



# NEC Bridge Festival

Wednesday, February 10, 2010  
Bulletin Number 2

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## Oz Players and The Netherlands Tied for the Lead After Day One of the 2010 NEC Cup

At the end of Day 1, after four hotly contested matches, Oz Players (Ron Klinger, Ishmael Del'Monte, Ashley Bach, Matt Mullamphy) and The Netherlands (Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen, Bob Drijver, Merijn Groenenboom) are deadlocked atop the standing with four wins and 85 VPs each. In third place, just 2 VPs back with 83, is South Sweden (Alon Apteker, Craig Gower, Frederic Wrang, Johan Sylvan) while in fourth place, another 4 VPs back with 79, is Zimmermann (Pierre Zimmermann, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski, Franck Multon). Team Lavazza (Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Agustin Madala, Giorgio Duboin, Antonio Sementa, Guido Ferraro; Massimo Ortensi, Coach), with 78, is just 1 VP behind them in fifth place while SARA, WORLD YOUTH and YAMADA round out the top eight. The few surprises at the end of Day One are JAPAN WOMEN and China Women with 51 and 52 VPs, respectively, and Bulgarian All Stars and JAPAN OPEN w/o T with 59 and 65 VPs, respectively. The complete Day One rankings are shown below; while individual match results for the first four matches may be found on page 5.

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

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1/2	Oz Players	85	16/18	CANUKUSA	65	33	China Women	52
1/2	The Netherlands	85	16/18	JAPAN OPEN w/o T	65	34/35	ESPERANZA	51
3	South Sweden	83	19	Beauty	64	34/35	JAPAN WOMEN	51
4	Zimmermann	79	20	Attack No. 1	63	36/38	CAMPANULA	50
5	Lavazza	78	21	GIBS	62	36/38	JAPAN YOUTH	50
6	SARA	74	22/23	AQUA	60	36/38	KAWABATA	50
7	WORLD YOUTH	72	22/23	NANIWADA	60	39	Guriguri	49
8	YAMADA	71	24	Bulgarian All Stars	59	40	KinKi	48
9/11	Kendrick	70	25	Iza Yokohama	57	41/42	BANNO	47
9/11	Oz Two	70	26	Friends	56	41/42	Korea CACTI	47
9/11	China Evertrust	70	27/28	SAKURAI	55	43	NXST	46
12/14	Hong Kong	67	27/28	TSUNAMI	55	44/45	KATSUMATA	42
12/14	The Latin	67	29/32	Venus	54	44/45	Dolphin	42
12/14	England Ladies	67	29/32	MAKITA	54	46	Rosewood	41
15	Kitty's	66	29/32	Yukinata	54	47	LAS FLORES	39
16/18	TANAKA	65	29/32	WHITE DREAMS	54	48	MY-Bridge	30

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Match will feature South Sweden vs Zimmermann

# NEC Cup 2010: 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. However, pairs may prepare written defenses against a two-level opening bid in a minor that shows a weak two-bid in either major, with or without the option of strong hand types. These defenses are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention cards.

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

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

**Security:** No player may leave the Annex Hall during play without permission, due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online Broadcast.

**Smoking:** Once play in a qualifying-round match or a KO-round session starts, smoking is prohibited at ALL times (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom), until the player completes the play of all boards in the match or session. Penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director.

**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 Director). In case of dispute the call from the wrong side will be ignored, but in situations where the wrong side calls or a late call is made and there is no dispute the Director may accept the faulty call.

**Electronic Equipment:** Any and all electronic equipment capable of receiving or transmitting information to/from outside the playing room (e.g., cell phones, personal computers) must be turned off at all times from the beginning of a match/session until the player has completed all boards in the match/session and left the playing area. The Director may authorize exceptions in emergency situations. Violations will be penalized by the Director.

**Photography/BBO VuGraph:** By entering the event, players agree to authorize still and/or video photography by the JCBL and also to appear on BBO VuGraph whenever requested by the Director.

## Team Rosters: 15<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	<b>China Women:</b>	Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Wang Wenfei, Liu Yiqian, Feng Xuefeng, Gan Ling; Wang Jianxin (NPC), Ju Chuancheng (Coach)
2	<b>Lavazza:</b>	Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Agustín Madala, Giorgio Duboin, Antonio Sementa, Guido Ferraro; Massimo Ortensi (Coach)
3	<b>Zimmermann:</b>	Pierre Zimmermann, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski, Franck Multon
4	<b>The Netherlands:</b>	Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen, Bob Drijver, Merijn Groenenboom
5	<b>Oz Players:</b>	Ron Klinger, Ishmael Del'Monte, Ashley Bach, Matt Mullanphy
6	<b>CANUKUSA:</b>	John Carruthers, David Bakhshi, David Gold, Howard Weinstein
7	<b>The Latin:</b>	Frankie Frontaura, Carlos Pellegrini, Federico Goded, Gonzalo Goded
8	<b>Bulgarian All Stars:</b>	Valio Kovachev, Vladi Isporski, Manol Iliev, Stefan Stefanov
9	<b>England Ladies:</b>	Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown, Susan Stockdale
10	<b>Kendrick:</b>	David Kendrick, Brian Senior, Jonathan Cooke, Martin Garvey
11	<b>Oz Two:</b>	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Peter Gill, Paul Gosney
12	<b>South Sweden:</b>	Alon Apteker, Craig Gower, Frederic Wrang, Johan Sylvan
13	<b>China Evertrust:</b>	Lin Rongqiang, Jiang Tong, Shi Zhengjun, Li Jie, Hou Xu, Liu Jing
14	<b>Korea CACTI:</b>	Sung Kyunghae, Hwang Iynryung, Park Jungyoon, Yang Sungae
15	<b>Hong Kong:</b>	Jun Cheng, CC Wong, Irene Ho, Fu Cheung
16	<b>JAPAN OPEN w/o T:</b>	Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Hiroshi Kaku, Makoto Kono, Hiroki Yokoi
17	<b>JAPAN WOMEN:</b>	Ayako Miyakuni, Yuki Fukuyoshi, Hiroko Kobayashi, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Hisako Kondo, Masako Katsube
18	<b>YAMADA:</b>	Kyoko Ohno, Akihiko Yamada, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Makoto Hirata, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takahiko Hirata
19	<b>TSUNAMI:</b>	Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Hiroya Abe, Chieko Yamazaki, Tadashi Imakura, Shunsuke Morimura
20	<b>SARA:</b>	Tadashi Teramoto, Fu Zhong, Kumiko Sasahira, Minoru Mizuta, Yasushi Kobayashi, Shugo Tanaka
21	<b>ESPERANZA:</b>	Haruko Koshi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Misuzu Ichihashi, Michiko Iwahashi
22	<b>Kitty's:</b>	Yoko Nenohi, Hiroko Sekiyama, Kyoko Toyofuku, Kumiko Matsuo, Toshiko Kaho, Makiko Sato
23	<b>Beauty:</b>	Kyoko Shimamura, Phoebe Lin, Nie Weiping, Sei Nagasaka, Yuichi Masamura
24	<b>GIBS:</b>	Yasuhiro Shimizu, Takashi Maeda, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Hiroyuki Noda, Takeshi Hanayama, Katsumi Takahashi
25	<b>TANAKA:</b>	Ryoga Tanaka, Sakiko Naito, Yukiko Tokunaga, Kenji Miyakuni, Keisuke Akama
26	<b>CAMPANULA:</b>	Hiroko Ota, Michiko Ono, Yayoi Sakamoto, Shimako Yaji, Haruyo Iiyama, Sumie Nakagawa
27	<b>MAKITA:</b>	Taeko Kawamura, Sachiko Yamamura, Keiko Matsuzaki, Kimi Makita, Michiko Ono, Toyoko Saito
28	<b>Venus:</b>	Chieko Ichikawa, Kuniko Saito, Yoshiko Murata, Atsuko Kurita, Junko Den
29	<b>Rosewood:</b>	Yoko Fukuyama, Takashi Sumita, Hiromu Nishida, Yoshie Nishida
30	<b>KAWABATA:</b>	Akiko Kawabata, Misako Fukazawa, Teruo Miyazaki, Kunio Kodaira, Makoto Nomura, Akiko Miwa
31	<b>BANNO:</b>	Hideko Takeuchi, Hideko Kobayashi, Tomiko Nakai, Yoko Tokushige
32	<b>NXST:</b>	Kei Nemoto, Kazuo Saeki, Yoshinori Kurachi, Kazuhisa Kojima, Kazuo Takano, Yumiko Oda
33	<b>Iza Yokohama:</b>	Osami Kimura, Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Chisato Kiriya, Miho Sekizawa, Megumi Takasaki, Hidenori Narita
34	<b>LAS FLORES:</b>	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Ryo Matsubara, Mark LaForge
35	<b>AQUA:</b>	Shoko Somemiya, Tomoko Sakai, Akiko Miyata, Miyako Miyazaki, Kazuko Okamoto
36	<b>SAKURAI:</b>	Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Motoharu Ushio
37	<b>KATSUMATA:</b>	Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Kimiko Kamakari, Misae Kato, Noriko Takami, Reiko Hoshika
38	<b>Yukinata:</b>	Yukiko Umezu, Megumi Takasaka, Yukiko Hoshi, Etsuko Naito
39	<b>WHITE DREAMS:</b>	Yumi Yanagida, Kenichi Ito, Shintaro Sentsui, Hiroko Sentsui
40	<b>Attack No. 1:</b>	Sumiko Sugino, Kazuko Takahashi, Yumiko Kawakami, Masayuki Hayasaka, Hideto Yamaguchi
41	<b>NANIWADA:</b>	Masaru Naniwada, Hisami Kataoka, Toshiro Nose, Hikoe Enomoto, Hideo Togawa, Mitsuyo Naniwada
42	<b>Friends:</b>	Yoko Saito, Mamiko Odaira, Kinzaburo Nishino, Koichi Onishi, Yumiko Kichise, Keiko Yoshino
43	<b>KinKi:</b>	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka
44	<b>WORLD YOUTH:</b>	Hiroaki Miura, Noriaki Koike, Michal Kopecky, Milan Macura, Shunsuke Gotoda
45	<b>MY-Bridge:</b>	Masafumi Yoshizawa, Yoshitaka Agata, Iwao Oishi, Masahide Yamashita, Noriko Yoshizawa, Aiko Nabeshima
46	<b>Dolphin:</b>	Michiko Hatoyama, Makiyo Takikawa, Miyoko Yonezawa, Mariko Sakamoto, Kiyoko Oki, Kazuko Harumi
47	<b>Guriguri:</b>	Ayako Matsubara, Midori Sakaguchi, Midori Ito, Takayo Otsuka
48	<b>JAPAN YOUTH:</b>	Kentaro Murai, Daisuke Sugimoto, Masashi Wakai, Tomoyuki Watanuki, Takayuki Kitamura

### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 15<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/game/nec/necfest.html>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

# Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) 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 3<sup>rd</sup>- or 4<sup>th</sup>-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

## Tuesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 1				Match 2				Match 3				Match 4			
	Vs	imps	VP	Tot VP	Vs	imps	VP	Tot VP	Vs	imps	VP	Tot VP	Vs	imps	VP	Tot VP
1	28	58	25	25	2	22	5	30	40	28	16	46	11	15	6	52
2	29	69	25	25	1	64	25	50	12	32	19	69	4	16	9	78
3	37	61	25	25	9	46	18	43	5	19	11	54	39	74	25	79
4	42	30	18	18	48	63	25	43	20	44	21	64	2	40	21	85
5	35	46	22	22	17	45	19	41	3	37	19	60	22	63	25	85
6	43	30	14	14	31	36	19	33	10	40	20	53	44	26	12	65
7	48	22	10	10	42	41	15	25	31	67	25	50	24	26	17	67
8	36	48	16	16	11	12	9	25	26	33	18	43	33	42	16	59
9	32	65	25	25	3	33	12	37	41	46	19	56	20	26	11	67
10	39	28	13	13	18	52	22	35	6	21	10	45	43	64	25	70
11	38	44	16	16	8	36	21	37	16	18	9	46	1	52	24	70
12	34	72	25	25	24	65	24	49	2	14	11	60	16	44	23	83
13	46	39	17	17	15	38	15	32	17	44	16	48	19	47	22	70
14	47	49	21	21	20	13	4	25	33	16	12	37	28	12	10	47
15	30	42	17	17	13	37	15	32	43	25	17	49	41	40	18	67
16	44	38	16	16	26	46	21	37	11	44	21	58	12	10	7	65
17	45	57	22	22	5	28	11	33	13	38	14	47	18	10	4	51
18	33	8	13	13	10	23	8	21	34	55	25	46	17	58	25	71
19	26	20	14	14	36	53	25	39	22	12	8	47	13	18	8	55
20	40	37	21	21	14	58	25	46	4	19	9	55	9	44	19	74
21	41	2	3	3	25	26	14	17	38	13	9	26	45	60	25	51
22	27	58	23	23	41	42	18	41	19	41	22	63	5	11	3	66
23	31	28	15	15	43	31	15	30	24	20	12	42	30	48	22	64
24	25	65	25	25	12	28	6	31	23	31	18	49	7	16	13	62
25	24	7	2	2	21	33	16	18	29	38	22	40	46	90	25	65
26	19	26	16	16	16	20	9	25	8	22	12	37	27	14	13	50
27	22	27	7	7	34	21	14	21	47	23	16	37	26	22	17	54
28	1	14	4	4	37	38	18	22	48	22	12	34	14	32	20	54
29	2	14	2	2	32	33	16	18	25	8	8	26	34	23	15	41
30	15	33	13	13	46	46	15	28	35	17	14	42	23	21	8	50
31	23	29	15	15	6	18	11	26	7	17	3	29	37	39	18	47
32	9	2	1	1	29	28	14	15	37	34	16	31	47	29	15	46
33	18	16	17	17	39	18	8	25	14	29	18	43	8	39	14	57
34	12	29	5	5	27	28	16	21	18	2	3	24	29	25	15	39
35	5	17	8	8	45	31	19	27	30	20	16	43	42	35	17	60
36	8	44	14	14	19	12	5	19	45	35	21	40	38	18	15	55
37	3	16	4	4	28	27	12	16	32	28	14	30	31	26	12	42
38	11	37	14	14	44	32	4	18	21	36	21	39	36	16	15	54
39	10	36	17	17	33	45	22	39	44	22	15	54	3	0	0	54
40	20	13	9	9	47	48	19	28	1	29	14	42	48	38	21	63
41	21	55	25	25	22	29	12	37	9	29	11	48	15	28	12	60
42	4	18	12	12	7	43	15	27	46	37	16	43	35	27	13	56
43	6	35	16	16	23	29	15	31	15	16	13	44	10	16	4	48
44	16	31	14	14	38	76	25	39	39	17	15	54	6	40	18	72
45	17	27	8	8	35	14	11	19	36	12	9	28	21	5	2	30
46	13	31	13	13	30	48	15	28	42	32	14	42	25	14	0	42
47	14	23	9	9	40	33	11	20	27	17	14	34	32	27	15	49
48	7	42	20	20	4	12	3	23	28	36	18	41	40	13	9	50

# Match One: JAPAN WOMEN vs MY-Bridge

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 1  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A10865  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ AK4  
 ♣ A973

West  
 ♠ KQ7  
 ♥ J108743  
 ♦ 982  
 ♣ J

East  
 ♠ J432  
 ♥ K5  
 ♦ Q763  
 ♣ KQ8

South  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ AQ92  
 ♦ J105  
 ♣ 106542

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣

All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tsukamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

The first deal brought us our first swing—what took you so long?—as the ladies played 3♣ and MY-Bridge played 5♣. The club game is more than playable, even with 3-1 clubs, since you can survive just so long as you avoid playing a second round of trumps, letting the opponents draw a third round. When you want to ruff things, don't draw trumps.

In 5♣ Masafumi (we shall use the first names for the two Yoshizawas to distinguish between them) took a heart finesse at trick one; maybe not best but it did not cost. Then he played the ace and a second club; definitely not best and this time it did cost. The defense won and played a third club, leaving declarer a trick short when the diamond finesse failed.

Unlucky, maybe. But the right line of play on a heart lead seems to be to win the ace and start to ruff out spades, ruffing one heart back to hand to observe the fall of the ♥K. This sequence: heart, spade to the ace, spade ruff, heart ruff, ♣A, spade ruff, heart ruff and over-ruff, lets the defenders draw one more trump. But you can establish the long spade, so that you do not need the diamond finesse.

In the other room declarer in 3♣ also played trumps prematurely but with less pressure on her. When the defenders did not play a third trump North was back to 11 tricks. Japan Women led 6-0.

N/S were able to collect significant plus scores in different ways. For example, Bocchi-Madala started out: 1♠-1NT; 2♣ (extras/hearts+clubs)-2♦ (7+HCP). Now when West overcalled 2♥ Bocchi could double for take-out and Madala could pass. The defenders scored four trump tricks and four side-suit winners in aces and kings for +500. In the match between JAPAN OPEN and WORLD YOUTH Ino, North, was about to play 2♣ when Macura balanced with 2♥. Ino doubled that and collected the same 500. Garvey-Cooke bid the E/W cards to 4♥x on an auction they would be only too happy to discuss with you if you ask them; down only 800.

The second deal set an equally challenging problem. (Mind you, at 10:15 am all problems are challenging.)

Bd: 2  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ 432  
 ♥ 9874  
 ♦ 82  
 ♣ J532

West  
 ♠ K  
 ♥ AKQJ  
 ♦ AJ975  
 ♣ A84

East  
 ♠ J108  
 ♥ 532  
 ♦ 63  
 ♣ KQ1076

South  
 ♠ AQ9765  
 ♥ 106  
 ♦ KQ104  
 ♣ 9

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tsukamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	2♠
Dbl	All Pass		

E/W have a straightforward game in notrump or clubs, and despite the 4-1 trump break have some sort of play for 12 tricks. But even getting to game

was too much for both pairs. West in the Open Room doubled, then cue-bid, and finally raised clubs (a very dangerous move since partner might have been forced to invent a club suit in response to the take-out double). Oishi's pass of 4♣ looks like a serious underbid (even the 3♣ bid is arguably too little; a direct jump to 4♣ is one editor's idea of the value bid while the other believes both 3♣ and 3NT superior, since he believes that to double and then cue-bid can be a balanced hand unsuitable for a rebid in notrump). 4♣ made 150 while in the other room the meaning of the double of 2♠ must have evoked some post mortem discussion. In a sense E/W got very lucky. In 2♠x declarer can hold his spade losers to one, but has to lose six tricks one way or another (one club, three diamonds and two hearts). A messy 2Iimps for JAPAN WOMEN, leading 8-0.

The datum here was E/W +270. Quite a few pairs bid successfully to games in notrump, or unsuccessfully to minor-suit partscores, or even to the diamond game. Cooke-Garvey continued their eccentric ways, bidding successfully to 4♥ (on repeated spade leads West can discard a diamond to retain control).

Gonzalo Goded attempted 6♣ as East. On a top diamond lead you need to guess well and find the minor miracle of winning and drawing two rounds of trumps via the finesse. Then you take four rounds of hearts to pitch the diamond loser, then exit with a spade. South cannot prevent you from setting up a spade or a diamond. Federico had chances to make slam but missed his way.

Bd: 3  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: E/W

<p>North</p> <p>♠ J1098</p> <p>♥ 54</p> <p>♦ A543</p> <p>♣ J87</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ 6</p> <p>♥ KJ8763</p> <p>♦ 7</p> <p>♣ K10932</p>
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<p>West</p> <p>♠ 7432</p> <p>♥ A1092</p> <p>♦ Q96</p> <p>♣ Q6</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ AKQ5</p> <p>♥ Q</p> <p>♦ KJ1082</p> <p>♣ A54</p>
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dbl	Pass	2♠	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tsakamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♥
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Thrice blessed is he who gets his blow in first, they say. For MY-Bridge the 2♥ opening got E/W to 4♠ undoubled when Kobayashi took a serious overbid with 4♠—mind you, a raise to 3♠ would surely have seen West bid on to game. Here North led a heart and declarer won and played on diamonds. North took the ♦A at once—rather strange—and played a club to hold declarer to 620. If the defenders duck the first diamond and declarer plays two rounds of trumps North can win the ♦A and play a third trump—but declarer still has 10 tricks. Only an initial club lead by North seems to give the defenders a chance.

By contrast, in the other room Oishi's 2♠ jump-raise after the negative double is surely an underbid. The East hand looks worth a shot at game: how bad can 4♠ be after the negative double? E/W exploited their second chance and the slow route persuaded Miyakuni to double 4♠. After South's heart lead declarer ran the lead to the queen and played on diamonds himself. Thus he ran into the ruff that held him to 790. One top trump at trick two might have been safe enough and would have led to 990. But it was still 5imps to MY-Bridge, on the scoreboard now, trailing 8-5.

Not many E/W pairs got this wrong. Kitty's collected 100 when their opponents attempted 6♠. South Sweden beat 5♦ while Lavazza and The Netherlands got big swings when initial action with the South cards kept E/W out of their spade fit. Oz players escaped for -300 in 3♣x. And The Latin and Sakurai each defeated 4♠, though in neither case on a club lead from North.

Bd: 4  
 Dlr: West  
 Vul: Both

<p>North</p> <p>♠ J64</p> <p>♥ A982</p> <p>♦ AJ97</p> <p>♣ 103</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ KQ1097</p> <p>♥ 54</p> <p>♦ 86</p> <p>♣ AJ52</p>
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<p>West</p> <p>♠ A8</p> <p>♥ K1073</p> <p>♦ K32</p> <p>♣ Q987</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ 532</p> <p>♥ QJ6</p> <p>♦ Q1054</p> <p>♣ K64</p>
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Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠

All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Tsukamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
1♣	Pass	1NT	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Those who prefer the “quick and dirty” approach would look at the effect of the 1NT response by East and admire the results. Even those who think it guarantees 8-10 would not vote against it, would they? True, the effect might have been to wrong-side 3NT on a bad day. Here, though, the result of the bid was to push N/S one level higher by robbing South of an easy way into the auction.

Of course 3♠ is no fun at all on a trump lead but our duty as journalists compels us to say, even though it grieves us, that West quite reasonably led a club and South parted with dummy’s ten at trick one. There was no recovery now. The defenders shifted to trumps soon enough to prevent declarer getting two ruffs in dummy, so eight tricks were the limit. In the other room declarer also got into difficulties after the accurate diamond lead to the ten and trump shift. The defenders played two rounds of trump. Declarer crossed to dummy with a diamond (a second diamond finesse might have been best) to run the ♣10, covered all around, then ducked a club. When West was forced to win this trick the defenders could not lead a third trump, so declarer could ruff a club on the board for the eighth trick.

On the next deal the South players had to decide what was the best way to handle: ♠1092 ♥A10975 ♦K3 ♣A63 with both sides vulnerable after a pass from their partner and a 1♠ opening by RHO. We are all taught that overcalling with minimum values, a poor suit, and the death holding of weak length in the opponents’ suit is a terrible idea. But if you pass now won’t it be more dangerous to balance? Noriko bid 2♥ and was raised to 3♥ in competition. Fukuyoshi passed and balanced with a double after a 2♠ raise to her left, then corrected the 3♦ response to 3♥—a highly unilateral position, but one that led to no harm being done. It was down one in both cases against a making 2♠. Still 13-5 to JAPAN WOMEN.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ 862
Vul: E/W	♥ 72
	♦ AKJ108
	♣ 876

West	East
♠ AKQJ4	♠ 10975
♥ K109	♥ 4
♦ 6432	♦ Q95
♣ 2	♣ AKJ53

South
♠ 3
♥ AQJ8653
♦ 7
♣ Q1094

Open/Closed Rooms

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
<i>Tsukamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
		Pass	4♥

4♠ All Pass

That 4♠ bid frightens me: look at the hand partner gives you and yet 4♠ is virtually no play. Meanwhile, 4♥ is down in top tricks. Yes, one deal proves nothing I admit. The datum was EW +10. Apart from a few tables playing 5♥x for 500, or the table that reached 6♠ down 3, there were few big numbers. We must therefore give credit to South Sweden who managed to inscribe into the plus column an elegant 500 from defending 5♥x, and an even more elegant 1400 defending 6♦x—yes, on the E/W cards—in the other room.

Only one table let through 4♠. When Ino for JAPAN OPEN sat North he heard his partner open 3♥, which was passed around to Kopecky who doubled that, letting Macura bid 4♠. Ino led a top diamond and received an upside-down count card of the ♦7. He shifted to a heart and found that the diamond ruff had got away.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ Q753
Vul: Both	♥ A1085
	♦ AJ93
	♣ J

West	East
♠ AJ102	♠ K4
♥ K76	♥ QJ9432
♦ 105	♦ Q6
♣ 9862	♣ K54

South
♠ 986
♥ ---
♦ K8742
♣ AQ1073

*I think, therefore I am... I think.*



Open Room  
**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**  
*Nabeshima* *Miyakuni*    *Oishi*      *Fukuyoshi*  
                  1♦                      1♥                      3♥

Dbl.            3♠                      Pass                      4♣

Pass            5♦                      Pass                      6♦

All Pass

Closed Room

**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**  
*Tsukamoto* *Masafumi*    *Kobayashi* *Noriko*  
                  1♦                      1♥                      2♥

Dbl.            2♠                      Pass                      6♦

All Pass

There would be little consensus as to the best way to handle the South cards after 1♦ from partner and 1♥ on your right. Noriko cue-bid 2♥, Fukuyoshi tried a 3♥ splinter, which looks more helpful to me. Having said that, a revealing fit-jump to 3♣, if available, might help partner work out what to do, or even what to lead, if the auction was about to get competitive. Both tables reached 6♦ now (as an aside, it is always better to bid an apparently hopeless slam on the hands where game might be going down, since that way it costs less—unless they double you). In fact, though, only the lead of the ♠K defeats your game, and neither defender found that against slam, of course. On the top heart lead, declarer appears to have little choice but to play for 2-2 trumps and the ♣Kxx onside. That way you emerge with seven trumps tricks, four clubs, and the ♥A. Three of your spades go away on the clubs so you can ruff two of partner's spades in hand. Fukuyoshi found this line; Masafumi finessed in trumps (a play that would have left him short of tricks even had it succeeded) and went down. 17 imps for the Women, up 30-5.

The datum here was only +230 for N/S; of course, game normally succeeded when played by North. After a top heart lead declarer could infer that West had a top heart and a top spade and thus knew which way to take the club finesse. Slam was bid and made only in our featured match, but at another table Stockdale for the England Ladies doubled slam from the West seat. On a top heart lead declarer credulously took an early trump finesse, then in desperation a subsequent ruffing finesse against the ♣K. That meant -1100 instead of +1540.

Kopecky for WORLD YOUTH as East *did* find the lead of the ♠K against 5♦, without the help of any lead-directing action from his partner. Well done, and a 12-imp swing to his side.

Masafumi was back in the hot-seat on this next deal.

Bd: 8                      North  
 Dir: West              ♠ Q76  
 Vul: None              ♥ QJ97  
                                  ♦ K83  
                                  ♣ Q52

West  
 ♠ AKJ954  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ AK874

East  
 ♠ 10832  
 ♥ 1084  
 ♦ A10962  
 ♣ J

South  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ AK653  
 ♦ QJ54  
 ♣ 10963

Open Room

**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**  
*Nabeshima* *Miyakuni*    *Oishi*      *Fukuyoshi*  
 1♠                      Pass                      2♠                      Dbl.  
 4♠                      Pass                      Pass                      4NT  
 5♠                      All Pass

Closed Room

**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**  
*Tsukamoto* *Masafumi*    *Kobayashi* *Noriko*  
 1♠                      Pass                      4♠                      Dbl  
 All Pass

No one could cavil at the 1♠ opening and North's initial pass. But should East jump to 4♠ with two controls? Should South double that? And what should North do after that double? I must admit that as West I might have been tempted to follow the uncouth route of using Blackwood and driving to slam had there been no double. Tsukamoto might still have done the same but saw no reason to commit herself once the auction got competitive. She passed the double and would no doubt have been ecstatic to hear the auction stop there. Did North do anything so terrible by passing? He must have expected rather more from his partner (as indeed would the editors, conservative souls, with a small "c," to a man). 4♠x collected 690 of course. And after Fukuyoshi's heroics with the South cards did not stir North to action the JAPAN WOMEN had 6 imps, to lead 36-5.

Seven unlucky pairs attempted slam and went down. One not so unlucky West is recorded as having gone down in 5♠. Of course slam also might need clubs 4-3 as well as no trump loser but if all our slams were that good... Seven pairs were doubled in either 4♠ or 5♠.

Bd: 9 North  
 Dir: North ♠ K1054  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 2  
 ♦ A74  
 ♣ AK432

West  
 ♠ Q63  
 ♥ A87643  
 ♦ 98  
 ♣ 87

East  
 ♠ AJ7  
 ♥ KQJ  
 ♦ K1063  
 ♣ QJ10

South  
 ♠ 982  
 ♥ 1095  
 ♦ QJ52  
 ♣ 965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
	1♣	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tsukamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
	1♣	1NT	Pass
2♦	2♥	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Another difficult hand to evaluate. Let's assume that it is normal enough to overcall 1NT as East over 1♣. When partner transfers to hearts your hand is surely not exceptional enough to break the transfer. Having said that, if you specifically play that 2NT over the major-suit transfer shows three trumps to two top honors and a maximum, you might well do that. Even if East does not break the transfer, West is surely worth a try for game by transferring and raising to 3♥ (yet another example of the editors being in tandem; you won't see that many).

Neither West paid any attention to the editors, of course (who does, apart from the Assistant Editor's wife?). Tsukamoto's pass of 3♥ is sufficiently pusillanimous that one might suspect the auction did not really go this way, whereas Nabeshima, by contrast, appears to be a paid-up member of the TTASL school. This doctrine originated at the Young Chelsea in London 25 years ago, and it stands for "Teach Them A Sharp Lesson." It states that when the opponents reopen you from partscore you must double them or bid game, because it aggravates them so much when it works—as indeed it did here. The 10 imps to MY-Bridge brought them back to 36-15. The datum here of 430 for E/W suggests almost exactly half the field bid game. Maybe 3NT is the best game, but that is probably splitting hairs.

Bd: 11 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 10952  
 Vul: None ♥ AQ10  
 ♦ 98742  
 ♣ K

West  
 ♠ AQ8  
 ♥ K9764  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ J92

South  
 ♠ K4  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ KQJ106  
 ♣ 7643

East  
 ♠ J763  
 ♥ 852  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ AQ1085

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tsukamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

In the Closed Room North was obviously swinging from the rafters or perhaps he had missed South's initial pass. His jump to 5♦ facing a passed partner rated not to be cheap, but he actually bought an excellent hand opposite. A club lead nets the defenders 300, but after a heart lead declarer was set to escape for down one. Alas, falling victim to the prevailing malaise that had been on display in the Closed Room, South went up with the ♥A at trick one. Eventually, after further vicissitudes, she lost two spades and a trick in each suit for down 500. This meant that the normal result for E/W in the other room of +140 in a heart partial was more than cancelled out. 8 imps to JAPAN WOMEN, up 45-15.

The datum here was 150 for E/W, but Oz Players recorded 510 as N/S while Yukinata-Katsumata for JAPAN YOUTH scored a goal against higher-seeded teams by bidding to 4♥x as E/W and collecting 590.



"Is it Mardi Gras yet?"

Bd: 13  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ KJ103  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ AKQJ963

West  
 ♠ Q73  
 ♥ 98752  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ 10854

East  
 ♠ J84  
 ♥ AQ6  
 ♦ AQ9842  
 ♣ 7

South  
 ♠ AK10952  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ K10763  
 ♣ 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
	1♣	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tsukamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
	1♣	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♦	Dbl
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The auction worked out far better for Masafumi in the Closed Room than for his counterpart when he went low at his second turn and then found diamond length opposite. That gave him a sensible shot at 3NT. It is hard to apportion blame too harshly for the Closed Room auction, even with the knowledge of the full hand. The editors could not agree on how to get to 3NT here. Is 2♠ really forcing by South at her second turn in a competitive auction? (Yes, according to Tweedledum, no according to Tweedledee.)

3NT made nine tricks easily enough. 4♠ on a diamond lead and club shift stood no chance; declarer tried to ruff a diamond in dummy and lost two trumps and two aces. 12 imps for MY-Bridge, down 47-27 now.

The datum score of N/S +270 demonstrates the problem the field had with getting to 3NT; 21 out of 48 tables managed it, though two other N/S pairs from Zimmerman and Beauty collected 800 and 1400 defending 2♦x and 5♥x, respectively.

**Is it possible to be seated on a standing committee?**

There was still one more challenge to face for the N/S pairs.

Bd: 14  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A10942  
 ♥ 975  
 ♦ AJ9  
 ♣ 63

West  
 ♠ QJ8  
 ♥ AJ43  
 ♦ 72  
 ♣ J754

East  
 ♠ K7653  
 ♥ 108  
 ♦ K6  
 ♣ K1098

South  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ KQ62  
 ♦ Q108543  
 ♣ AQ2

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Nabeshima</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Oishi</i>	<i>Fukuyoshi</i>
<i>Tsukamoto</i>	<i>Masafumi</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Noriko</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

3NT would be more than a little tricky to play on a spade lead. You can only succeed by winning the spade honor and going after clubs, not hearts (a line of play that could easily be ridiculous), then giving up a diamond. Meanwhile, 5♦ is far from hopeless but should not succeed when both red-suit honors are poorly placed. Noriko duly lost one diamond and two hearts. In the Open Room Oishi shifted to the ♥10 when in with the ♦K at trick four. Nabeshima captured the ♥K with the ace and returned the suit, so a heart loser went away when declarer put up dummy's ♥9. That was 10 more imps for JAPAN WOMEN, who ran out winners 57-27 (22-8 in VPs). Eleven N/S pairs brought home a game, almost always in notrump, but frequently after a helpful club lead rather than a spade lead. The datum was N/S +170.



"Our father, who are in heaven, hallowed be my finesse."

## Match Two: Kitty's vs NANIWADA

by Rich Colker

It didn't take long in for the fireworks to begin in our second featured match.

Bd: 17 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ K9763  
 Vul: None ♥ 103  
 ♦ 106  
 ♣ A843

West  
 ♠ Q8  
 ♥ 9854  
 ♦ 532  
 ♣ KQ102

East  
 ♠ J4  
 ♥ QJ62  
 ♦ A9874  
 ♣ J9

South  
 ♠ A1052  
 ♥ AK7  
 ♦ KQJ  
 ♣ 765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sato</i>	<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Kaho</i>	<i>Nose</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kataoka</i>	<i>Toyofuku</i>	<i>Enomoto</i>	<i>Matsuo</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Against 1NT Sato led the ♣K, ducked around (Kaho following with the nine). Sato shifted to the ♥9, 10, J, A, and Nose immediately played a spade, covered Sato's 8 with dummy's 9, and allowed Kaho to win the jack—very strange, indeed. Kaho then cashed the ♣J, which Sato allowed to hold, and Kaho oddly switched to a spade rather than what looks to us to be an obvious heart. Nose won the ace in hand and cashed out the spades, Sato pitching three diamonds and Kaho two diamonds and a heart (Nose threw a club on the last spade). When Nose played the ♦K Sato let go the ♣10 and Kaho ducked. Next came a diamond and Sato let go his last club as Kato won his ace and returned the ♥6. Declarer then claimed 8 tricks for +120 for N/S.

Of course all of that was pretty much immaterial as Toyofuku-Matsuo deftly reached the respectable spade game in the Closed Room. With just two clubs and one diamond to lose the contract rolled home; +420 for N/S as Kitty's jumped out to a handy 7-imp lead.

4♠ was reached and made at 34 of the 48 tables,

with most of the remaining tables declaring spade partials. Top score on the board went to YAMADA's Nakamura-Hirata, who doubled Kendrick's Cooke-Garvey in 3♥ and came away with +500. Oh, and just to let you know how special we know you are, the above match featured the only N/S pair to declare something other than a spade contract.

Bd: 18 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ K8  
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQJ7432  
 ♦ QJ7  
 ♣ Q

West  
 ♠ J1073  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ K953  
 ♣ J1084

East  
 ♠ A96  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ A4  
 ♣ A97632

South  
 ♠ Q542  
 ♥ 865  
 ♦ 10862  
 ♣ K5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sato</i>	<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Kaho</i>	<i>Nose</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	2♥	Dbl	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kataoka</i>	<i>Toyofuku</i>	<i>Enomoto</i>	<i>Matsuo</i>
		1NT	Pass
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	2♦(2)
Dbl	2♥	All Pass	

In the Open Room Kaho saw a good hand with clubs, while in the Closed Room Enomoto saw a strong notrump. The Open Room auction continued along predictable lines, with Kaho doubling to show three-card spade support and later showing his good hand and long clubs. Perhaps Sato should have made an additional move (both editors vote for 4♣) with his undisclosed four trumps, ruffing value, and known spade fit. But non-vulnerable, with only a king (of unknown value) and two jacks, it is difficult to argue too vehemently with his pass. (Both editors think it's close, and with such poor clubs East would likely not move over the raise anyhow.) With the ♠9 showing up huge, E/W lost just one trick in each black suit, emerging with +150.

In the Closed Room Toyofuku balanced over 1NT with an artificial 2♣ (we assume showing a one-

suiter) and Matsuo relayed with a pass-or-correct 2♦. Toyofuku then revealed his real colors—*fini*. There appear to be six losers in 2♥ (as long as the defense obtains their diamond ruff) and Enomoto was up to the challenge. He led the ♦A, continued with a second diamond to the king, and Kataoka gave Enomoto a ruff by returning the ♦3. So far, so good. But now Enomoto seems to have taken the ♦3 as suit-preference for clubs, and for reasons best known only to himself led a *low(?)* club as declarer won his stiff queen. Ugh! (Enomoto surely did not need a second club ruff with his trump ace unless Kataoka had the singleton ♥K—unlikely on the auction. Besides, declarer could easily have had the last diamond or Kataoka, with at most two diamonds at that point, might just have wanted to discourage a spade return.) Then, to make matters worse, after winning the ♥A and trying to cash the ♣A, only to see declarer ruff, and then seeing his partner pitch when declarer unnecessarily cashed a second heart, East ducked when a low spade was led toward dummy. That allowed declarer to pitch his second spade on the good ♦10! A lucky +140 for N/S but a well-deserved -140 for E/W. 7 imps to Kitty's, now 14-0.

The good 5♣ contract was reached and made at eight tables—very good, guys (you know who you are)—and N/S managed a plus score at only seven tables, three of them in heart contracts, including the one in our featured match (special you, again).

Bd: 19 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ AKJ95  
 Vul: E/W ♥ AJ10  
 ♦ Q7  
 ♣ AQ8

West  
 ♠ Q6  
 ♥ KQ5  
 ♦ 8652  
 ♣ KJ109

East  
 ♠ 87432  
 ♥ 9863  
 ♦ KJ4  
 ♣ 4

South  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ 742  
 ♦ A1093  
 ♣ 76532

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Sato	Naniwada	Kaho	Nose
			Pass

Pass 2NT All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Kataoka	Toyofuku	Enomoto	Matsuo
			Pass

Pass 1♠ Pass Pass

Dbl Rdbl 2♥ All Pass

Kaho led the ♠8 against Naniwada's 2NT: 10, Q, A. Naniwada set out to establish clubs by leading the ace followed by the queen and was unlucky when the J109 failed to all fall simultaneously on the second round. (Surely the ♣8 on the second round, guarding against king doubleton, is a better play; even better might be to start the suit by leading the ♣8 first or to plan to take the club finesse when in dummy with a diamond.) Sato won and switched back to spades, Naniwada winning the king as he pitched a club from dummy. The ♠J revealed the unlucky break in that suit (Sato playing an encouraging ♥5) so Naniwada ran his remaining spades, finally exiting with the ♠5 to Kaho's 7. The heart return allowed declarer to set up a second heart trick and Naniwada eventually finished one down, -50 for N/S.

Toyofuku decided to open the North hand with 1♠ and after showing a good hand by redoubling was able to retreat safely from the auction, selling out to a precarious 2♥. Matsuo led his stiff spade to the queen and king. Toyofuku cashed the ♠9 at trick two and led a low spade at trick three as Matsuo ruffed with the ♥7 and dummy overruffed with the queen, promoting Toyofuku a third trump trick. Declarer led a diamond and guessed very well to put in the jack. Matsuo won the ace and exited with a club to the nine and queen when a trump might have worked out better. Toyofuku got out with the ♠J, dummy ruffing, and declarer then ruffed out the ♣A, ruffed a spade back to dummy (as Matsuo pitched his last club), and cashed a high club pitching his diamond loser as Matsuo ruffed. The ♦10 went to declarer's king but Toyofuku claimed the final three tricks with his high trumps for down three, +300 for N/S. That was 8 more imps to Kitty's, who now led 22-0.

Our pal DF (a "Deep" but relentless soul) says that N/S are cold for 10 tricks in notrump, and 27 pairs managed to bid the notrump game and make at least nine of them. One reasonable line of play is for North to win the spade lead and put the ♦Q on the table, ducking the ace if East covers (best is not to cover) and later taking the club finesse. Ten other pairs bid the notrump game and went down one or two tricks.



"I'm trying to find out if you lead high or low from a singleton."

On each of the next two boards Kitty's picked up an overtrick imp in a major-suit game, and led by 24-0 as Board 22 was placed on the table.

Bd: 22 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ J  
 Vul: E/W ♥ K1075  
 ♦ A97  
 ♣ 87543

West  
 ♠ Q98  
 ♥ AJ986  
 ♦ KQJ5  
 ♣ K

East  
 ♠ K75  
 ♥ 432  
 ♦ 6432  
 ♣ J106

South  
 ♠ A106432  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ 108  
 ♣ AQ92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sato	Naniwada	Kaho	Nose
		Pass	1♠

2♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kataoka	Toyofuku	Enomoto	Matsuo
		Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

It would never have occurred to either of your editors to pass out 2♥ (even though it does go down); our choice is between double and 2♠. But Nose passed and came out smelling like a rose (Nose, rose, get it?), despite some less than perfect defense along the way. Naniwada led the ♠J, ducked to declarer's queen. Sato next cashed the ♥A and continued with the ♥8 to Naniwada's ten (♠2 from Nose). Naniwada shifted to a "deceptive" ♣8 and Nose ducked again, playing the ♣2 (to preserve the ♣AQ9 over dummy's ♣J10!?) as Sato scored his stiff king. The ♦K went to the ace and Naniwada got out with the ♣5 to the queen as Sato pitched a spade and conceded down one, +100 for N/S.

Against Matsuo's 2♠ contract Kataoka led the ♦K. Matsuo won in dummy and tried to sneak a trick with the ♥Q. Kataoka won the ace and played two more rounds of diamonds as Matsuo ruffed. He exited with a low spade to Kataoka's queen, ruffed the diamond exit, and played another low spade. Enomoto overtook his partner's eight with the king and led the ♣J, Q, K, 5. Kataoka exited with a heart, allowing Matsuo to pitch a club on the ♥K (he could have gotten two pitches by putting in the ♥10). But when Matsuo tried to return to hand with a club to the ace

(why not the nine?), Kataoka ruffed and Matsuo had a club to lose in the end to finish down one; -100 for N/S. That was 5 imps to NANIWADA, finally on the scoreboard at 24-5.

2♥ was a popular contract, being played doubled 18 times and undoubled three times (one of them here!). Surprisingly, 3♥ was played six times, five of them undoubled. Go figure.

Bd: 23 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ 8  
 Vul: Both ♥ AQJ9532  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ QJ982

West  
 ♠ AK6543  
 ♥ 1084  
 ♦ A84  
 ♣ 5

East  
 ♠ QJ7  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ K7652  
 ♣ K1063

South  
 ♠ 1092  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ QJ1093  
 ♣ A74

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
Sato	Naniwada	Kaho	Nose
Kataoka	Toyofuku	Enomoto	Matsuo
			Pass
1♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass

Both Wests declared 4♠. Sato received the ♣Q lead, ducked all around, and Naniwada cashed the ♥A before switching back to the ♣2, 10, A, ruff. Next Sato ruffed a heart, drew trumps (when he could have used a club ruff and the ♦A to ruff his last heart and return to hand to finish trumps) and claimed 10 tricks; -620 for N/S.

At the other table the defense started with the ♥AQ, Kataoka ruffing fatally with the ♠Q. Next he drew trumps and tried a club to the king, but Matsuo won the ace and played the ♦Q, which Kataoka allowed to hold. Matsuo continued confidently with the ♦J to the ace and Kataoka could not avoid a second heart loser for down one. That was +100 for N/S and 12 more imps to Kitty's, ahead now 36-5.

Norths who got to play doubled heart contracts at the four level or higher generally scored best here—provided they played carefully. For example, say East starts with two rounds of spades, North ruffing. If North plays on clubs immediately, say starting with the queen, East has a tough decision to make—to cover or not to cover (that is the question). Covering allows North to bring in clubs for one loser (bad for



E/W) but puts him safely in dummy to take the losing heart finesse (good for E/W). If East does not cover the ♣Q North must beware. A second round of clubs will prove fatal (at least to those in 5♥x) as West can ruff and North still has a club to lose. Plus, North must be careful after drawing trumps to play a second high club from hand (or low to dummy's 7). If he plays low to the ace he still has two club losers. A number of heart declarers held themselves to ten tricks, whether in 4♥ or 5♥, whether doubled or not.

Martin Garvey told us about his experience when as West he declared 4♠. North led the ♥A followed by a trump shift. Garvey won the queen in dummy and led the ♦2 to South's three and his eight!? Why is this so worth telling? Because Martin missed a chance for a world record. Had he put in the ♦4 from his hand he would have been able to boast that he once won the first round of a side suit in a trump contract with the 4 of that suit. How many people will ever be able to say they did that?

The worm was about to turn in our featured match.

Bd: 24                      North  
 Dlr: West                ♠ KJ  
 Vul: None                ♥ Q108  
                               ♦ K109872  
                               ♣ 95

West ♠ 10 ♥ 7652 ♦ 653 ♣ AQJ72	East ♠ 754 ♥ AJ93 ♦ A4 ♣ K643
--	---

South  
 ♠ AQ98632  
 ♥ K4  
 ♦ QJ  
 ♣ 108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sato</i>	<i>Naniwada</i>	<i>Kaho</i>	<i>Nose</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dbf	Rdbl	2♥	2♠
3♣	Pass	3♥	3♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kataoka</i>	<i>Toyofuku</i>	<i>Enomoto</i>	<i>Matsuo</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

N/S are cold for 3♠ while E/W appear to be cold for 4♥ (with the favorable lie of trumps and clubs 2-2). Not so says DF (though in practice 4♥ might easily make). Try playing 4♥ on either a diamond or a

spade lead. To see why a diamond lead is effective, consider what happens after declarer wins, say, the second round. He crosses to West with a club and plays a trump: 8, 9, K. South then underleads a spade to North who leads a third diamond. East must now ruff with the ♥J (South can over-ruff the ♥3 with the four), and now he's lost his tenace over North's ♥Q10.

A spade lead and continuation is effective because North threatens to over-ruff dummy on the third round of the suit to score a second trump trick after South wins the ♥K. But N/S must be careful to set up their diamond trick before that happens or East will pitch his diamond loser on the fifth club. So, after an initial spade lead N/S must switch to diamonds and not play a second round of spades—at least not yet. Once the diamond is secured N/S may switch back to spades. For example, South leads the ♠A and shifts to a diamond. If East ducks South switches back to spades, threatening the third round over-ruff as described above. If East wins the first diamond South continues diamonds after winning the ♥K, and North plays a third diamond to promote a second trump trick as described earlier.

Both N/S pairs in our featured match played spade contracts, Sato-Kaho selling out to 3♠ while Kataoka-Enomoto were never in the auction as Toyofuku-Matsuo overreached to 4♠. When 4♠ failed while 3♠ made, NANIWADA had their second 5-imp gain of the match, closing to 26 at 36-10.

N/S pairs were fairly evenly divided between playing 3♠ making and 4♠ going down. Of the five E/W pairs who got to play 4♥, three made it and two failed.

Board 25 was a push with both sides making an overtrick in 2♦. Then came...

Bd: 26                      North  
 Dlr: East                ♠ ---  
 Vul: Both                ♥ 10642  
                               ♦ AKJ43  
                               ♣ J732

West ♠ QJ8763 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 92 ♣ AQ	East ♠ A1095 ♥ K753 ♦ Q76 ♣ 105
---	---

South  
 ♠ K42  
 ♥ A8  
 ♦ 1085  
 ♣ K9864

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sato	Naniwada	Kaho	Nose
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Dbf	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kataoka	Toyofuku	Enomoto	Matsuo
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

One of us (BR) is a firm passer over 1♠, the other (RC) thinks either double or 2♦ with the North hand is perfectly acceptable. On this day bidding is right as E/W can only make 2♠ (N/S can take one heart, two diamonds, one spade and a heart ruff) while N/S can make three of whichever minor they choose.

Sato-Kaho bid the spade game (basically it appears to depend on the spade finesse) and went down one when the ♠K was offside (N/S did not get their heart ruff). Kataoka-Enomoto stopped in 3♠ after East stretched to make a limit raise and won 6 imps for NANIWADA when their contract came home (again N/S missed their heart ruff). Kitty's now by 20, 36-16.

While a few N/S pairs got to play low-level minor-suit contracts, most E/W pairs outbid their opponents to play in some number of spades, a great majority of which made nine tricks (the heart ruff was really difficult to find) whatever the contract level. The worst result on this deal was registered by the N/S pair who took a phantom save in 5♣x and went for 500. Names will be withheld until a sufficient monetary offer is received.

Bd: 27  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: None

North	♠ K532
	♥ 10876
	♦ J832
	♣ 7

West	♠ Q1076	♥ Q2	♦ K5	♣ AK532
East	♠ AJ984	♥ J9543	♦ 74	♣ 9

South	♠ ---	♥ AK	♦ AQ1096	♣ QJ10864
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sato	Naniwada	Kaho	Nose
			1♦
2♣	2♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kataoka	Toyofuku	Enomoto	Matsuo
			1♣
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♦
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣
Dbf	4♦	All Pass	

Many people would choose to reverse with the South cards (your editors included), but Nose chose to take the low road by opening 1♦. That struck gold as Naniwada competed with a light 2♦ raise and before he knew it Nose had blasted into game. This came home right on time (+400 for N/S) with West known to hold long clubs and the ♣9 conveniently singleton.

In the other room Matsuo opened a more reasonable 1♣, planning to reverse, and did so even after his partner had passed him at the one level. Both editors would have happily competed to 4♦ over 3♠. But when South bid again (with no encouragement from partner) at the four level nothing could have prevented either of us from bidding 5♦ over 4♣x—4♦ is just too regressive. But given the outcome in 4♦ at this table (made four, +130 for N/S) it seems South might have fared similarly in 5♦. So perhaps North knew what he was doing after all. That was 7 more imps to NANIWADA, reducing Kitty's lead to 13 (at 36-23) with one deal to go.

5♦ was reached by 22 pairs, 10 playing it doubled. It failed 14 times (8 doubled). The remaining 26 results were divided between diamond partscores, spade contracts by E/W (three E/W pairs managed to make 4♠x—we're not sure how since it should go down quite easily on a club lead) and a few club contracts by N/S (ugh!)—some at the five level!

Bd: 28  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ 85
	♥ J1093
	♦ QJ10976
	♣ K

West	♠ 942	♥ K87	♦ 8542	♣ 832
East	♠ Q73	♥ AQ2	♦ A	♣ Q109654

South	♠ AKJ106	♥ 654	♦ K3	♣ AJ7
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sato	Naniwada	Kaho	Nose
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♣	All Pass



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kataoka</i>	<i>Toyofuku</i>	<i>Enomoto</i>	<i>Matsuo</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♣	Dbf
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

South has a difficult decision at his second turn: passing 2♣ is safe but the siren song of the high cards says “bid more, bid more.” On the other hand, neither of your editors would have passed 2♣ with the North cards; both think that 2♦ is simply clear-cut. In this instance justice was served when N/S’s defense was less than optimal (Nose led ace-king and a third spade, giving his partner a ruff with a natural trump trick, after which N/S could only take two more trump tricks; -90 for N/S).

In the Closed Room Matsuo stepped up to the plate and doubled Enomoto’s 2♣ with the South hand and then found a magic pass of Toyofuku’s 2♦ reply—not that it would have mattered since Toyofuku would surely have competed to the three and perhaps even the four level after South’s double. Plus 130 meant 6imps back to Kitty’s, who won the match 42-23 (20-10 in VPs).

Only four N/S pairs sold out to 2♣ (one of them here, lucky you again), making up four of the six minus scores registered by N/S players. (The other two occurred when N/S over-reached to 3♠ and 4♠.) The highest N/S plus scores were for notrump contracts (N/S are cold for nine tricks) with ten pairs bidding and making game.

## Match Three: The Netherlands vs SARA

by Barry Rigal

Our third-round match saw two teams at the top of the table meet one another. SARA had reached the quarter-finals last year while The Netherlands were recent winners and perennial contenders.

Bd: 1	North
Dlr: North	♠ KJ64
Vul: None	♥ 8
	♦ 8542
	♣ QJ54

West
♠ Q109
♥ J107543
♦ Q3
♣ A10

East
♠ A5
♥ K92
♦ AK10
♣ K9632

South
♠ 8732
♥ AQ6
♦ J976
♣ 87

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A quiet game to start us off; only an overtrick at

stake. Drijver as North led a diamond rather than a spade to save an imp; no swing.

Bd: 2	North
Dlr: East	♠ AJ984
Vul: N/S	♥ 953
	♦ A
	♣ Q984

West
♠ 1052
♥ QJ72
♦ K
♣ AJ1075

East
♠ K3
♥ A4
♦ QJ10732
♣ K62

South
♠ Q76
♥ K1086
♦ 98654
♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
		1♦(1)	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♦	2♠
Dbf	Pass	3♦	All Pass

(1) Potentially canapé  
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	1NT	2♦	2♠
Dbf	All Pass		

On our next deal two apparently similar auctions

rapidly diverged. Both Easts had to decide how to handle their partner's card-showing double of 2♠; van Prooijen had to choose between bids of 2NT and 3♦; he opted for the suit-bid. The contract eventually went down one when the defenders took two club ruffs and one trick in each of the other suits.

At the other table Teramoto went for the jugular and passed 2♠x. Tanaka worked out to lead a trump and declarer, with not that many top tricks available, had an awkward guess at trick one. The finesse seemed normal enough. Teramoto won his ♠K and shifted to the ace and a second heart. That got declarer to four trumps, one heart, a diamond, and as many club ruffs as the defense would allow him—the answer was one—and that meant down one and 6 somewhat sweatyimps for SARA. An earlier play of the second round of trumps might surely have made the defense's chance of 500 a little better.

At another table Cooke opened the East hand 2NT (6+ diamonds, 11-15 points) and over the 3♣ relay rebid 3NT to show a balanced maximum or a singleton club. With a blind lead South tried a heart and dummy's queen won. Declarer knocked out the ♦K, won the spade shift, got the disappointing news in diamonds, and found the ♣Q to bring home 400, one of only five declarers to make game here.

Bd: 3 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 53  
 Vul: E/W ♡ J743  
 ♦ AQ1073  
 ♣ 87

West  
 ♠ A86  
 ♡ 10852  
 ♦ 62  
 ♣ Q932

East  
 ♠ KQ1097  
 ♡ K  
 ♦ K954  
 ♣ AJ6

South  
 ♠ J42  
 ♡ AQ96  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ K1054

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦(1)	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dbl
2♠	All Pass		2♥

(1) Potentially Canape  
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
Pass	2♣(1)	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass

(1) Weak in ♦ or strong

The spade partscore handled for +140 with minimal of inconvenience. The spade game was a far more interesting affair after the normal diamond lead. Teramoto, whose 4♠ was not exactly an underbid, won the diamond lead and returned the suit, captured the trump shift in dummy (♠3, ♠10, ♠J, ♠A) and took a club finesse. Groenenboom won his ♣K, North giving honest upside-down count, and returned a second trump. Declarer took his diamond ruff but still needed to guess clubs after drawing the last trump. He played the last two trumps and saw South pitch high hearts, but even so it took him approximately five minutes to guess clubs correctly. (The day the upside-down count players start lying, is the day I'll reassess my decision always to believe their count signals.) 10imps and 16-0 to SARA. Game was only bid and made here on six occasions.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dir: North ♠ A654  
 Vul: N/S ♡ K3  
 ♦ Q985  
 ♣ Q103

West  
 ♠ Q87  
 ♡ 6  
 ♦ KJ1076  
 ♣ KJ97

East  
 ♠ ---  
 ♡ QJ9874  
 ♦ 432  
 ♣ A852

South  
 ♠ KJ10932  
 ♡ A1052  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
Pass	Pass	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Van Prooijen was prepared to preempt to the three-level (his opening structure did not allow for a 2♥ preempt) but neither preempt saw the N/S pair go out of control. Both declarers guessed trumps, both failed to make the normal play to establish a club for an eleventh trick. No swing; still 16-0 for SARA.

**If crime fighters fight crime, and firefighters fight fires, what do freedom fighters fight?**

Bd: 6  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AK98654  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ A102  
 ♣ QJ

West  
 ♠ Q7  
 ♥ 872  
 ♦ KQ985  
 ♣ A64

East  
 ♠ J103  
 ♥ 106  
 ♦ 7643  
 ♣ 10753

South  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ AKQJ943  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ K982

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
Pass	4♥	All Pass	4♣(1)

(1) South African Texas

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
All Pass		Pass	4♥

All Pass

Cui Culpa? Certainly Sasahira had her bid and Fu was close to continuing (but change the ♦K in the South hand to the ♣K instead and slam is hopeless). In the other room North was not close to a bid over 4♥. A flat board but an opportunity missed for both sides; still 16-0 for SARA.

Slightly more than one third of the field bid slam, and yes, two pairs went down in the grand slam. Two typical successful auctions were the slam-bang approach of Senior-Kendrick: 1♥-1♠; 4♥-6♥, and the more thoughtful one of Apteker-Gower: 1♥-1♠; 2♣-2♦; 3♥-3♠; 4♥-4NT; 5♠-6♥. Gower knew he was going to buy solid hearts and a club card.

Bd: 7  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 532  
 ♥ A83  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ KQ10542

West  
 ♠ Q108764  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ K1053  
 ♣ J8

East  
 ♠ ----  
 ♥ J109652  
 ♦ 874  
 ♣ A976

South  
 ♠ AKJ9  
 ♥ K74  
 ♦ AJ962  
 ♣ 3

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
2♠	3♣	Pass	1♦
All Pass			3NT

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
Pass	2♦(♣)	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Both defenders led a spade into declarer's tenace; both Easts pitched a diamond. Sasahira tried a club at trick two and when the king held she could set up diamonds for ten tricks. Groenenboom played a low diamond from hand at trick two and West won to shift to the ♥Q. When that held Tanaka thoughtfully shifted to a low club, and Teramoto equally thoughtfully let the ♣Q hold. Declarer tried a spade to hand to cash the top diamonds, and when East discarded, West's full shape was known. Declarer could see that the defenders would surely win the fourth diamond and lead a second club. Unless West had the bare ♣J or ♣A left, his goose would be cooked. Accordingly, Groenenboom instead led a heart to dummy and exited with the ♣K. East won and played a heart, and Groenenboom took this in hand and threw Tanaka in with the fourth diamond to lead a spade into the tenace. Nine tricks for The Netherlands—nicely done all around but an imp to SARA, up 17-0.

Sometimes you look at a deal and wonder how an expert can find a way to win a trick nobody else could. Sometimes the reverse holds true.

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ Q854  
 ♥ AJ  
 ♦ 93  
 ♣ AJ762

West  
 ♠ K762  
 ♥ 9532  
 ♦ Q107  
 ♣ K3

East  
 ♠ 93  
 ♥ 10864  
 ♦ AJ652  
 ♣ 108

South  
 ♠ AJ10  
 ♥ KQ7  
 ♦ K84  
 ♣ Q954

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Groenenboom played 3NT as South on a low spade lead and safety-played clubs by leading to the ace to keep East off lead for a diamond shift. That meant only ten tricks. Fu played 3NT from North and received a diamond lead and a second diamond, ducked. He led the ♣Q to the king and ace, crossed back to the board, and ran the ♣4. The editors are convinced that this line (which picks up the bare ♣8 offside but loses to ♣1082 or ♣108 with East) is against the odds and we are never blinded by what works at the table...honest.) However, since Fantoni played the hand in identical fashion it may not be that clear what to do, we admit. Four out of the five declarers who went down were in the qualifying zone as the match started. (Craig Gower went down by playing Sementa, East, who had overcalled 1♦(!), for the ♠K—and who can blame him?)

Ten imps to The Netherlands made it 17-10.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ J86
Vul: E/W	♥ QJ76
	♦ Q987
	♣ 72

West
♠ K943
♥ A852
♦ 53
♣ Q108

East
♠ ---
♥ 10943
♦ AKJ62
♣ KJ54

South
♠ AQ10752
♥ K
♦ 104
♣ A963

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♦(1)	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

(1) Canape, game-try

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dbl	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Sasahira would have done well to sell out to 4♥ but it is also easy to see how facing a hand with less in

the red suits both contracts could have come far closer to making. Against 4♠x the defenders led diamond, heart, diamond. Now another diamond ensured the defenders would do no worse than collect 300. Declarer ruffed with the ♠Q, Verhees pitching a heart, and now when South led the ♠10 he ducked his king. At this point declarer could have led a spade to the eight, forcing an entry to dummy to take the two heart winners, and concede the last trick twice over for -300. Instead she led ace and another club, letting East win and lead another diamond to promote a second trump trick for -500. About half the field sacrificed in 4♠. Maybe we should blame North for raising spades and encouraging the accident.

Since 4♥ (reached after an egregious overbid by Teramoto) went down even after the lead of the ♠A, The Netherlands had 12 imps and the lead at 22-17.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ A97
Vul: N/S	♥ QJ82
	♦ QJ832
	♣ 8

West

♠ ---
♥ 7643
♦ A6
♣ KQ105432

East

♠ K862
♥ A5
♦ K109754
♣ 9

South

♠ QJ10543
♥ K109
♦ ---
♣ AJ76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
4♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dbl	2♦	Pass	4♠
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl

The defenders started off on the wrong foot by leading the ♦Q against 4♣. Sasahira got in three times and needed to play hearts on one of those occasions in order to remove dummy's entry. In fact, she played spades on each occasion. Declarer still had just enough trump control to finesse in diamonds and ruff out the suit, using the ♥A as a reentry to the board. Plus 130 was a giant result.

4♠ made on almost every occasion it was attempted. Would the sacrifice in 5♣ prove cheap? Against 5♣x

the trump lead and spade shift gave declarer some sort of chance to get out cheaply, but declarer was going to play to make (since he needed little else but a trump break or a diamond split). He ruffed the spade shift and played three more rounds of clubs. Groenenboom as South won the club and found the heart shift eventually to take out the entry to the board, which meant the penalty was 500. It was 34-18 now for the Netherlands.

On Board 13, flat in our featured match, South Sweden and Kendrick each found an embarrassing way to lose a game swing. The defenders had six hearts to the king-queen facing three small, with the opponents' hearts 2-2. Is it more embarrassing to lead low from the six-card suit and let declarer win the first trick cheaply, or to lead low from three small and block the suit? One defender had 982, the other KQ6543, and after the lead of the two the defenders could not unblock their holdings in time.

The Dutch recovery was completed on the final board.

Bd: 14            North  
 Dlr: East        ♠ J2  
 Vul: None        ♥ AK9864  
                    ♦ A102  
                    ♣ Q8

West  
 ♠ Q963  
 ♥ QJ103  
 ♦ J96  
 ♣ K9

East  
 ♠ K1075  
 ♥ 75  
 ♦ KQ73  
 ♣ 543

South  
 ♠ A84  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ 854  
 ♣ AJ10762

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Sasahira</i>
	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Groenenboom</i>
	1♥	Pass	3♣(INV)
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Against Fu the defenders led and continued diamonds. Declarer took two top trumps and then played three rounds of hearts (surely an error: the club finesse after the two top trumps almost ensures the contract). The defense shifted to spades and established their sixth winner in time.

In the other room Bob Drijver's decision to move on facing the invitational 3♣ bid got Groenenboom to a delicate 3NT contract. He found what in my opinion was a line that deserved to bring home his contract after what looked like a fourth-highest spade lead. He won the opening spade lead with the ace and led a low club from hand. This line would pick up five club winners whenever he found the ♣K on his right, but it also gave West a chance to err when that player had the doubleton ♣K. And indeed Tanaka did take his ♣K, allowing declarer to wrap up 400 a few seconds later. Nicely played, and a win by 26 imps for the Dutch.

In the same contract Tony Nunn tackled clubs by leading the queen from hand. Hiroki Yokoi ducked smoothly, won the next club, and could inscribe +200 for 3NT down four on his scorecard. This was the only table out of 13 where 3NT went down.



"Well, at least it's not as bad as the Prius gaffe."



"For this I came all the way from Italy. Mama, mia!"

## Match Four: WORLD YOUTH vs CANUKUSA

by Barry Rigal

The first board of the match saw one of the more beautiful battles between declarer and defense this event may ever have witnessed.

Bd: 17 North  
 Dir: North ♠ 65  
 Vul: None ♥ A1082  
 ♦ AK72  
 ♣ KJ7

West  
 ♠ A97432  
 ♥ K65  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ 10854

East  
 ♠ KQJ  
 ♥ Q93  
 ♦ Q109  
 ♣ Q632

South  
 ♠ 108  
 ♥ J74  
 ♦ J86543  
 ♣ A9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
	1♦	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl.	2♦	3♦
3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
	1NT	Pass	3♣(♦)
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Miura took some time before wimping out and passing 3♦. (Had it been right to pass we would have described the action as automatic, of course.) 3♦ had nine winners painlessly enough, so Bakhshi's 3♠ would either win a little or a lot.

He ruffed the diamond opening lead, drew two rounds of trumps ending in hand, and ducked a club to South. A heart exit would be fatal after cashing the ♣A—declarer could win in dummy and play a third club to endplay North—while a diamond exit would let declarer ruff and lead a second club, forcing him to complete the elimination of the diamonds so that declarer could endplay North with the third club. A heart would transpose to almost the same position.

In fact, South did play a diamond but Bakhshi erred by discarding a club on this trick. Kopecky took the diamond, unblocked clubs, and now all Macura had to do was lead a heart to let Kopecky cash out. Instead he played a third diamond. West pitched his last diamond, ruffed the clubs good, and had the entry to dummy to pitch his third heart on the fourth

club. Plus140 after some ping-pong, and 6 imps for CANUKUSA (who had switched their name from CANUSUK in order to avoid censorship on the net).

And now from the sublime to the ridiculous. Jonathan Cooke declared 4♠ as West after balancing over a 13-15 notrump and some aggressive bidding by his partner. He ruffed the diamond lead and played trump, trump, North revoking with the ♦2 on the second round but correcting it in time. With the ♦2 as a penalty card on the table Cooke ducked a club, and the defender in the South seat won and returned a heart (a mistake: a second club followed by a diamond does still beat the hand). North took his ace. Cooke rose with the ♦Q on North's forced play to pitch a club, ruffed out the diamonds, stripped off the hearts, then played a second club. South won and was endplayed: either red-suit would let declarer pitch his last club for +420. Ta-da!

If the previous deal was bad for the weak notrump then this one gave N/S the imps back with interest.

Bd: 18 North  
 Dir: East ♠ Q5  
 Vul: N/S ♥ J1062  
 ♦ A42  
 ♣ KQ106

West  
 ♠ AK863  
 ♥ A98  
 ♦ 75  
 ♣ 874

East  
 ♠ J972  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ QJ1083  
 ♣ J95

South  
 ♠ 104  
 ♥ KQ543  
 ♦ K96  
 ♣ A32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
		Pass	1♥
1♠	2♠	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Koike's unilateral sacrifice was a paying one. 4♠x

lost the obvious five tricks in the minors, declarer resisting the temptation to finesse in trumps (wisely so since North would have splintered at his first turn with that hand). 4♥, reached after a slightly pessimistic raise from North, saw South needing to guess the clubs to pitch the slow diamond loser. Since East had followed with a count signal in spades and declarer had an inferential or actual count on all the suits, he was not going to misguess clubs here. 8imps to WORLD YOUTH, leading 8-6.

The datum to N/S was 320; the sacrifice here was the norm rather than the exception and many pairs did not double 4♠.

Bd: 19 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ J10  
 Vul: E/W ♥ A1072  
 ♦ K642  
 ♣ 652

West  
 ♠ A865  
 ♥ J984  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ KQ9

East  
 ♠ Q743  
 ♥ K53  
 ♦ AQJ7  
 ♣ 84

South  
 ♠ K92  
 ♥ Q6  
 ♦ 983  
 ♣ AJ1073

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass

1♥ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass

1♦(♥)	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

(1) Invitational values, puppet to 2♦

Miura found the way to the right strain, albeit a level higher. The defenders started life with four tricks and managed to compact them into three after South's trump lead and shift to the ♥Q. But eventually declarer emerged with +140. In 1♥ Bakhshi played to ruff a club in the short hand, eventually losing two spades, two trumps and a club. 1 imp to WORLD YOUTH, up 9-6.

Bd: 20 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ Q1087  
 Vul: Both ♥ 4  
 ♦ Q92  
 ♣ AKQ97

West  
 ♠ AJ9  
 ♥ K8  
 ♦ J87  
 ♣ 108432

East  
 ♠ K4  
 ♥ 109753  
 ♦ AK1064  
 ♣ 5

South  
 ♠ 6532  
 ♥ AQJ62  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ J6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dbf
2♣	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
Pass	1♣	2NT	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

In 3♦ the defenders led a top club and continued with a small one. Declarer played a heart himself. Carruthers won and returned a low heart, and now Weinstein scored a ruff and an over-ruff. Declarer eventually took the spade finesse for the contract and went one down. (It looks impossible to make the contract without a backwards finesse in spades.) But -100 was no tragedy since, in the other room, Kopecky made nine tricks in 2♠. After a top diamond lead and club shift declarer won in dummy and led a spade. Bakhshi hopped up with the ♠A to give his partner a club ruff but now declarer had a trump finesse and lost only one more diamond trick. 10-6 now for WORLD YOUTH.

So far the juniors had bid far more aggressively than their counterparts and escaped serious problems. They went to the well once again on the next deal, and again avoided disaster by a hair's breadth. Curiously, though, it was their opponents who ended up declaring the contract at both tables.

**A laugh is a smile with a hole in it. (Think about it.)**

Bd: 21  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ KJ104  
 ♥ K8  
 ♦ QJ109  
 ♣ A86

West  
 ♠ Q8752  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ K852  
 ♣ 753

East  
 ♠ A96  
 ♥ AQ532  
 ♦ 74  
 ♣ K102

South  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ J10976  
 ♦ A63  
 ♣ QJ94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
2♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
All Pass			
	1NT	2♦(1)	2♥

Carruthers, having robbed himself of the chance to defend 2♥, played his 5-2 fit with aplomb. The defenders led spades at every turn and assisted declarer in drawing trumps by taking the ♥K at the first opportunity when a duck would have worked somewhat better. Declarer emerged with 140 when he was allowed to pitch all three of his club losers, two on the spades and one on the diamonds.

Meanwhile, Bakhshi bought the hand in 2♠ on a top diamond lead, ducked to declarer. A heart finesse and a second diamond saw South win and play a trump to the ten and ace. Back came a low heart, ruffed, a diamond ruffed, and the ♥A on which Bakhshi pitched a club. Declarer now lost one club, one diamond, and three trumps to get home with +110. 12-10 now for CANUKUSA.

Yamada-Ohno for YAMADA were the only N/S pair to catch their opponents speeding in 2♥x, for 800.



"You do realize you're holding that upside down don't you?"

Bd: 22  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ J943  
 ♥ AQ84  
 ♦ 874  
 ♣ 92

West  
 ♠ 652  
 ♥ 75  
 ♦ AKQ109  
 ♣ Q107

East  
 ♠ A108  
 ♥ K962  
 ♦ J3  
 ♣ A543

South  
 ♠ KQ7  
 ♥ J103  
 ♦ 652  
 ♣ KJ86

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

West's evaluation in the Open Room looks more accurate; vulnerable games should not be missed when, as here, a 12-count gives you respectable play. On a heart lead Gold was allowed to win and of course play a club up. The defenders had the same four tricks as in the other room, where the same lead produced the overtrick. But CANUKUSA had 10imps to lead 22-10.

And yes, a top spade lead would have set the game but let he who is without sin cast the first stone. 11 Souths beat 3NT, presumably on a spade lead. The datum was E/W 230.

Bd: 23  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ J6  
 ♥ KQ7643  
 ♦ KQ2  
 ♣ KJ

West  
 ♠ Q974  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ A9763  
 ♣ A1084

East  
 ♠ K532  
 ♥ AJ10982  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ Q

South  
 ♠ A108  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ J84  
 ♣ 976532



Open Room

<b>West</b> <i>Bakhshi</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Kopecky</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Gold</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Macura</i>
1♦	1♥	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b> <i>Miura</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Weinstein</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Koike</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Carruthers</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
DbI	2♥	DbI	All Pass

It somehow seems ironic that passing the West hand facilitates collecting the penalty. But while the auction in the Closed Room seems hard to criticize, Bakhshi was ploughing a lone furrow when he sat for 1♥. Of course, if partner had had one less heart he might have been a hero, but I doubt if that was the first word David Gold would have selected to describe his partner's auction.

In 2♥x the defense allowed declarer to score the ♠J at trick one (which was reasonable enough) but declarer still lost one trick in each minor and five trumps, for down 500, while in 1♥ on the lead of ♣Q the defenders took all their tricks for +200 but still suffered a loss of 7imps. 22-17 to CANUKUSA.

The datum was E/W +340. There were six E/W +800s, a -790 in 4♠x, and pride of place for Phoebe Lin and Nie Weiping who collected 100 against 3♥x.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ KJ6
Vul: E/W	♥ Q94
	♦ 432
	♣ QJ102

West	East
♠ 98	♠ Q32
♥ AKJ1053	♥ 762
♦ AJ5	♦ 109
♣ 65	♣ 98743

South
♠ A10754
♥ 8
♦ KQ876
♣ AK

Open/Closed Rooms

<b>West</b> <i>Bakhshi</i> <i>Miura</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Kopecky</i> <i>Weinstein</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Gold</i> <i>Koike</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Macura</i> <i>Carruthers</i>
2♥	2♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Against 4♠ Miura led a top heart and shifted imaginatively to a low diamond. Carruthers won in

hand and cashed the two top clubs, then guessed trumps and had his game.

The defenders duplicated the play to the first two tricks in the other room and declarer was in the same position of knowing West had six hearts, apparently three diamonds, and an awkward shift problem at trick two. Was that because he was looking at the ♠Q? Still trying to reconstruct the hand, South cashed one top club and exited with a low diamond. West took his two diamonds and played a second top heart. Declarer ruffed and continued the agonizing reappraisal, but eventually played the percentages and finessed against East for the trump queen. No swing, still 22-18 for CANUKUSA.

Approximately 2/3 of the field bid and made 4♠ here.

Bd: 26	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q1052
Vul: Both	♥ J82
	♦ A1087
	♣ 83

West	East
♠ J9763	♠ A
♥ 9	♥ AKQ73
♦ KQ542	♦ J9
♣ 65	♣ AKQJ4

South
♠ K84
♥ 10654
♦ 63
♣ 10972

Open/Closed Rooms

<b>West</b> <i>Bakhshi</i> <i>Miura</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Kopecky</i> <i>Weinstein</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Gold</i> <i>Koike</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Macura</i> <i>Carruthers</i>
2♦	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
(1) Kokish			

This one seems too tough for regular mortals. 6♣ is just fine, but change the ♣J into the ♥J and slam is very poor. Maybe one could call it a missed opportunity (did East have a jump to 4♣ at his third turn to describe this hand?) but frankly it looks too tough to get there without a strong club and relay-system.

The board was a hard-earned push at 1370 in KOREA Cacti-Venus (well bid Murata-Kurita and lynryung-Sungae). Van Prooijen-Verhees' strong club methods got them to the top spot, as did those of Mullamphy-Klinger and Cooke-Garvey.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dir: South ♠ KQ1095  
 Vul: None ♥ 103  
 ♦ J9  
 ♣ 9874

West  
 ♠ 874  
 ♥ 74  
 ♦ 10743  
 ♣ QJ63

South  
 ♠ 63  
 ♥ Q965  
 ♦ KQ852  
 ♣ K2

East  
 ♠ AJ2  
 ♥ AKJ82  
 ♦ A6  
 ♣ A105

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3NT	All Pass
(1) Lebensohl			

It is hard for E/W to stay sensibly low (or penalize North in 2♠). In 3NT Weinstein led a top spade, ducked after much thought by declarer. After equal thought Weinstein continued with a spade. Declarer cashed the ♥A, then followed it up with the ♣A. Carruthers contributed a bulletin-prize entry unblock of the ♣K—right idea, wrong deal. Declarer’s eight winners had become nine, and somewhere the commentators could imagine South wondering what would appear in tomorrow’s bulletin. His later suggestion of “scintillating” will appeal to anyone who remembers Edgar Kaplan’s article entitled RATS. But you can understand why he thought that North’s decision not to shift to a minor meant he was likely to have a club card.

In the other room 3NT received a top spade lead, ducked, and a club shift. That took care of the unblock...up to a point. South exited with a second club and Bakhshi ran the clubs. South pitched two diamonds, took the spade finesse, cashed one heart and then the ♠A. Macura unblocked the *other* king, and then his second diamond honor under the ♦A to avoid being thrown in to lead hearts into the king-jack. Down one for 10 imps, and a new leader.

3NT was a push at 400 in the match between GIBS and The Latin, but only two other declarers brought home 400. Fiona Brown and Kenji Miyakuni both achieved it from the East seat.

Bd: 28 North  
 Dir: West ♠ A9853  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K3  
 ♦ K52  
 ♣ K76

West  
 ♠ 1042  
 ♥ A107  
 ♦ J6  
 ♣ AQ842

South  
 ♠ K76  
 ♥ Q8642  
 ♦ Q4  
 ♣ 1053

East  
 ♠ QJ  
 ♥ J95  
 ♦ A109873  
 ♣ J9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
1♣	Dbl	2♦	2♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
1♣	1♠	1NT	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

In 3♦ Howard Weinstein won the spade lead with the ace and shifted dramatically to the ♥K. (“That’s how to get your name in the bulletin, partner.”) Koike played on spades to establish his discard and the defenders took their heart ruff for down one.

Meanwhile, the loose take-out double of 1♣ got what it deserved, in a sense. (What is wrong with a 1♠ overcall anyway?). Against 2♥ Bakhshi led the ♦J, ducked to the queen, and two rounds of trumps followed. Bakhshi won cheaply and played a second diamond to the ten. Gold shifted to the ♠Q and declarer won and returned a spade to Gold’s jack. A club to the ace and a spade ruff set the contract one trick; 4 imps to CANUKUSA, down 26-28.

Bd: 29 North  
 Dir: North ♠ K108  
 Vul: Both ♥ A7  
 ♦ A92  
 ♣ 87643

West  
 ♠ J76  
 ♥ 9862  
 ♦ 853  
 ♣ K92

East  
 ♠ 543  
 ♥ KQJ3  
 ♦ KJ6  
 ♣ QJ5

South  
 ♠ AQ92  
 ♥ 1054  
 ♦ Q1074  
 ♣ A10

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl
1♥	Dbl(t/o)	Rdbl	Pass
All Pass		Pass	1♠

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
All Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT

It must have been those good club intermediates that tempted Howard to open. Now all he had to do in 3NT was guess diamonds, under the assumption that hearts needed to be 4-4 and the spade suit needed to play for four tricks. Far greater minds than the Bulletin Editors have wrangled over the right way to play the diamonds here. On the surface if you need hearts and spades to split then you might well assume diamonds also rated to be 3-3. If so, then Weinstein's decision to cross to dummy in spades to pass the ♦Q was the right one. It appears to be the right percentage play in the abstract, too, but the cards disagreed. That was -300 instead of +600 and no joy in Muddville. 1♠ handled very nicely for +110; 9imps to WORLD YOUTH and a 37-26 lead.

Our first "real" penalty of the day came with two deals to go. Nunes-Fantoni went for 800 after a weak notrump got doubled ("You call that a real penalty? No!"). In the other room the final contract was 1♣xx by East (we leave you to work out the auction). Declarer started life with four winners and when he misguessed diamonds he'd turned them into three. Four down redoubled is 2200; I'm sure Nunes told his teammates he was expecting to be covered here.

Bd: 30  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ K5  
 ♥ K754  
 ♦ Q1097  
 ♣ 973

West  
 ♠ J983  
 ♥ 832  
 ♦ 432  
 ♣ Q64

East  
 ♠ A107  
 ♥ A96  
 ♦ K86  
 ♣ AKJ2

South  
 ♠ Q642  
 ♥ QJ10  
 ♦ AJ5  
 ♣ 1085

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Macura</i>
		2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Miura</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Koike</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
		1♣	All Pass

Koike played 1♣ on repeated heart leads. He won the second and exited with a third heart. Weinstein won, shifted to diamonds, and the defenders cashed three of them, then played the ♠K. All Koike had to do was win and draw trumps, then establish a second spade, but he played a second spade prematurely, letting North get his spade ruff. Down one, but still a 2-imp pick-up given the contract of 2NT down two in the other room.

It was a 40-26 win for WORLD YOUTH, in seventh place comfortably after day one.

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[It did not come to our attention until after Tuesday's daily bulletin had been "put to bed" that one of the teams in this year's NEC Cup contains four recent world champions. We apologize for the oversight and invite you now to meet the reigning World Youth champions (continued on p28).]

## The World Youth Champions



Michael Kopecky, Noriaki Koike, Hiroaki Miura and Milan Macura, surrounded by their team captains.

There is a saying in England that you can wait for two hours for a number nine bus and then two come at once. No doubt the same is true all over the world. But it is also true for the Japanese Bridge community, who waited nearly sixty years for a world champion, and then after winning the Senior Teams in Beijing in 2008, won gold in Turkey the next year. We are delighted to have the reigning World Youth Congress Japan-Czech team participating in the NEC. In 2009 they won the 1<sup>st</sup> World Youth Teams, having been fixed up as a team at very short notice. Representing Japan were Hiroaki Miura and Noriaki Koike, and from the Czech Republic were Michael Kopecky and Milan Macura.

It was especially satisfying to see Milan Macura win, since in the course of the last few years we have seen a series of very well-played hands by him. Journalists always like to see good play and good players rewarded.

Milan explains that when he started playing in Junior Bridge there were two guys and two girls, and each partnership consisted of two “couples.” Exercising wisdom beyond his years, Milan soon worked out that if the relationships were to continue something

would have to change; so they switched partnerships (at the bridge table, that is).

They were lucky enough to meet Ine Gielkens and John Wester of The Netherlands when they played in the White House Juniors; that was how they acquired a Dutch npc for a team of Czech juniors—obvious when you think about it—and it was Ine who put together the two partnerships that participated in Turkey.

Although they qualified second for the knock-out, a misunderstanding about the time for the captain’s meeting led to their having the toughest draw in the quarter-finals. (Don’t worry, Ine Milan has almost forgiven you.) But that passed off peacefully enough.

The semifinals and final were far tougher affairs. Down 30imps and 22imps at the half, respectively, the transnational team came roaring back in the second half of each match to snatch the gold medal and provide a first ever gold for the Czech Republic, and a first gold for Japan in the Juniors.

Now, if the Japan Women and Open teams would make up the set this year and next...

*[Playing in this year’s NEC Cup with Miura, Koike, Kopecky and Macura is Japan junior Shunsuke Gotada.]*

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

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday (Feb. 10)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (5)	F201/F202
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (6)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (7)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (8)	
Thursday (Feb. 11)	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. 12)	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	Yokohama IMP Pairs	F203/F204
Saturday (Feb. 13)	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. 14)	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	F203-206
	18:30-20:30	Closing Ceremony	F201-202