heart overcall, then shifted to spades. Declarer won the ace and assumed West had the ♣K, so he gave up a club to him early on. Now a second spade from Mullamphy set the game at once.

Five pairs made game, three went down.

After a push in a game, Japan finally got on the scoreboard here.

Bd: 7
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K52
 ♥ A86
 ♦ 5432
 ♣ K98

West
 ♠ 98
 ♥ KQ10943
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AQ1053

East
 ♠ J1076
 ♥ 2
 ♦ QJ10986
 ♣ 64

South
 ♠ AQ43
 ♥ J75
 ♦ AK7
 ♣ J72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			1NT
2♦(1)	3NT	Pass	Pass
4♥	Dbl.	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Hou</i>
			1NT
2♥	3NT	All Pass	

Takayama took the low road, Shi took the high road, and this time it was "Last bidder gets the zero" as Bobby Wolff would say. Actually, the last bidder got the penalty ending in two zeros. 4♥ escaped for -500 on best defense of three rounds of spades. West ruffed and ducked a club, then guessed to insert the ♥J on the forced heart return.

3NT stood no chance on the simplest of defense, two high hearts from West. Declarer had seven tricks and could only get an eighth if he set up a club by

leading one to the ten and king. But now the clubs ran for the defense. 35-12 in favor of China.

One declarer made 3NT on sloppy defense, two went down, and the rest collected between 200 and 800 from 4♥x.

After both tables bid sensible games and China scored an overtrick imp we came to:

Bd: 9	North		
Dir: North	♠ KQJ32		
Vul: E/W	♥ ---		
	♦ AJ832		
	♣ 1095		
		West	East
		♠ A1064	♠ 95
		♥ J982	♥ A7654
		♦ Q4	♦ K1076
		♣ AK6	♣ Q8
			South
			♠ 87
			♥ KQ103
			♦ 95
			♣ J7432

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥(TRF)
Pass	2♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Hou</i>
	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♦	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dbl.
All Pass			

As we have already seen, Furuta-Chen use transfers on rebid by responder after a forcing notrump. Here a direct 2♠ by South over 2♦ would have been constructive. As it was, 2♠ played for down 100 on Liu's curious low club lead and a trump shift to kill the diamond ruffs.

But there were bigger stakes in the other room. Hou doubtless expected a better hand from Li for his free 2♦ bid facing a passing partner. But give credit to Takayama for his pushy 3♥ bid here, facing a hand unwilling to make a game-try. Just because you're vulnerable doesn't mean they won't double you.

After the spade lead by Hou, declarer cashed three top clubs and led the ♦Q, taken by the ace. The spade return was ruffed in hand and a low trump left South on play and not happy about life. He exited

with a diamond and declarer won the ten, led the ♦K, ruffed and overruffed, then drew a second trump and ruffed his diamond, losing just one diamond and two trumps. Another 12 imps, 36-24 China.

Every other E/W collected a small plus. Credit Takayama and to a certain extent the pass of 1♠ by South for the swing.

Bd: 12	North		
Dir: West	♠ K762		
Vul: N/S	♥ AQJ98		
	♦ A654		
	♣ ---		
		West	East
		♠ A109	♠ 8543
		♥ 10764	♥ 532
		♦ Q1093	♦ J
		♣ AK	♣ 106542
			South
			♠ QJ
			♥ K
			♦ K872
			♣ QJ9873

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1NT	2♣(♥+♠)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Hou</i>
1♦	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On the low heart lead selected by West in the Open Room, declarer had time to unblock both majors and cash two spades, five hearts, and two diamonds. Had West led a low diamond at trick 1 declarer has real problems; in fact, Deep Finesse says that even ducking the trick does declarer no good. A club shift and another diamond dooms you.

It looks far harder to lead a diamond if you've bid the suit but Takayama had not come all the way from Tokyo to lead the wrong suit. He duly selected a low diamond. Declarer won and put the crafty ♠J on the table. Not through the Iron Duke! Masaaki Takayama pounced on this and cleared diamonds. Declarer now had no real choice but to play for ♥10xx. He unblocked spades, overtook the ♥A, but now had only seven tricks. 13 imps to Japan, and we had a new leader at 38-37 Japan.

Three tables beat the notrump game. One N/S pair rather unluckily tried 5♦ down a trick, and three pairs

made game, the final table stopping in a partscore.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ K754
 Vul: Both ♥ 1075
 ♦ 42
 ♣ 10542

West
 ♠ 10
 ♥ J32
 ♦ Q10765
 ♣ AQ93

East
 ♠ Q9863
 ♥ K8
 ♦ A8
 ♣ KJ76

South
 ♠ AJ2
 ♥ AQ964
 ♦ KJ93
 ♣ 8

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Li</i>		<i>Teramoto Hou</i>	
	Pass	1♠	2♥
Dbl.	Pass	3♣	All Pass

The vagaries of the strong club persuaded Shi quite sensibly not to double 2♥; if partner wanted to pass it out with some heart length that would be fine by him. Normally Liu listens to his partner (Shi who must be obeyed) but here he balanced with an inelegant double—the trump holding is so wrong for that action it is hard to see how it could ever be right unless South had lost his mind. As it was, when Shi could not offer a choice of minors with 2NT he got to play the five-two diamond fit on Furuta's intriguing low club lead. (I'm sure there was a good reason for it but I don't know what it was.) Declarer might have had a play other than three-three diamonds with the king right, but if he did it was not obvious. That was what he played for and he went quietly one down when the cards did not cooperate.

In 3♣, Teramoto won the trump lead (what else was South supposed to lead?) and played ace and another diamond. Hou took the king and returned the suit, declarer putting up the queen and overruffing South. A low heart now saw South cash his two winners and exit in hearts, letting declarer crossruff for nine tricks. 5 imps and a 43-37 lead for Japan now. If South underleads in spades for a second trump play the defenders might be in with a chance.

Four small pluses for each side were recorded here.

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ AQ87
 Vul: None ♥ AQ6
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ J1042

West
 ♠ 542
 ♥ J102
 ♦ K8
 ♣ AK953

East
 ♠ J10963
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AJ1072
 ♣ Q86

South
 ♠ K
 ♥ K987543
 ♦ 9643
 ♣ 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
3♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Dbl.	All Pass	Pass	4♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Li</i>		<i>Teramoto Hou</i>	
Pass	2NT	2♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	4♦(♥)

By this stage in the set I'm sure both tables were aware how the tide had turned. When Chen balanced with 4♥ Liu followed the doctrine of TTASL (Teach Them A Sharp Lesson) and smacked it. Alas, it was he who was being smacked. Furuta resisted redoubling, but after the defenders had cashed a club and two diamonds declarer could claim. 5 imps more, 48-37 Japan.

One E/W pair stole the hand in 3♠ and made it. The remaining seven scores were split between a 4♠ save for 300, a partscore in hearts, and game (undoubled) for N/S.

Bd: 15 North
 Dir: South ♠ KQ65
 Vul: N/S ♥ K108432
 ♦ A52
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ A73
 ♥ AJ765
 ♦ 86
 ♣ AK7

East
 ♠ 2
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ QJ73
 ♣ QJ10532

South
 ♠ J10984
 ♥ ---
 ♦ K1094
 ♣ 9864

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1♣	Dbl(♥)	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Li</i>		<i>Teramoto Hou</i>	
		Pass	
1♥	1♠	Dbl	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Mike Lawrence would love this deal. He is the great exponent of canape overcalls, and while he would be a little disappointed to discover that game is not cold for N/S, only a trump lead defeats it. Teramoto had been dealt a sequence and a doubleton in his partner's suit and when Fate gives you so many losing but attractive options you have to assume it is for a reason. (Yes, a trump lead does make sense but who is to say that you don't need to set up tricks rather than sit back?)

After a top club lead declarer crossruffed his way to 10 tricks painlessly. (In fact, he came close to 11 but could not quite do it.) 12imps back to China, who had regained the lead at 49-48. Elsewhere, one West brought home 3NT on a heart lead; one made 3♣; other results were all small penalties for E/W.



"Ichi, ni, sushi..."

Bd: 16	North
Dlr: West	♠ A982
Vul: E/W	♥ A4
	♦ 6
	♣ KJ8752

West	East
♠ 754	♠ 63
♥ 5	♥ J1098632
♦ J8543	♦ A10
♣ AQ104	♣ 63
South	
♠ KQJ10	
♥ KQ7	
♦ KQ972	
♣ 9	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♣	2♥	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Li</i>		<i>Teramoto Hou</i>	
Pass	2♣(PR)	Pass	2♦(10)
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠

All Pass

(1) Relay

The luck of the previous deal reversed itself here, where the 2♣ opening kept East out of the auction and let N/S find their spade fit, to their cost. Three pairs played 5♠ here, and all went down; you can hardly blame South, even facing a limited opening bid, for taking control once he found the two-suiter opposite. He was sharply punished when East's heart lead allowed the defenders to get a ruff. Declarer had no reason to draw trumps before playing clubs since East had never bid. 5♠ down one, -50 for N/S, and 3NT making four amounted to 10imps to Japan, who finished the first half with a 9-imp lead at 58-49.

NEC Quarter-finals (2nd half): China LongZhu (♀) vs JUICE

by Rich Colker

Our coverage of the second half of the quarter-finals is the match between the China LongZhu National Women and JUICE. Both Chinese pairs play Precision, the two JUICE pairs play their versions of Standard American/Eastern Scientific. The Women enter the second half leading by 7 imps at 22-15.

Buckle up—Joey's in the house!

Bd: 17 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 876
 Vul: None ♥ J7
 ♦ K
 ♣ AKJ10962

West	East
♠ AKJ1042	♠ Q93
♥ K3	♥ 8654
♦ A98	♦ Q7543
♣ 84	♣ 3

South
 ♠ 5
 ♥ AQ1092
 ♦ J1062
 ♣ Q75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Silver</i>	<i>Ming</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Wang H</i>
	2♣	Pass	2♥
2♠	3♣	3♠	4♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang W</i>	<i>Mori</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Koneru</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

The spirited auction in the Open Room is indicative of both pairs—fast and loose, although everyone appears to have their bids this time and the contract is the par one. Unfortunately, the defense does not seem to have been up to the standard of the bidding. John Carruthers led a spade to the king and, true to his heroic nature, Joey Silver went for the gusto and underled his ♦A, thinking declarer would eventually need to guess diamonds so putting her to the test sooner rather than later would be to his advantage. Right in theory, wrong in practice. Left to her own devices Sun Ming would surely have tried to sneak through the ♦K (probably by leading the jack from dummy to feign a finesse), and if that failed she would have had to fall back on the doomed heart

finesse. So defensive passivity was best here. When the ♦K held at trick 2 Ming ruffed a spade, came to hand with a club, ruffed her last spade, ruffed a diamond to hand, drew trumps and claimed eleven tricks when the heart finesse failed; +550 for N/S.

At the other table the auction was similar (except for Larry Mori's natural 1♣ instead of the Precision 2♣) and the auction ran much the same course. Liqian Liu's opening diamond lead saved Wenfei Wang from being tempted to try the same ploy Silver had. She cashed her ♠K at trick 2 and switched back to diamonds, happy to sit and wait for her ♥K, which she got eventually. Plus 100, and 12 rip-roaring imps to China Women, leading now 34-15.

Six of the eight N/S pairs played in 5♣x (five went down one, one made it), one played in 4♥ down one. The eighth pair played 5♠x by E/W down one.

Bd: 18 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 1082
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q
 ♦ 97643
 ♣ AQ62

West	East
♠ Q54	♠ A963
♥ J943	♥ AK875
♦ KJ2	♦ Q
♣ K94	♣ J75

South
 ♠ KJ7
 ♥ 1062
 ♦ A1085
 ♣ 1083

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Silver</i>	<i>Ming</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Wang H</i>
		1♥	Pass

2♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang W</i>	<i>Mori</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Koneru</i>
		1♥	Pass
3♣(1)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Silver's rather conservative raise to 2♥ with four trumps and 10 HCP, albeit in a flat hand with somewhat secondary values, worked out rather well on this occasion as the auction died quickly and game does not make. Carruthers won Hongli's trump lead and drew two more rounds of trumps, finishing in dummy, and led a low diamond off to try to sneak through the ♦Q at trick 4, perhaps to show Silver just

how it's done. Hongli won the ace and shifted to the ♣10 to Ming's queen. Ming wisely cashed the ♣A (else declarer's second club loser goes away on the diamonds) and switched accurately to a spade. There was no alternative to the finesse, and soon everyone was scoring up 140s.

In the Closed Room Wenfei's 3♣ bid likely showed a limit raise in hearts and Liu wasted no time in bidding game. On a good day game would make even if it was not cold to begin with, but this was not one of those days. Liu won the opening trump lead, cashed a second high trump, and led the ♦Q out of her hand. (Obviously she did not have the good fortune to observe Silver's technique on the previous board.) Venkatrau Koneru hopped up with his ace and switched accurately to a club, Mori cashing both of his honors before switching to a spade. Much the same defense as in the other room but this time it was worth +50; 5 imps to JUICE, decreasing their deficit to 14 imps at 34-20.

Four pairs played in 4♥; two made it. Other contracts were heart or spade partials.

Board 19 was a push in 2♥, each side scoring the requisite number of tricks. Then...

Bd: 20 North
 Dlr: West ♠ AQ10985
 Vul: Both ♥ 95
 ♦ 987
 ♣ K10

West ♠ 3 ♥ KQ8 ♦ QJ6543 ♣ Q52	East ♠ J64 ♥ J10642 ♦ 102 ♣ J86
South ♠ K72 ♥ A73 ♦ AK ♣ A9743	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Silver</i>	<i>Ming</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Wang H</i>
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♦
Dbf	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang W</i>	<i>Mori</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Koneru</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

After Silver's weak 2♦ opening, Ming-Hongli did well to reach the excellent spade slam despite Silver's nuisance double (don't lead diamonds, partner?). Ming took all 13 tricks when everything behaved by ruffing her third diamond in dummy and discarding her heart loser on the established clubs; +1460.

In the Closed Room 2♦ was not available as a weak two-bid since the Women were playing Precision. So Mori got to open his own version of a weak two-bid, 2♠, and his side bounced into the good slam after Mori showed a club feature in a good hand with his 3♣ rebid. Mori won the opening heart lead, ruffed his diamond loser in dummy, drew trumps and claimed only 12 tricks (the opening lead had taken out dummy's late entry to the clubs). He could have played originally to set up clubs rather than ruffing his diamond in dummy, but that was more risky than his chosen line. Plus 1430, 1 imp away, the Women leading 35-20.

Five N/S pairs bid the slam (one went down) while the other three pairs stopped in game.

They pushed Board 21 when both sides played 4♥ and made six (the most common result across the field). Then came a partscore deal that was ripe for a swing.

Bd: 22 North
 Dlr: East ♠ AJ7
 Vul: E/W ♥ J94
 ♦ A10987
 ♣ J10

West ♠ Q9854 ♥ K ♦ QJ3 ♣ A752	East ♠ K106 ♥ 1076532 ♦ 642 ♣ K
South ♠ 32 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K5 ♣ Q98643	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Silver</i>	<i>Ming</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Wang H</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang W</i>	<i>Mori</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Koneru</i>
1♠	2NT	Pass	1♣
		All Pass	

The vulnerability is wrong for a 2♥ opening as East (okay, okay, so the suit isn't what you'd like), so

West got to open 1♠ in third seat. East raised gently to end the auction. Against Silver's 2♣ Ming led the ♣J to dummy's king. Silver led a diamond looking to set up a crossruff and Hongli failed the test when she ducked. In with the ♦A, Ming accurately returned a diamond, resurrecting the threat of a diamond ruff. Having studied Silver's technique on Board 17, Hongli won the diamond and promptly switched to... a low heart (what else?). Silver remained stone faced as his king held. He cashed the ♣A on which he pitched dummy's last diamond, and set about his crossruff. He ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, and ruffed another club, but when he ruffed the next heart Ming overruffed with the ♠J, cashed the ♠A, and was finally able to lead a diamond for Hongli to ruff. (Better late than never.) That was eight tricks; +110.

In the other room Liu led a low spade to the queen against Mori's 2NT. Mori played the spade bidder for the ♠KQ and ducked trick 1, lost to Liu's king at trick 2, and the defense cleared the suit. Now Mori led a club to the king, won the diamond return with dummy's king, and played the ♣Q, which Wenfei allowed to hold. (Why, when she had the setting tricks in her own hand?) She won the next club, cashed her two spades, and declarer claimed down one, -50. 2 imps to the JUICE, trailing 35-22.

3NT was bid and made by Ino-Imakura for Japan Open; Prooijen-Verhees played 3♣ and made four. All other plus scores were in favor of E/W, including one other intrepid N/S pair who went -150 in 3NT.

The next five boards saw JUICE pick up 2 more imps from overtricks. When Board 28 was placed on the tray the score stood at 35-24, China Women.

Bd: 28 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q97
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q52
 ♦ QJ987
 ♣ 102

West ♠ --- ♥ A643 ♦ K1053 ♣ KJ976	East ♠ K65432 ♥ 1098 ♦ A6 ♣ 83
South ♠ AJ108 ♥ KJ7 ♦ 42 ♣ AQ54	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Silver	Ming	Carruthers	Wang H
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang W	Mori	Liu	Koneru
2♣	Pass	2♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	Dbl	All Pass

The simpering lull in the Open Room gave no hint of the storm brewing at the other table. Carruthers received a low heart lead against 2♠. He ducked the first round, won the second, crossed to the ♦A, and exited with a low trump to Hongli's eight (dummy threw a club). She cashed the ♥K and switched to a diamond. Carruthers won in dummy and tried to ruff a diamond to hand, but Hongli overruffed and played ♣A and a club to dummy's king. A third club was ruffed by Ming with the queen and overruffed by the king, but the defense still had two more trump tricks for down two, +100 for N/S.

The Closed Room was all *sturm und drang*. Wenfei's Precision 2♣ opening and Liu's 2♠ response did not for a moment deter Koneru from entering the fray. "2NT," said he. "Well," thought Mori-san, "if he can bid 2NT I can certainly raise to game with my hand of power and quality." "Double," said Liu, then all was quiet. But this was just the calm before the second storm. Wenfei did not find the best defense when she led the ♣7 to dummy's ten. Babu led the ♠Q at trick 2, underplaying with the ten from hand when Liu ducked. He then continued with the ♠9 and again underplayed with the eight and a third spade went to the jack. (West threw a club, a diamond and a heart on the three spades.) Next came the ♥K. Wenfei took the ace and got out with a heart to the jack. Now a diamond went to the queen and ace and Liu exited with a club, but Babu was in control. He cashed the ♠A, Wenfei pitching her last heart, and led a diamond up. Wenfei won the ♦K and could cash the ♣K, but had to concede the last two tricks. A neat 750, and 12 imps to JUICE, who took the lead for the first time at 36-35.

3NT was made at one other table. One enterprising North tried to make 3♥ but his opponents made 2♥ first.

China Women hadn't scored an imp in 10 boards, and now they were trailing by an imp. It was time to get cracking, or there'd be no semi-finals for them.



"Has anyone seen my left hand?"

Bd: 29
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

West ♠ 764 ♥ 643 ♦ AQJ43 ♣ 73	North ♠ AJ32 ♥ A5 ♦ 8 ♣ AQJ1086	East ♠ Q8 ♥ QJ1087 ♦ K62 ♣ 952	South ♠ K1095 ♥ K92 ♦ 10975 ♣ K4
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Open Room

West <i>Silver</i>	North <i>Ming</i>	East <i>Carruthers</i>	South <i>Wang H</i>
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

Closed Room

West <i>Wang W</i>	North <i>Mori</i>	East <i>Liu</i>	South <i>Koneru</i>
2♦	1♣	1♥	Dbl
	4♠	All Pass	

Neither pair was able to bid a slam that depends only on finding the ♠Q. (6♣ is best, but 6♠ makes too.) With good enough trump spots to pick up the queen in either opponent's hand 6♣ is 50%; 6♠ is a bit less (less the chance of five-zero trumps). Carruthers led the ♥Q to the ace and Ming had no problem laying down the ♠A. When the ♠Q came up on her left on the next round she took the rest of the tricks; +710.

Liu's diamond led put the defense a trick ahead. Wen Wenfei continued with a second diamond Mori was forced to ruff in hand and get the trumps right. Plus 680 and 1 imp to the Women, tied at 36.

Only Zhengjun-Jing bid slam: 6♣.

Bd: 30
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

West ♠ 1042 ♥ K1096 ♦ K5 ♣ 10986	North ♠ AJ875 ♥ Q52 ♦ A8 ♣ K72	East ♠ Q963 ♥ A84 ♦ J974 ♣ AQ	South ♠ K ♥ J73 ♦ Q10632 ♣ J543
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Open Room

West <i>Silver</i>	North <i>Ming</i>	East <i>Carruthers</i>	South <i>Wang H</i>
1♥	1♠	1♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♣
Pass			All Pass

Closed Room

West <i>Wang W</i>	North <i>Mori</i>	East <i>Liu</i>	South <i>Koneru</i>
1♥	1♠	1♦	Pass
2♥	All Pass	Dbl(1)	Pass

(1) Three-card heart support.

Against Silver's 2♥, Ming led the ♣2. When dummy's queen held Silver cashed the ♣A and exited with a spade to the king. Hongli led a low heart, Silver's six holding, but when Silver led a low spade up Ming rose with the ace and led the ♠5 (suit preference for clubs?) for Hongli to ruff. Hongli promptly switched to a diamond, and Silver ducked this to Ming's ace. Ming led a fourth spade and Hongli ruffed with the ♥J as Silver pitched a club. He won the diamond return, ruffed a club in dummy, and tried to ruff a diamond to hand. When Ming overruffed Silver claimed seven tricks, down one, +100 for N/S.

In the Closed Room Mori led the ♦A. Babu's ♦6 seems to have panicked the usually implacable Mori, who now cashed the ♠A, felling Babu's king, and led a second spade for Babu to ruff. With tricks galore Wenfei won the diamond return, cashed the ♥AK, took the club finesse, and soon was claiming nine tricks for +140. That was 5 imps to China Women, who now led again 41-36.

Partscores galore, but only three made: 1NT twice by West and 2♥ by West.

Two deals to go.

Bd: 31
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

West ♠ J105 ♥ 86 ♦ 9 ♣ KJ108432	North ♠ K42 ♥ J74 ♦ QJ1062 ♣ A9	East ♠ 863 ♥ KQ1032 ♦ K54 ♣ Q5	South ♠ AQ97 ♥ A95 ♦ A873 ♣ 76
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Silver	Ming	Carruthers	Wang H
			1NT

3♣ 3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang W	Mori	Liu	Koneru
			1♦

3♣ 3NT All Pass

Against Hongli's 3NT Silver was on lead. He chose the ♠10 not knowing of Carruthers' ♣Q. Hongli won in dummy, took the diamond finesse, and cashed 11 tricks, +660.

At the other table Liu led the ♣Q, ducked, and she continued the suit to Mori's ace. Mori next took the diamond finesse, ran that suit, followed by a spade to the queen, the ♥A, and a spade to the king, noting the fall of the ♠10. Known to have started with seven clubs, one diamond, and at least two hearts, Mori had to guess whether Wenfei's shape was 3=2=1=7 or 2=3=1=7. (It's her *cards* we're talking about here.) With restricted choice on his side he chose the latter, finessing the ♠9 on the third round. Wrong! Wenfei cashed out for 600. That was 2 imps to China Women, leading now by 7 at 43-36.

Five N/Ss played in 3NT; two N/S pairs played minor-suit partials; one E/W pair went down 100 in 3♣.

The lead-in to Donna Summer's Last Dance (last chance) could be heard wafting through the playing room as the final board hit the table.

Bd: 32	North
Dlr: West	♠ KQJ7
Vul: E/W	♥ AQ
	♦ K432
	♣ 874

West	East
♠ 8	♠ 96543
♥ KJ842	♥ 97653
♦ 5	♦ 106
♣ QJ9532	♣ 6
South	
♠ A102	
♥ 10	
♦ AQJ987	
♣ AK10	

Both N/S pairs reached 7♦ on long and tortured auctions; both took thirteen tricks for +1440. Five pairs bid the diamond grand; the rest played small slams.

Had JUICE bid the slam in notrump it still would not have been enough (only 2 imps) to overcome the Women's 7-imp lead. Congratulations to the China LongZhu National Women, who advanced to the semifinal round to meet the winner of the Oz-Japan Seniors match.

Narita Bus Schedule

From the Intercontinental
(120 minutes)
¥3,500

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

From the YCAT
(90 min)
¥3,500

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

NEC Semi-finals (1st half): The Netherlands vs Japan Open

by Barry Rigal

The match started with the Japanese demonstrating both their aggression and unusual methods, and they both worked like a charm.

Bd: 1 North
 Dir: North ♠ 87643
 Vul: None ♥ AQ95
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ 103

West
 ♠ KQ1052
 ♥ K10
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AQ876

East
 ♠ AJ9
 ♥ 64
 ♦ J10872
 ♣ KJ4

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ J8732
 ♦ A9653
 ♣ 952

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama v. Prooijen</i>		<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

(1) Drury

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥(NF)
3♣	3♥	3♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

4♠ by West was a fine spot—until trumps were five-zero and the heart honors offside. Diamond leads set the game easily enough. But the bad lie of the cards was music to the ears of the Japanese pair in the Closed Room, where Furuta's light opener coupled with the non-forcing 2♥ response really put the cat among the pigeons.

We've all been in worse contracts than 5♣ but the defenders led a top diamond, and Chen's ♦9 bashed North over the head to shift to a spade. Three ruffs and two heart tricks later that was a cool 800. Japan led 12-0.

Oz Players also started well, stealing the hand in both rooms (after 1♠-1NT; 2♦-3♥ by N/S [2♦ being a transfer] and 1♠-2♦; 4♠ by E/W). Wenfei's trump lead gave declarer no problems in 4♠ and that was 11 imps for Oz.

Japan added an overtrick imp which should have been two when a more informative auction tipped Teramoto off to the best lead against a dull game.

Then more of the same.

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ A104
 Vul: E/W ♥ J
 ♦ 1065
 ♣ AKQJ43

West
 ♠ KQ865
 ♥ Q85
 ♦ 9843
 ♣ 5

East
 ♠ J73
 ♥ K109762
 ♦ A
 ♣ 876

South
 ♠ 92
 ♥ A43
 ♦ KQJ72
 ♣ 1092

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama v. Prooijen</i>		<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣(STR)	Dbl(♥)	1♥(1)
2♥	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(1) An ace and a king or three kings

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Facing a light opener Furuta set up a game-force and showed good clubs. He was too good to bid 3NT over 3♥ and now, when he found club support, he could cue-bid in hearts and deny a diamond control. I'm not sure what South would have done with ♦AKQ and ♥K; with bad trumps driving to slam looks like too much, but all you DI-4NT bidders would be happy to do that, perhaps.

Anyway, no matter whether N/S would have bid slam had it been good, it was very clear that they did better than the pair in the other room. I blame van Prooijen for bidding 3♥ and not 3♠ at his third turn: that might have saved the day since Verhees might

have bid 4♣ now. But when you are asked if you have a heart stop you can hardly deny one, can you? 3NT down two on a heart lead meant Japan in the lead 24-0.

When Fuewirth opened 1♦ and rebid the suit Del'Monte blasted 6♦ (N/S), down immediately on a spade lead. In the other room an alerting issue gave China an adjusted score that converted to a 5-imp gain here.

Both tables dealt sensibly with a deal where they had 12 top tricks and needed to find a queen to make seven. (The Dutch used relays, the Japanese used a series of point-count driven leaps.) The Dutch scored an overtrick imp to be on the board at 24-1, while China scored 2 imps for selecting notrump over diamonds.

The strong club again exposed itself to additional preemption on the next deal.

Bd: 5	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 63		
Vul: N/S	♥ AKQ1092		
	♦ ---		
	♣ KQ1083		
		East	
West		♠ A752	
♠ J108		♥ 7	
♥ J8		♦ Q109762	
♦ AJ54		♣ 65	
♣ AJ94			
	South		
	♠ KQ94		
	♥ 6543		
	♦ K83		
	♣ 72		

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama v.Prooijen</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	
	1♣	2♦	Dbl
4♦	4♥	5♦	5♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Chen</i>
	1♥	Pass	3♦(1)
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
(1) 6-9 four-card raise			

Verhees guessed well to bid on to 5♥ despite his defensive hand. No swing but a moral victory for the Japanese team—and for Oz, who also pushed their opponents to 5♥ after attempting to sacrifice in 5♦.

The Japanese found another spectacular result here

in a competitive auction when they resisted the temptation to play a four-four fit—and with good reason as the cards lay.

Bd: 6	North		
Dlr: East	♠ AQ964		
Vul: E/W	♥ A762		
	♦ QJ3		
	♣ 7		
		West	East
		♠ 87	♠ J52
		♥ QJ853	♥ ---
		♦ 64	♦ A109752
		♣ KQ42	♣ J1093
			South
			♠ K103
			♥ K1094
			♦ K8
			♣ A865

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama v.Prooijen</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	
		Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣(R)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		2♣(♦)	Pass
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♦
Dbl(1)	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
(1) Don't lead diamonds			

Looking at the South cards I guess I would have raised 3♥ to 4♥; that's why I get to do the writing and they get to do the playing. Whether or not 4♣ was a cue-bid for hearts, Furuta was more than happy to play 4♠ and duly collected 10 tricks. No swing, though, when the Aussie relay auction saw North bid spades and South, having shown a balanced minimum, raise spades. The heart fit was never mentioned. Both pairs in China-Oz avoided disaster but since the Chinese women played 3NT maybe they were also a little lucky here.

Next both E/W pairs were weighed in the balance and found wanting, in equally disappointing fashion.



Waiting for Kurakawa

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ J93
 Vul: E/W ♥ 1054
 ♦ Q964
 ♣ 952

West
 ♠ AK104
 ♥ K62
 ♦ ---
 ♣ KJ7643

East
 ♠ Q52
 ♥ Q87
 ♦ A10752
 ♣ AQ

South
 ♠ 876
 ♥ AJ93
 ♦ KJ83
 ♣ 108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama v. Prooijen</i>		<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The editors differ sharply about what is or is not a good heart holding with which to bid 3NT as East, in the abstract (see below*), but both are firmly agreed that they dislike East's bidding in the Closed Room and positively loathe East's bidding in the Open Room. (Don't hold back now, tell us what you really think.) At his final turn Teramoto knew that his partner was looking for slam when he could not hold more than a 14-count and had denied a suitable hand (what pray could be more suitable than this hand, even if partner did not hold a first round heart control?). I refuse to accept that a hand exists where West won't have a second round heart control here.

Netherlands scored two overtrick imps and trailed 25-3.

*BJR has much more sympathy with Bakkeren's actions; RC believes that West should not bypass a four-card spade suit unless he has a really strong or very skewed hand.

Meanwhile, while Mullamphy-Klinger were duplicating the unsuccessful Dutch auction Hongli-Sun hit the jackpot with a 14-16 notrump: 1NT-2NT; 3♣-3♠; 4♣-4♦; 5♣-6♣. The key here was Hongli's club raise,

after which Sun (never an easy person to hold back) must have been looking for the grand slam.

Both tables then accurately bid to a vulnerable 4♥ that was approximately on a finesse, and found it working. The Chinese moved further into the lead in their match when Del'Monte-Fruewirth maneuvered themselves into the wrong strain and at the wrong level playing two notrump with a spade stop of J108 facing 92. It was 32-13 now for China.

Then both tables opened a 14-count a strong notrump and in chicken fashion rejected a game-try. They were right to do so in the abstract, but both ended up making overtricks, +150 on a fortunate lie of the cards; 1 imp for The Netherlands, trailing 25-4.

Bd: 12 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q
 Vul: N/S ♥ AQ108
 ♦ A8
 ♣ J87532

West
 ♠ AKJ10
 ♥ KJ42
 ♦ 976
 ♣ KQ

East
 ♠ 97632
 ♥ 97
 ♦ K52
 ♣ 1096

South
 ♠ 854
 ♥ 653
 ♦ QJ1043
 ♣ A4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama v. Prooijen</i>		<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1NT	Dbl(1)	2♥(♠)	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

(1) Long minor + major

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Chen</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

For the first time in living memory Furuta under-competed, but there again he did not have a way to show his hand while van Prooijen could get his hand off his chest precisely.

In the Closed Room West knew that there were hearts on his left. Was that enough reason just to bid 2♠? He thought not; aggression had served his team well thus far. Declarer won the second club and drew trumps, then led a diamond. North ducked but so did West, allowing South to win and shift to a heart, for a quiet one down. Had Takayama hopped up with the ♦K and excited in diamonds, North would have

got out with a club, and again when in with a heart, so the defense was safe enough.

Even 2♠ was in some jeopardy as Hongli discovered, from the East seat. Two rounds of diamonds saw her win and finesse in hearts. Del'Monte won and cashed his other heart trick, then shifted to a club. Fruewirth won and cashed his diamond, and a fourth diamond gave Hongli a problem that she did not solve. To be fair, ruffing with the ♠K and dropping the singleton queen does not look like the right play, but it was necessary as the cards lay. It was 32-18 now, China.

We all know that the only contract that a side wants to attempt in both rooms is 1NT, and the worst vulnerability to try the experiment at is Both Vulnerable, but The Netherlands tried to disprove the rule here.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ 3
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ9
 ♦ Q109
 ♣ J87652

West
 ♠ 942
 ♥ 1084
 ♦ KJ875
 ♣ KQ

East
 ♠ AK105
 ♥ J653
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A943

South
 ♠ QJ876
 ♥ K72
 ♦ A632
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama v. Prooijen</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	

Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
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All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Chen</i>
		1♣*	1♠
2♣(♦)	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Against 2♦ Bakkeren won the spade lead in hand and guessed to lead a diamond to the king and another diamond. He managed to escape losing three hearts and four trump tricks when the defenders eventually singled in their remaining diamonds. Not bad.

Against Verhees' 2♦ the defenders led a top club, shifted to hearts, and then played a diamond through when in with the ♠A. Verhees played to make and ducked, but a second trump back doomed him. It

was 32-8 to Japan Open now.

Fruewirth was allowed to make 2♦ here as South but Wenfei played 1NT and found that considerably easier to bring home. A further partscore swing to China on the next deal made it 37-18.

Bd: 15 North
 Dir: South ♠ K87
 Vul: N/S ♥ J874
 ♦ 7543
 ♣ J8

West
 ♠ 93
 ♥ AK65
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ K7542

East
 ♠ J104
 ♥ Q1093
 ♦ AQ92
 ♣ 109

South
 ♠ AQ652
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ AQ63

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama v. Prooijen</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	
Pass	2♦(R)	Pass	2♣(1)
All Pass			2♠

(1) Clubs or 5+♠, 4+♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Bakkeren</i>	<i>Chen</i>
			1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

4♥ is touch and go, but Chen gave the defenders a chance by leading three rounds of spades. Declarer ruffed, tested trumps by cashing the ♥AK to find the bad news, then essentially gave up by taking the ♦KJ and finessing in trumps to lose the last two tricks to South's ♣A and long trump. It was relatively easy to make the game if declarer was prepared to overtake the second diamond, playing for the ten to fall, cashing out the diamonds, and leading a club up. If South won to lead a fourth spade, declarer would ruff in dummy and be ready for the trump coup at trick 12 if North refused to overruff.

2♠ also had chances. West refused to lead a top heart (answers on the back of a postcard to Dr. Freud please) and the defenders led four rounds of diamonds, on which Verhees pitched his heart to avoid the trump promotion. He ruffed the heart and now had to locate the ♣K. He guessed wrong by crossing to a top trump to finesse in clubs, and the overruff on the third club play was the setting trick. 4 imps and 36-8 for Japan.

In China-Oz both tables played 4♥. Fruewirth led a low spade to his partner's king, won the ♠Q and then shifted to a diamond. Charmed, Hongli cashed two diamonds and two hearts, finessed in hearts, and cashed the remaining diamonds. She could lead a club up now and achieve the winning ending. Liu found the better defense of a third spade and Mullamphy also failed to make the right declarer play. It was 10 imps and 47-18 now for China.

One more deal to come, and it was a doozy.

Bd: 16 North
 Dlr: West ♠ AK643
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q106
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ Q92

West
 ♠ QJ109
 ♥ 9852
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ 1076

East
 ♠ 52
 ♥ AJ3
 ♦ 108762
 ♣ AJ4

South
 ♠ 87
 ♥ K74
 ♦ K954
 ♣ K853

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama</i>	<i>v. Prooijen</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

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

After a diamond lead into the tenace the play went in almost identical fashion. Both tables ducked a spade, covered the ♥9 return with dummy's ten, and took the ♥J in dummy with the king. Then they unblocked diamonds and set up the spades, producing this ending as the fourth (losing) spade was led.

♠ 43
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ ---
 ♣ Q92

West
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 852
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 1076

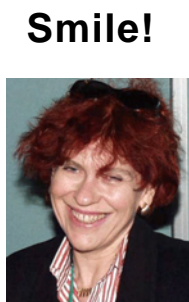
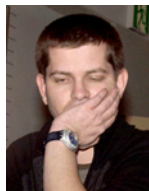
East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ A3
 ♦ 108
 ♣ AJ4

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ 74
 ♦ K9
 ♣ K85

Both declarers saw East throw a club and pitched a heart from dummy, but both gave the defenders a chance by pitching the ♥4 and not the seven. Why would that matter? Well, both West's inferred from this that declarer had the ♥6. Both led a low heart, and both East's complimented their partner's defense, *by letting the ♥7 hold!*

Beautiful, isn't it? If declarer cashes the ♦K he sets up the ♦10; if he plays a low club East takes the ♣Q with the ace and locks the lead in dummy; and if declarer plays the ♣K from the board he never scores the ♦K. No swing; 36-8 Japan at the break.

In our other match the Chinese declared 3NT from the South seat on a spade lead, ducked. A low heart shift went to the jack and king, which looks a fine start for declarer. But now declarer played a club to the queen and ace and the defense cleared hearts. West had a fourth heart ready to cash when he got in with the fourth spade and declarer actually went two down in a desperate attempt to make. Since Del'Monte had found the key unblock of the ♥7 in the ending shown above (the only difference being that he had not cashed the ♦J) he managed to bring home his game, and simultaneously earn himself a tip of the cap from a respectful pair of editors. It was 29-49 at the break.



Smile!

NEC Semi-finals (2nd half): China Women vs Oz Players

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 17
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ AQ3
♥ 532
♦ 107653
♣ K2

West
♠ KJ7
♥ QJ974
♦ K2
♣ 1098

East
♠ 109652
♥ K
♦ Q9
♣ AQJ75

South
♠ 84
♥ A1086
♦ AJ84
♣ 643

Bd: 19
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ AK75
♥ AQ4
♦ A103
♣ 965

West
♠ Q4
♥ 873
♦ K97642
♣ 73

South
♠ J10982
♥ K952
♦ QJ
♣ KJ

East
♠ 63
♥ J106
♦ 85
♣ AQ10842

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Rdbl	2NT	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♥(1)	Pass	3♠	All Pass
(1) LR with 3♠			

Both tables reached the three level with eight trumps and little game interest, but it would have been unlucky to go down. While the spades lay badly, the location of the ♣K saw both sides collect 140. Still 47-29 to China.

In Japan Open-The Netherlands both tables reached 3♠ as well. But here on a blind auction Verhees led a club. Van Prooijen took the first spade to play another club and the defenders could not be prevented from getting a club ruff to set the partscore. 13-36 in favor of Japan now.

On the next board both sides bid 3NT with 15 facing 10, as would we all. Alas, with mirrored doubletons (♣Qx facing ♣AJ) the only issue was whether there was a way to avoid going two down. There wasn't against competent defense; no swing.

Curiously, Japan played 3NT down three while The Netherlands escaped for down one. 3 more imps for The Netherlands who were down by 20.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		Pass	Pass(!)
Pass	1♣(str)	Dbl	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

To be able to reach a slam with the North cards facing a known hyper-aggressive opener fills me with admiration, until you see just how terrible the slam is. Admittedly, the ♣K is likely to be working, but how Sun did not sign off at every single turn after hearing her partner respond a spade (and thus in practice being limited to 10 HCP) is beyond me. All Sun would need to do is to point to the 11 imps in the in-column, but I'm not convinced that is a valid riposte today. Hongli, of course, was entitled to bid as much as she did precisely because as a passed hand she could not be better.

By contrast, the disciplined auction in the other room after South did open is worth noting. Klinger issued a strong slam try and when Mullamphy signed off he passed 4♠.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ K10976
 Vul: Both ♥ 53
 ♦ K963
 ♣ 65

West
 ♠ A3
 ♥ AK1074
 ♦ Q1074
 ♣ Q10

East
 ♠ Q854
 ♥ Q62
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K9742

South
 ♠ J2
 ♥ J98
 ♦ AJ82
 ♣ AJ83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠ (R)	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The opening 1NT bid is just such a disgusting and distorted affair I wont comment any further on it other than to say that both tables found it. Del'Monte recovered to get his partner to 4♥, and Wenfei's low club lead went around to the ten, Fruewirth returned the ♣Q as Liu accurately won and shifted to spades. Fruewirth won and played the ♦10 out of his hand, and the defenders won this in North, cashed the ♠K, but played a second diamond, the winning defense being a trump. This was the position after declarer ruffed.

	North		East
	♠ 1097		♠ Q8
	♥ 53		♥ Q6
	♦ 96		♦ ---
	♣ ---		♣ K97
West		South	
♠ ---		♠ ---	
♥ AK1074		♥ J98	
♦ Q7		♦ AJ	
♣ ---		♣ J8	

To make the hand declarer must ruff a small spade to hand (if South ruffs in, declarer overruffs and draws trump ending on the board with a spade and

club winner left for his diamonds). But what is South to discard? A diamond lets that suit ruff out and a club lets declarer crossruff. Fruewirth led the ♠Q instead and now Liu ruffed in on this trick and again at her next turn when declarer led the losing spade from the board. Fruewirth ruffed his last diamond in dummy but had only clubs left there, with ♥A74 left in his hand, and North's mighty ♥5 was promoted to the setting trick.

Since 1NT had made 120, the Chinese Women's lead was now 64-29.

Both tables in Japan Open-The Netherlands played 4♥. Ino led a heart and that made life easy enough (Bertens set up clubs and could take two spades, five hearts, a diamond ruff and two clubs since the same hand was short in hearts and clubs). Van Prooijen led a club, ducked to West for a club back. Now the defenders played on spades and declarer won the second and gave up a diamond. The difference from Fruewirth's position was that Verhees as South won the diamond to lead a third club. Declarer ruffed with the ♥10, and when that held he could draw trumps ending in dummy and cash out the clubs. No swing; still 36-16 for Japan.

Time was running out, and a dull game making 420 was not what the Antipodeans wanted.

Then.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ K73
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q82
 ♦ 9
 ♣ K109843

West	East
♠ 104	♠ J95
♥ 106	♥ AKJ543
♦ KQ10754	♦ 86
♣ 652	♣ AJ

South
 ♠ AQ862
 ♥ 97
 ♦ AJ32
 ♣ Q7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		1♥	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♥	All Pass

Both defenders cashed a top spade and shifted to a trump. Both declarers won cheaply in hand and led a diamond up. Both Souths won and took the diamond ruff and then a second trump left declarer -200. No swing, still 64-29.

In Japan Open-The Netherlands both N/S pairs bid to 3♠, the Dutch under their own steam, the Japanese competing over 3♥ on an auction where Bertens as West had shown a weak hand with diamonds. An undertrick gave Japan their first imps of the set; they were up 22 now.

An even duller game produced matching 620s and then matching 400s. Still a lead of 35 imps for the Chinese Women. With time running out for both trailing teams, this fun deal appeared.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q732
 Vul: E/W ♥ A8743
 ♦ 3
 ♣ 765

West
 ♠ AK105
 ♥ K
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ AKJ1082

East
 ♠ J96
 ♥ 106
 ♦ K98765
 ♣ 43

South
 ♠ 84
 ♥ QJ952
 ♦ Q1042
 ♣ Q9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Did anyone do anything egregious in the Closed Room? I don't think so, but the final contract was surely silly. While 5♣ played like a dream, 5♦ wandered down a trick when trumps refused to behave. I wish I could find it in my heart to cast the first stone but when trailing by 20+ imps, doubling as opposed to bidding 5♣ at your second turn gives you good chances of generating a swing. And how often does partner bid 5♦ when it is wrong?

The Dutch picked up an odd swing here when the

canape nature of their system meant that van Prooijen as North bid only 3♥—not 4♥—on the standard auction. Chen balanced with only 4♣ now, and Furuta passed it out for +150. Meanwhile, Bertens-Bakkeren bid unopposed to 5♣. The margin was down to 27-38.

Bd: 26 North
 Dir: East ♠ QJ8
 Vul: Both ♥ QJ108
 ♦ J72
 ♣ 843

West
 ♠ 732
 ♥ A7632
 ♦ AQ9
 ♣ 109

East
 ♠ K10654
 ♥ 54
 ♦ 84
 ♣ QJ76

South
 ♠ A9
 ♥ K9
 ♦ K10653
 ♣ AK52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♥	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		Pass	1♣(STR)
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This one simply comes down to the lead. Fruewirth led the ♠7, Hongli led her partner's suit. You can admire East for her discipline, West for his imagination. But while a spade lead would set the contract almost at once, even after a heart lead declarer is not by any means home. Klinger was allowed to score the ♥K at trick one and did well when he led a low diamond from the board. West won her ♦Q and tried a spade, queen, king, duck. Back came a spade and now declarer cleared hearts, and Sun played a third spade, with Klinger's ♠J his entry to the hearts.

The Australians would cherish those 12 imps as their first score of the set.

And The Netherlands closed to within just 1 imp when Verhees could open a strong club and get to 3NT on an unopposed auction while Imakura opened a strong notrump (in my opinion it is closer to a 2NT opening) and played there. Both tables led hearts and both declarers went after diamonds. The

defense did not find the spade shift so that was 10 more imps to The Netherlands, down 37-38.

Bd: 27 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 9
 Vul: None ♥ AQ7
 ♦ AKJ752
 ♣ 1054

West
 ♠ A1074
 ♥ J9
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AKQJ83

East
 ♠ J3
 ♥ K86532
 ♦ 963
 ♣ 72

South
 ♠ KQ8652
 ♥ 104
 ♦ Q108
 ♣ 96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>

3♣ All Pass

(1) Multi

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>

3♣ 3♦ Pass Pass
 3♠ Pass 4♣ All Pass

(1) Multi

Sun appears to have taken her eye off the ball in 3♣ (my guess would be that she thought 2♦ was natural, not weak in a major) since at one point she led a low spade from her hand and then cashed the ♠A. She ended up losing a diamond, a heart and four tricks in spades. Fruewirth played 4♣ rather better but could not avoid losing two spades and two tricks in the red-suits. China would settle for losing 2 imps a board from now on.

An overtrick imp for Japan doubled their lead; the Dutch made 3♣ in one room, but after Chen overcalled a weak 2♠ with 2NT the Japanese played 3♥ making in the other room.

When China extracted 2 points from an undertrick on the next deal (a game reached by both tables, down with trumps three-zero offside) it was getting desperate for the Jackaroos. But Japan opened up a sizeable lead again, thanks to some inaccurate competition from the Dutch.



Bd: 28 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q64
 Vul: N/S ♥ J654
 ♦ 543
 ♣ KQ10

West
 ♠ AK732
 ♥ AK1083
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 76

East
 ♠ J10985
 ♥ 9
 ♦ J1082
 ♣ 852

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q72
 ♦ AK976
 ♣ AJ943

Bertens as West opened 1♠, heard his partner bid a preemptive 3♠, and heard 4NT on his right. He doubled, but when 5♣ came back to him in balancing seat he guessed to save in 5♠. That cost him 300 when he had 500 available on defense. Terence Reese would be muttering something about "the five level belonging to the opponents..." Meanwhile, in the other room Chen heard the auction start in exactly the same way. He heard 5♣ on his right so he made a forcing pass...and is still waiting for more action. That got Japan 11 imps but it might have cost them 7 imps. They led by 13 now.

Bd: 29 North
 Dlr: North ♠ K5
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ72
 ♦ KJ75
 ♣ KQ4

West
 ♠ A62
 ♥ Q983
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ 10752

East
 ♠ 109874
 ♥ 105
 ♦ A1042
 ♣ J6

South
 ♠ QJ3
 ♥ A64
 ♦ 986
 ♣ A983

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>

1NT Pass 3NT

All Pass
 Hongli led a top spade to the queen and ace. Back came a spade, won in hand. Klinger cashed three clubs and for some reason Hongli pitched a spade. That made declarer's task easy; he set up diamonds and lost just two diamonds and two spades, taking two tricks in each suit, and three clubs.

It was in a sense fortunate for the Chinese in the other room that they should duplicate carding accidents. When Wenfei received the same initial defense she cashed two clubs and took the ♠A, then tackled diamonds by leading the nine. When West played the queen she followed with the jack instead of the king. That meant three down instead of one down and 14 imps to Australia, down 58-78. Still time?

Both Easts led the ♠10, covered by the jack, and both Wests ducked (a play I don't understand). For Japan Ino went after diamonds, running the nine to Bakkeren...who shifted to hearts. Declarer now collected +630. Van Prooijen, for The Netherlands, played a heart to the jack, a heart to the ace, and the ♦9 to the king, which held. Declarer gave up a spade and claimed nine tricks and must have been disappointed to end up conceding an imp. Japan led by 51-37.

Bd: 30 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 963
 Vul: None ♡ Q75
 ♦ 8543
 ♣ 842

West
 ♠ KQ108
 ♡ K3
 ♦ AKQ976
 ♣ J

East
 ♠ A75
 ♡ 862
 ♦ 102
 ♣ K10763

South
 ♠ J42
 ♡ AJ1094
 ♦ J
 ♣ AQ95

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		Pass	1♥
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>
		Pass	1♥
Dbl	2♥	3♣	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

The best thing about 5♦ is that it is laydown, but with a club and a heart to lose in top tricks you need diamonds to split and the ♠J to behave. No problem today, though perhaps Del'Monte passed 3♦ because he was looking for a swing rather than because he really thought 5♦ was going down. Both tables led a heart, so declarer was able to draw trumps and set up a club-spade squeeze if they needed one; but they

didn't. That 9 imps gave China an 87-58 lead.

Both tables played game in The Netherlands-Japan Open, the Japanese selecting 4♠—not such a terrible spot and cold as the cards lie—for 2 imps. 16 up and two boards to go.

Bd: 31 North
 Dlr: South ♠ A
 Vul: N/S ♡ K93
 ♦ AKJ32
 ♣ Q873

West
 ♠ K3
 ♡ J72
 ♦ Q87654
 ♣ 54

East
 ♠ QJ865
 ♡ AQ65
 ♦ 9
 ♣ AK10

South
 ♠ 109742
 ♡ 1084
 ♦ 10
 ♣ J962

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	1NT	2♣(♥+♠)	Pass
2♦(R)	Dbl	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fruewirth</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♣(str)	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	2♥	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Against 2♠ Mullamphy led a diamond and overruffed Hongli, but then exited with a trump. Klinger played a low diamond and East pitched a club, and now the defenders could get a trump and a heart but no more. In the other room, after the same first three tricks Wenfei led a club, and now the defenders scored a club trick and still got their natural trump trick; down one, 4 imps to China, leading 91-58. That was the final score of the match.

The Japanese sealed their win on this deal when Chen played 2♥ as West after his partner had shown the majors. The defenders led a top diamond and shifted to clubs and ended up taking a diamond, a spade, two ruffs in North and an overruff in South, But declarer was able to ruff the third diamond with the ♥Q and cash the ♥A to drop the king, for 110. In the other room Bakkeren took a flier at 4♥ when Bertens responded in that suit to a double of 1♦, and that was -150 after some uninspired views. Japan had come back to score imps on five successive deals after the match was brought back to level terms. They ended up losing the set 23-30 but winning overall by 21 imps. It would be Japan Open-China Women in the finals.

14th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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	F203-206
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

