



NEC Bridge Festival

Thursday, February 11, 2010
Bulletin Number 3

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Lavazza Leads After Day Two of the 2010 NEC Cup

At the end of Day 2, and four more hotly contested matches, Lavazza (Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Agustin Madala, Giorgio Duboin, Antonio Sementa, Guido Ferraro; Massimo Ortensi, Coach) came storming through to take a 10 VP lead over Zimmermann (Pierre Zimmermann, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski, Franck Multon), 162 to 152. Close behind, in third place, is Oz Players (Ron Klinger, Ishmael Del'Monte, Ashley Bach, Matt Mullamphy) with 149 VPs. Another 2 VPs back, in fourth place, is South Sweden (Alon Apteker, Craig Gower, Frederic Wrang, Johan Sylvan) followed in fifth place, just one more VP back, by England Ladies, who had as good a hot streak going for a while yesterday as any we've seen recently (see p. 27). Rounding out the top eight are The Netherlands, Beauty, and Kendrick with 145, 142 and 138 VPs, respectively. Five other teams are within 10 VPs of qualifying, so today's competition ought to be fierce. The complete Day One rankings are shown below; while individual match results for the second four matches can be found on page 5.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day Two (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team(#)	VPs	Rank	Team(#)	VPs	Rank	Team(#)	VPs
1	Lavazza(2)	162	16/19	Kitty's(22)	123	33/34	BANNO(31)	110
2	Zimmermann(3)	152	16/19	GIBS(24)	123	33/34	China Evertrust(13)	110
3	Oz Players(5)	149	16/19	YAMADA(18)	123	35	MAKITA(27)	106
4	South Sweden(12)	147	20	TANAKA(25)	122	36/37	Dolphin(46)	105
5	England Ladies(9)	146	21/24	TSUNAMI(19)	118	36/37	CAMPANULA(26)	105
6	The Netherlands(4)	145	21/24	Hong Kong(15)	118	38/39	ESPERANZA(21)	104
7	Beauty(23)	142	21/24	China Women(1)	118	38/39	KinKi(43)	104
8	Kendrick(10)	138	21/24	AQUA(35)	118	40	LAS FLORES(34)	103
9	CANUKUSA(6)	135	25/26	SAKURAI(36)	117	41	KAWABATA(30)	101
10/11	Bulgarian All Stars(8)	133	25/26	JAPAN OPEN(16)	117	42	Attack No. 1(40)	100
10/11	The Latin(7)	133	27	JAPAN WOMEN(17)	116	43	Friends(42)	99
12/13	Oz Two(11)	129	28/29	NXST(32)	115	44/45	Rosewood(29)	98
12/13	WORLD YOUTH(44)	129	28/29	NANIWADA(41)	115	44/45	Korea CACTI(14)	98
14	Yukinata(38)	126	30	Iza Yokohama(33)	114	46	JAPAN YOUTH(48)	97
15	SARA(20)	125	31/32	Venus(28)	112	47	KATSUMATA(37)	83
16/19	WHITE DREAMS(39)	123	31/32	Guriguri(47)	112	48	MY-Bridge(45)	71

Today's 1st VuGraph Match will feature Oz Players vs South Sweden

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

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

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: 15th NEC Cup

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

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 15th NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

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

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

Convention Regulations for Side (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 3rd- or 4th-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
- Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
- All responses to;
 - artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
 - opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

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

Competitive Bids

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

Carding

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

LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

Wednesday's Match Results

Team #	CF	Match 5				Match 6				Match 7				Match 8			
		Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	52	21	74	25	77	20	24	11	88	13	26	14	102	41	21	16	118
2	78	20	63	25	103	44	35	23	126	3	46	21	147	5	46	15	162
3	79	12	65	25	104	4	25	19	123	2	21	9	132	6	43	20	152
4	85	5	74	25	110	3	9	11	121	6	23	13	134	12	23	11	145
5	85	4	29	4	89	11	60	25	114	7	44	20	134	2	45	15	149
6	65	16	38	18	83	33	68	25	108	4	33	17	125	3	21	10	135
7	67	13	51	22	89	23	30	18	107	5	23	10	117	11	32	16	133
8	59	41	55	24	83	9	38	18	101	44	23	11	112	18	41	21	133
9	67	15	35	18	85	8	24	12	97	25	67	25	122	44	50	24	146
10	70	11	28	11	81	19	53	25	106	12	2	7	113	16	57	25	138
11	70	10	46	19	89	5	18	5	94	15	46	21	115	7	26	14	129
12	83	3	12	3	86	25	30	19	105	10	33	23	128	4	38	19	147
13	70	7	23	8	78	24	13	10	88	1	29	16	104	38	13	6	110
14	47	31	27	15	62	42	4	9	71	29	37	17	88	27	3	10	98
15	67	9	21	12	79	39	29	13	92	11	20	9	101	33	27	17	118
16	65	6	27	12	77	18	30	12	89	28	58	25	114	10	5	3	117
17	51	26	39	15	66	36	23	13	79	31	24	12	91	48	53	25	116
18	71	44	29	5	76	16	41	18	94	39	41	20	114	8	17	9	123
19	55	27	69	25	80	10	6	4	84	35	21	9	93	42	45	25	118
20	74	2	18	4	78	1	40	19	97	24	32	20	117	23	21	8	125
21	51	1	12	1	52	46	29	16	68	37	41	21	89	43	35	15	104
22	66	25	12	9	75	30	43	22	97	23	30	11	108	24	22	15	123
23	64	40	81	25	89	7	19	12	101	22	48	19	120	20	51	22	142
24	62	35	42	16	78	13	35	20	98	20	12	10	108	22	23	15	123
25	65	22	36	21	86	12	15	11	97	9	0	0	97	30	61	25	122
26	50	17	38	15	65	47	20	12	77	32	25	10	87	29	36	18	105
27	54	19	12	2	56	38	12	7	63	45	54	23	86	14	25	20	106
28	54	36	28	16	70	35	29	20	90	16	0	2	92	40	43	20	112
29	41	37	34	20	61	31	14	12	73	14	27	13	86	26	23	12	98
30	50	48	52	25	75	22	15	8	83	33	26	13	96	25	20	5	101
31	47	14	28	15	62	29	25	18	80	17	37	18	98	32	21	12	110
32	46	46	22	19	65	41	26	12	77	26	47	20	97	31	32	18	115
33	57	42	53	25	82	6	10	2	84	30	35	17	101	15	19	13	114
34	39	45	37	16	55	48	11	8	63	46	35	16	79	37	53	24	103
35	60	24	37	14	74	28	8	10	84	19	47	21	105	39	20	13	118
36	55	28	21	14	69	17	32	17	86	41	27	13	99	47	32	18	117
37	42	29	13	10	52	45	23	16	68	21	18	9	77	34	16	6	83
38	54	39	13	3	57	27	44	23	80	40	34	22	102	13	51	24	126
39	54	38	65	25	79	15	39	17	96	18	21	10	106	35	28	17	123
40	63	23	17	1	64	43	36	18	82	38	6	8	90	28	24	10	100
41	60	8	18	6	66	32	40	18	84	36	36	17	101	1	17	14	115
42	56	33	11	5	61	14	28	21	82	47	23	12	94	19	4	5	99
43	48	47	20	15	63	40	24	12	75	48	30	14	89	21	35	15	104
44	72	18	72	25	97	2	3	7	104	8	40	19	123	9	13	6	129
45	30	34	32	14	44	37	16	14	58	27	23	7	65	46	11	6	71
46	42	32	7	11	53	21	22	14	67	34	28	14	81	45	48	24	105
47	49	43	22	15	64	26	33	18	82	42	34	18	100	36	19	12	112
48	50	30	4	4	54	34	39	22	76	43	35	16	92	17	12	5	97

CF=Carry Forward; C-VP=Cumulative VPs

2010 NEC Bridge Festival

Public Show Event: Games for Beginners

Let's Play MIND SPORTS!

Open to the public, we offer free lessons in all five mind sports played at the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing, China in 2008. Organizers of TEAM JAPAN for the Mind Sports Games maintain a good relationship with the other mind sports organizations. We invite each other's members whenever one of us has a big public event (for example, Mini Bridge for kids, Go junior events, the formation of a Chess-Bridge club in Nagasaki, etc.). The NEC Bridge Festival presents an excellent opportunity for the five mind sports organizations to all get together in one place yearly.

ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN NEC BRIDGE FESTIVAL ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN THIS EVENT!
Please stop by and enjoy the other mind sports whenever you have time.

Date: Friday, February 12, Saturday, February 13, from 11:00-16:00

Place: Rooms used for the NEC Cup qualifying sessions — F201/202

Program: 1) BRIDGE: Free Introductory Mini Bridge lesson
2) GO
3) CHESS
4) DRAUGHTS/CHECKERS
5) XIANGQI (Chinese Chess)

Everyone who challenges any of the games will receive a gift from each participating organization. Anyone who challenges all five of the games will be entered in a lottery drawing for additional souvenirs.

Special Presentation for those interested in Go

For those attending the Go event on Saturday, February 13, a special portable Go set (including stones and a plastic Go board) will be given away, courtesy of the Japan Go Federation.

Special Games for Contract Bridge Beginners

Sponsored by the JCBL Public Relation Department, these special games are aimed at helping bridge beginners participate and experience the fun and excitement of the game—and to encourage them to become JCBL members. This program has been embraced by beginners and bridge teachers alike. Bridge teachers enthusiastically recommend mind sport events: they are popular, attract many beginners to the game, and enhance their enjoyment of the game. In addition, almost all participants receive prizes.

Date: Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13, from 13:00-16:00; 1 session game/day

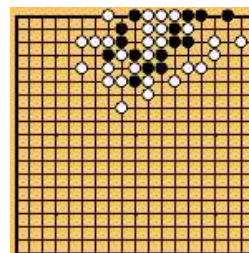
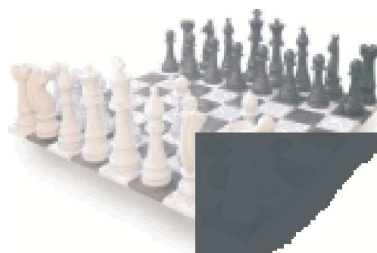
Place: Same as above

3 types of games will be offered:

- 1) Debutante Cup: for those with no game experience
(currently 58 people are registered for this 2-day event)
- 2) Beginners Cup: for those with under 5 masterpoints (MP)
(currently 71 people are registered for this 2-day event)
- 3) Beginners Cup: for those with under 20 MP
(currently 20 people are registered for this event to be held on Saturday, February 13 only)

In all, 149 people are currently registered to participate in these three events

OF-COSMETICS, one of Tokyo's most popular cosmetic companies, is sponsoring the prizes at this year's event. Company representatives will be demonstrating their products, so if you are interested in a good shampoo, hair conditioner, or other cosmetic you just might find exactly what you need there.



Match Five: South Sweden vs Zimmermann

by Barry Rigal

Both pairs for Zimmermann use artificial methods: Fantoni-Nunes play forcing one-level actions and weak notrumps, the Poles use Polish Club—surprise! Gower-Apteker play a standard base, Wrang-Sylvan a Swedish (like Polish) Club.

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q
 ♥ Q42
 ♦ KQ1075
 ♣ QJ76

West
 ♠ K976
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ 862
 ♣ K98

East
 ♠ AJ10543
 ♥ 10863
 ♦ J4
 ♣ 5

South
 ♠ 82
 ♥ J75
 ♦ A93
 ♣ A10432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
	1♦	2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	1♦	1♠	2♦
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The first deal saw the two Easts take contrasting approaches to their hand of power and quality. Which camp do you fall in? One editor considers passing reasonable but would rather bid 2♠ than 1♠; the other would prefer to amputate his left arm than bid 1♠ and would rather amputate his right arm (without anesthetic) than pass. Hearts? I see no hearts.

The weak jump overcall worked well enough. Gower risked a heartless negative double and came out smelling of roses. The save in 4♣ was down one while 3♠ would have made comfortably, so -50 was a respectable result for N/S in the Open Room.

In the Closed Room Sylvan elected to drive his balanced opening bid to game, confident of short diamonds opposite. Mind you, maybe his partner would have temporized with 3♥ on some hands

where game had play. 4♠ drifted one down in the fulness of time; +50 for N/S. Note that Zmudzinski's ability to raise diamonds robbed Sylvan of a cheap cue-bid. Score one for the nebulous club in that South knew that North was always going to deliver an unbalanced hand. Zimmerman led 3-0.

Five tables (including van Prooijen in the clash of the leaders between Oz Players and The Netherlands) brought home 4♠ from the East seat, presumably when South saved his ♣A for the next deal. Funny, I've never had much luck with the carry-forward principle.

Bd: 2
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ Q1074
 ♥ KQ432
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q92

West
 ♠ J2
 ♥ A1075
 ♦ 9863
 ♣ 1076

East
 ♠ AK986
 ♥ J9
 ♦ AQJ7
 ♣ 54

South
 ♠ 53
 ♥ 86
 ♦ K1042
 ♣ AKJ83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
		1♠(F)	2♣
Dbl	3♣	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

As if to test all of our editors' theories and prejudices this touchstone deal has appeared. Do you or don't you overcall 2♣ here? Both editors consider overcalling just too dangerous though we know Kokish would not agree (only joking, Eric). RC throws in the interesting idea that by overcalling we actually reduce flexibility: passing may let us produce a delayed unusual notrump, while bidding clubs first prevents us from re-entering the auction later with a double without heart tolerance.

The defense to 3♦ (reached after Fantoni risked a negative double, knowing he was facing 14+) saw Gower lead a top club, cross to his partner's ♣Q for

a trump shift, and then tap out declarer with a third club. Nunes took an early heart finesse, then tried to ruff out the spades and lost control for down two; +100 for N/S.

In the other room Zmudzinski led a top club and shifted to hearts, then won the next club and played a second heart. Wrang rose with the ♥A and played along cross-ruff lines, losing two trump tricks but bringing home +90 easily enough. 5 imps to South Sweden, leading 5-3.

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ AQ
 Vul: Both ♥ 7432
 ♦ KQ832
 ♣ 53

West	East
♠ 1073	♠ J9842
♥ AQ	♥ J1096
♦ A95	♦ J74
♣ Q10942	♣ 8

South
 ♠ K65
 ♥ K85
 ♦ 106
 ♣ AKJ76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Dbf
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
2♦	Dbf	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
1♣	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This deal consisted almost exclusively of failing part-scores. But pride of place goes to Tadashi Imakura, who brought home 3NT from the North seat. If you don't see more than seven tricks for declarer you are not alone. Imakura will happily tell you his patented recipe for how to make bricks without straw.

While the weak notrump undeniably puts its users in jeopardy, the auction was certainly far easier for the N/S pair in the Closed Room. On lead, Sylvan found his partner with three jacks, but not the one he wanted. After West's low club lead declarer played to set up diamonds and had nine tricks easily enough.

Which out of Apteker or Gower should have done more? In particular, could or should Apteker have bid 2NT over 2♠? Apteker led a club against 2♠, thereby

ensuring that the defenders got their diamond tricks in due course. Declarer still managed to maneuver a heart ruff in hand and got out for down one, but -100 represented a gain of 11 imps for Zimmermann, who led 14-5.

Rather more than half the field bid and made 3NT here, but four defenders found a way to set 3NT. You can see that after a spade lead declarer has to cross to hand with a top club to play diamonds up, and then repeat the process for a second diamond play. When West takes his ♦A he can cash the ♣Q and exit with a diamond to dummy. Declarer now has to run the diamonds and play for this precise heart blockage in order to come home.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ A1062
 Vul: N/S ♥ 85
 ♦ A
 ♣ AK9865

West	East
♠ J85	♠ 97
♥ AQ92	♥ KJ107643
♦ J763	♦ K102
♣ J10	♣ 2

South
 ♠ KQ43
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q9854
 ♣ Q743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
	1♣	3♥	Dbf
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	1♣(1)	3♥	Dbf
5♥	6♣	All Pass	

(1) 12-14 balanced or strong with clubs/18+

7♥ is a cheap save against 7♣ but 7♠ makes 2210 and it's tough to save against that. Balicki had not shown clubs at his second turn and so could not risk 5♠ over 5♥, which would have shown a spade one-suiter. Maybe 5NT would have been a two-suiter but it would surely have been a better hand. 6♣ worked just fine when neither South nor West wanted to get involved any more.

Fantoni's gentle raise to 4♥ caught Apteker with a good hand but fast heart losers, and caught South with extra shape but no spare high-cards. Neither player did anything seriously wrong but that was 12 more imps for Zimmermann, up 26-5.

As you would expect, scores were all over the place here. Five E/W pairs escaped for less than the value of the N/S game, only three pairs bid the grand slam, and the rest of the results were game or small slam (considerably more in game than slam). The closest I could discover to par was where Kopecky-Macura of WORLD YOUTH bid to 7♣, and YAMADA saved in 7♥. The defenders led spade, diamond, and then North underled first his ♠A then his ♣AK to get two ruffs and 1400. This was only worth 7 imps, since Nakamura-Hirata for YAMADA had found the same defense in the other room, but to 6♥x.

Bd: 6 North
 Dlr: East ♠ K109653
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q754
 ♦ A76
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ J82
 ♥ AKJ1063
 ♦ 32
 ♣ K2

East
 ♠ A
 ♥ 82
 ♦ J1085
 ♣ AQ10953

South
 ♠ Q74
 ♥ 9
 ♦ KQ94
 ♣ J8764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
		2♣(1)	Pass
2♦(2)	2♠	3♣	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

(1) Clubs 9-13

(2) Relay

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	2♠	Pass	4♠
Dbl	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Balicki's action double of 5♣ was well-judged. (When it works we all say we'd have found it but would we all take the winning action in the heat of battle?) Declarer won the spade lead and passed the ♣10. A good start, but even so declarer could not find a way to escape for less than 800. He cashed one top heart, ruffed a spade, crossed to the top club and ruffed another spade, but all he had done was to get his eight tricks quickly rather than slowly. When Zmudzinski ruffed the second heart declarer was done.

In the other room Nunes led a heart against 4♠x, and Fantoni shifted to a trump to Nunes' ace. Now Nunes tried to cash the ♣A. Apteker ruffed and knew both opponents' shape now. He knew he could not ruff two hearts in dummy without promoting the ♠J, but he did not need to. Instead, he imaginatively ducked a heart, ruffed the club continuation to trump a heart on the board, then ruffed a club to hand and drew the last trump. In the four-card ending he'd squeezed East in the minors. Well played, for a 5-imp loss. It was 31-5 now.

The theme of ducking a trick to rectify the count was a popular one. Many tables played 4♠x, eight pairs making game and 11 going down. Meanwhile, "king for a day" were Beauty. Nie Weiping made 4♥ in one room while his teammates collected 800 from 5♥x in the other. Biggest penalty on the board? That would be the 1100 achieved by Bocchi-Madala against 5♥x.

Bd: 7 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 8753
 Vul: Both ♥ 62
 ♦ J6
 ♣ K10543

West
 ♠ 4
 ♥ AJ9754
 ♦ A7
 ♣ 9872

East
 ♠ AKQ102
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ 1092
 ♣ AQJ

South
 ♠ J96
 ♥ K108
 ♦ KQ8543
 ♣ 6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
			Pass
2♥(9-13)	Pass	2♠(1)	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦(1)	Dbl
4♣	Pass	4♦(1)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
			Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT(1)	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦(1)	Dbl
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass
(1) Relay			

Both tables did not come that close to the moderate slam, one that looks to be about 50% at best. The constructive weak-two style used by the Italians got them close, but when Fantoni rejected the slam-try

Nunes had no safety at the five level.

WORLD YOUTH, China Evertrust and Bulgarian Allstars all successfully attempted 6♥ here; in this case the end surely justifies the means.

Bd: 8
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North	♠ QJ52
	♥ QJ94
	♦ J64
	♣ 32

West	♠ K98	♥ 652	♦ AQ8753	♣ J
East	♠ 103	♥ K10873	♦ K10	♣ AK94
South	♠ A764	♥ A	♦ 92	♣ Q108765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
2♦ (9-13)	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) Relay

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	1NT(1)
2NT(2)	Pass	3♣	Pass

4♥

(1) 4♠, 5+♣

(2) Game try for hearts

Wrang received a low club lead against 4♥. He won in dummy and knew South was 6-4 in the black suits but had not led a singleton diamond, so rated to be 4=1=6=2. He led a heart to the king, figuring it was 2-1 that if South had an honor it would be the queen or jack. Reasonable play, wrong day. Zmudzinski won his ♥A, cashed the ♠A, and the defenders sat back to see if they could collect three more trump tricks. When Wrang played for a trump reduction he managed somehow to escape for down one.

Nunes received the diabolical low spade lead from Gower. He guessed very well to rise with the king, and then even better to lead a trump to the eight and ace, making the trump position clear. Gower played two rounds of spades; Nunes ruffed and immediately cashed three rounds of diamonds. When North followed, Nunes pitched a club, led a trump to the queen and king, and now could play ♣A, club ruff and run diamonds for the trump coup. 41-5 now for

Zimmermann.

Somewhat less than half the field bid to game and brought home 4♥ here, which strikes the Editors as a surprisingly high hit rate. After all, game is no-play if the ♠A is wrong. Do we have to be there? We must really be getting old.

Bd: 9
 Dir: North
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ 63
	♥ 10743
	♦ KJ83
	♣ Q102

West	♠ 975	♥ A82	♦ 1062	♣ K863
East	♠ AKJ10	♥ QJ	♦ AQ7	♣ J975
South	♠ Q842	♥ K965	♦ 954	♣ A4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
1♠(2)	Pass	1♣(1)	Pass
(1) Clubs or 15-17 balanced		1NT	All Pass

(1) Clubs or 15-17 balanced

(2) No major 0-9

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠(2)	Pass	2♦(3)	Pass
2♠(4)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Clubs or weak notrump or 18+

(2) No major

(3) 18-19

(4) Transfer to 2NT

The Italians did well to stay out of 3NT here, Nunes revaluing his 18-count into a strong notrump rather than treating it as 18-19. So long as South guessed well on opening lead the defenders could get the hearts going, and declarer had no more than two tricks in each suit. That's what happened to Wrang, but elsewhere it was a different story. More than half the field bid and made game, perhaps after a spade lead from South. Note that North had the chance to double 2♠ in the Open Room, hence the successful heart lead. The datum was 310 to E/W.

Prefix has no suffix, but suffix has a prefix

Bd: 10
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ A3
 ♥ AQ975
 ♦ A1082
 ♣ KJ

West
 ♠ QJ1092
 ♥ K
 ♦ 65
 ♣ 107532

East
 ♠ K654
 ♥ J643
 ♦ K
 ♣ A986

South
 ♠ 87
 ♥ 1082
 ♦ QJ9743
 ♣ Q4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	2♥
Pass		All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
Pass	1♣(1)	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦(2)
Pass	4♦	Pass	2♦
All Pass		Pass	4♥

(1) 12-14 balanced/strong
 (2) 0-7

Both tables played 4♥ on a spade lead. Apteker won and returned the suit, and the defenders played two rounds of clubs. Apteker advanced the ♥10 to the king and ace. Now he had no entries to dummy to take the diamond finesse. How unlucky—or something. Apteker took the other top trump and led a low heart towards the eight. Nunes let him win the ♥8 in dummy to give him the chance to finesse...and Apteker took the diamond finesse. Oops! After this deal North may not have been any the wiser, but he would certainly be better informed.

Balicki laid down the ♥A at trick two and then played a small heart towards dummy. The defenders took their heart, spade and club winners and exited with a spade. Declarer ruffed in dummy and worked out that he needed to play East for a singleton diamond, which he had not led to trick one. Equally, if West had the ♦K he would surely have opened in third seat with what was known from the carding to be a black two-suiter. All roads pointed to the truth. Balicki led a diamond to the ace and claimed 620 for 12 moreimps. 59-5 now for Zimmermann.

Far more than half the field made game here,

perhaps after the defenders did not get around to spades in time, or maybe on lines similar to Apteker's.

On our next deal both Wests took surprisingly aggressive positions, Fantoni especially.

Bd: 11
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 85
 ♥ 2
 ♦ KQ10764
 ♣ Q1042

West
 ♠ 109
 ♥ AQJ103
 ♦ 32
 ♣ J653

East
 ♠ A732
 ♥ K874
 ♦ J95
 ♣ K8

South
 ♠ KQJ64
 ♥ 965
 ♦ A8
 ♣ A97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
Pass	1NT(F)	Pass	1♠
2♥	3♣	3♥	2♣
Pass			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
Pass	1NT(F)	Pass	1♠
2♥	3♦	3♥	Pass
Pass			All Pass

With 3♦ easy to play, Sylvan's -100 was reasonable enough. 3♣ would not have been much fun, so Fantoni's entry into an unlimited auction rated to lose his side the chance for a pick-up. Not so. Apteker fished out a club on opening lead and declarer could now ruff two clubs in dummy and had a splendid +140. So much for instant analysis. Plus 140 was nearly the best result achieved by any E/W pair on the deal; one defense set 3♠ 150.



"Crane scratching head."

We had been waiting since the second deal for a pick up for South Sweden. It finally came on the last deal of the set.

Bd: 14
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ J876
 ♥ K1097
 ♦ 10732
 ♣ J

West
 ♠ 953
 ♥ AJ6
 ♦ KQJ6
 ♣ 1095

East
 ♠ 2
 ♥ Q843
 ♦ A985
 ♣ AQ86

South
 ♠ AKQ104
 ♥ 52
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K7432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Gower</i>
Pass	4♠	Pass	1♠
Pass		All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
2♠	3♠	1♦	1♠
		All Pass	

4♠ is nothing to write home about. You might set it on a trump lead or shift, but after East's initial pass it was not easy for Fantoni to work this out. After two rounds of diamonds declarer had his 420 and 7 imps. It was 65-12 for Zimmermann in what had been a very convincing display.

Match Six: Beauty vs The Latin

by Barry Rigal

We shall refer to the Godeds (father and son) by their first names to avoid confusion. Both N/S pairs play a weak notrump.

The first deal saw a potentially enormous number of imps swing back and forth, with the net result a small pick-up for Beauty.

Bd: 17
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q652
 ♥ QJ5
 ♦ 103
 ♣ AK97

West
 ♠ K4
 ♥ K2
 ♦ AKQ9864
 ♣ 83

East
 ♠ A1093
 ♥ 9643
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q542

South
 ♠ J87
 ♥ A1087
 ♦ J75
 ♣ J106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
Dbl.	1NT	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Nie was offered a penalty of 1600 (with an outside shot at 2200 on a heart lead if declarer took a club finesse prematurely) but preferred to settle for the diamond partscore. That was no disgrace (as Tevye would say) but it's no triumph either. Still, at least he went plus. In the other room Federico never got to describe his hand properly. Gonzalo might have guessed that he was heading for a 4-2 fit but getting to 3NT looked very hard after this start. In 3♠ declarer lost the first three tricks to the top club and heart cards. A second heart left declarer about to run into a force. Down two, 5 imps to Beauty.

Oz Two played 1NTx against Oz Players, and on a heart lead the magic number of 800 was duly collected. A couple of matches did push the board in 430 or 460 for E/W. Nicely done, I suppose.

At this point in the match the Editors were expecting a wild set. But as if to punish West for failing to play for big numbers, the deals instantly quieted down. The only major swing of the entire match on BBO was the following deal.

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AQ98
 ♥ J
 ♦ AQ109
 ♣ A985

West
 ♠ 76543
 ♥ KQ10
 ♦ 4
 ♣ KQ43

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ A8762
 ♦ 86532
 ♣ 1062

South
 ♠ KJ102
 ♥ 9543
 ♦ KJ7
 ♣ J7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♦(1)	Pass
2♥	Dbl.	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	2♥	Dbl
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

4♠ on repeated heart leads might have been dangerous but it is much easier to defeat 4♠ played by South. After Lin's ♥A lead declarer could establish the ♥9 for the fourth round of the suit. The play went: ♥A, heart ruff, ♠9 overtaken for a heart ruff, diamond to the ♦J for the fourth heart, ruffed and over-ruffed, diamond ruffed by West. Declarer could duck the ♣K and had control of the rest by ruffing a club to dummy to draw trumps.

In the Open Room the defenders led and continued trumps, and declarer emerged with seven tricks by ruffing a diamond in hand and two spades in dummy. But he could not exploit the fall of the ♣J since South had trump control. Plus 100 was not much of a return for N/S, but after West's opening bid it might have been the best N/S could do. The Latin led 11-5 now.

4♠ by South was defeated a handful of times; three pairs collected 500—one pair apparently managing that feat against 3♠x if the records can be believed. In the match between England Ladies and Bulgarian Allstars Nevena Senior-Dhondy defended 3♣x after South (Dhondy) had bid hearts. Dhondy led the ♣J and the defenders played two rounds of trumps, won by East in hand to lead a heart to the 10. Senior won the jack to lead a third club and declarer had four tricks; no more, no less; down 1100.

Bd: 19
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ AJ94
 ♥ K96
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ QJ84

West
 ♠ 108532
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ K643
 ♣ 105

East
 ♠ KQ
 ♥ A10732
 ♦ J5
 ♣ K976

South
 ♠ 76
 ♥ J84
 ♦ 109872
 ♣ A32

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Lin's decision to stay out after the 1♣ opening looks strange; surely it should have persuaded declarer to get hearts right at trick one by playing low from dummy. But Frontaura went up with the ♥J, covered with the queen and king. He led a low club to the ace, finessed in diamonds, and led a club honor from hand. Lin won, ran the hearts, then got off play with the ♠K. Declarer won and now elected to play for clubs to be 3-3 in the ending rather than trying to endplay East in spades to lead clubs into the tenace. That was reasonable enough, particularly given East's silence in the auction.

In the other room Masamura refused to rebid 1NT though I'm not sure why. His double got Nakasaka to a precarious 2♦ contract, and Federico avoided the fatal lead of the ♥Q. Well done. Instead he led the ♣10, covered in dummy and ducked. Nakasaka then led the ♦AQ, an excellent view. Federico ducked this so declarer came to hand with the ♣A and played a third club. That let Federico discard two spades, when Nakasaka also discarded his spade loser on the fourth club. East exited with the ♠Q and... Nakasaka ducked this as well. Finally East had to lead a heart or a spade into dummy's tenaces and declarer could discard his heart losers on dummy's winners. Nicely played. 4 imps for his pains; 11-9 for the Latin.

Pride of place must go to the three N/S pairs who defended 2♥ and held declarer to four tricks or fewer. I'd ask Sakaguchi and Matsubara how they held declarer to *three* tricks in 2♥ except that I'm worried I might never sleep again if I found out.

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ QJ6
 ♥ AQ973
 ♦ 5
 ♣ KJ63

West
 ♠ A84
 ♥ J5
 ♦ AK1087
 ♣ Q109

East
 ♠ K9753
 ♥ K862
 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ 5

South
 ♠ 102
 ♥ 104
 ♦ 9643
 ♣ A8742

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
1♦	1♥	Dbl (4/5♠)	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
1NT	2♥(♥+m)	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Two very aggressive auctions by the E/W pairs got them both to the marginal game, which needed a trump split and the ♥A where the auction had suggested it would be. In the Closed Room Lin simply won the second heart and played on trumps to wrap up 10 tricks. On a club lead and heart shift Federico eventually decided against worrying about 4-1 trumps and did the same thing. No swing and two excellent E/W results.

You'd expect four of a major to be comfortable enough for E/W here and so it was...up to a point. That point came when Senior-Kendrick were N/S. Senior overcalled 1NT with 2♣ to show a major and a minor. East doubled, Kendrick upped the ante to 3♣, and when this came back to East he tried 3♠, and that was where the trouble started. E/W play Smolen (Stayman followed by three of a major shows 5-4 in the majors, anchoring to the shorter suit). Should 3♠ in this sequence show 5♠ and 4♥ or the other way around? West went for the latter interpretation and sat for 4♥x when Senior expressed an opinion with a red card. That was a not-so-quick 1100 for N/S.

Bd: 21
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 10983
 ♥ A4
 ♦ K1094
 ♣ 1083

West
 ♠ KQ5
 ♥ 9852
 ♦ 75
 ♣ AQJ5

East
 ♠ AJ7
 ♥ J73
 ♦ Q862
 ♣ K42

South
 ♠ 642
 ♥ KQ106
 ♦ AJ3
 ♣ 976

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠(1)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass

(1) No major

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦(1)	Pass	2NT	All Pass

(1) Precision

2NT by East was favored with a top heart lead. Frontaura overtook and continued hearts instead of shifting to diamonds, and declarer established the ♥8 for his eighth trick. The defenders did have six tricks to cash but it was not easy to lead diamonds from South. Pellegrini might have inferred that North would have shifted to a diamond had he held the queen, so the failure to play diamonds suggested he had the king. That is probably an easier inference with the sight of all four hands.

In the other room Masamura's spade lead meant declarer needed to get his heart trick without any help from the opponents. Federico won the spade in hand to lead a heart to the seven and ten. He won the next spade and should have advanced the ♥J—we've all made worse plays than covering that, haven't we? ("Speak for yourself" says the other editor). He actually led dummy's low heart to North's ace. The defenders pressed on with spades at every turn, so when declarer finally played a third heart the defenders had the red-suits to cash and their long spade, down 150. That was 7imps to Beauty. Had Federico cashed out, it would still have been 5imps. Beauty led 16-11 now.

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ A
 Vul: E/W ♥ A1095
 ♦ A108
 ♣ J10753

West
 ♠ KQ8732
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ KJ7
 ♣ 84

East
 ♠ J94
 ♥ 643
 ♦ Q42
 ♣ K962

South
 ♠ 1065
 ♥ J872
 ♦ 9653
 ♣ AQ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♥
Dbl	Rdbl	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Neither N/S pair came close to coming to grips with this deal, though to be fair 4♥ is not a favored contract, except by Briggida, the Goddess of Fate at the bridge table. Pellegrini presumably thought he had implied hearts by his double of 2♠ (although even so, passing 3♣ as opposed to scrambling with 3♦ seems a trifle odd). In 3♠ declarer needed the ♣A to be where it ought to have been, but the cards did not cooperate. In the other room Nakasaka committed somewhat prematurely to hearts at his second turn and now Federico made a game-try double, which might have had the curious effect of keeping Masamura out of 4♥. He redoubled 3♥ but sold out to 3♠ and the board was flat at +100 for the N/S pairs. Another good result for each E/W pair.



"I have Excedrin headache #10."

At another table South demonstrated an interesting example of the Grosvenor Gambit. Playing 4♥ he won the spade lead in dummy, led a club to the ace(!), played a heart to the queen and ace, then crossed back to the ♣Q (no exclamation mark required) and led a second trump up. This way he had a ruffing finesse in clubs for the overtrick and simultaneously infuriated his opponents.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ K3
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ10
 ♦ A94
 ♣ K10984

West
 ♠ Q1084
 ♥ AQ72
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ AJ7

East
 ♠ 97
 ♥ 9843
 ♦ 86532
 ♣ 53

South
 ♠ AJ652
 ♥ 65
 ♦ KJ10
 ♣ Q62

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
			Pass

1NT All Pass

Vulnerable saves in 1NT against your opponents' 3NT are few and far between. In the Closed Room Pellegrini-Frontaura are not a regular partnership, and that became evident when South ducked the lead of the ♣10, giving declarer a third trick. But when the ace and another heart did not drop the king, declarer was down 400. By contrast, Federico won the ♣Q in hand with the ace and led diamonds. Now the defenders had 500 available, but it did not work out that way. Nakasaka shifted to spades, setting up declarer's queen, then to hearts when in with the ♦K. Masamura won declarer's queen with his king and cleared clubs, giving West his fourth trick and a surprise 3imps. Beauty led 16-14 now.

Not many pairs in the field opened the South hand and you can no doubt understand why. When South did act 1400 was achieved against 1NTx on four occasions, 1100 on three others.

On our next deal slam is fairly and squarely on the spade finesse. There are discards from each hand but they do not take care of the critical spade losers.

Bd: 24
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ K52
 ♥ 107652
 ♦ 92
 ♣ 974

West
 ♠ 10873
 ♥ A8
 ♦ KQJ
 ♣ KQ106

East
 ♠ AQ6
 ♥ KQJ3
 ♦ A3
 ♣ J853

South
 ♠ J94
 ♥ 94
 ♦ 1087654
 ♣ A2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

No swing. Nie's decision to convert 6♣ to 6NT worked fine today. Very few pairs had the mechanism to discover they were off two "key" cards. Don't worry, guys, your luck will change one day.

Bd: 25
 Dir: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ AKQ7
 ♥ A2
 ♦ AK52
 ♣ J52

West
 ♠ 542
 ♥ 84
 ♦ 98643
 ♣ A43

East
 ♠ J83
 ♥ KJ109765
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 98

South
 ♠ 1096
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ J107
 ♣ KQ1076

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
All Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
Pass	1♣	2♣	Dbl
Pass	2♦	2♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In 3NT on a spade lead Frontaura won in dummy and passed the ♦J. He lost a diamond and a club now. Gonzalo Goded's lead of the ♥K was a reverse Merrimac coup, creating an entry to dummy where no sure one had previously existed. Declarer could win and drive out the ♣A for 12 winners. An unlikely imp for Beauty, leading 17-14.

You'd expect a pair or two to reach slam here. SARA defeated 6♣, which contract can be set by force on the diamond lead. Meanwhile Hong Kong bid and made 6NT in one room and set 6♣ in the other. It would seem that to make slam you need to find the ♣A, ♠J or ♦Q no more than singly guarded; almost laydown, you say?

Bd: 26
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ QJ65
 ♥ 1052
 ♦ QJ96
 ♣ A5

West
 ♠ K102
 ♥ K43
 ♦ K542
 ♣ 864

East
 ♠ A97
 ♥ AQJ
 ♦ 108
 ♣ Q10973

South
 ♠ 843
 ♥ 9876
 ♦ A73
 ♣ KJ2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
1♠(1)	Pass	1NT	All Pass

(1) No major
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
1NT	All Pass	1♦(1)	Pass

(1) Precision

In 1NT Nie won the spade lead cheaply in hand and went after clubs. The defenders used their three entries to play spades through, won in dummy, then changed tack to clear diamonds. But Pellegrini as South won the third club and went back to spades when a diamond play was clearly indicated, and that

meant 150 instead of 90 for E/W. Nakasaka led a low heart against 1NT (won by dummy's king) and continued the suit when in with the ♣J. The defenders now established their long heart and eventually declarer cashed out for seven tricks. It was 19-14 now for Beauty.

Bd: 27 North
 Dir: South ♠ J6
 Vul: None ♥ AK10
 ♦ 1097
 ♣ 98765

West
 ♠ A1054
 ♥ J86
 ♦ KJ6
 ♣ Q42

East
 ♠ KQ32
 ♥ 9743
 ♦ 832
 ♣ A3

South
 ♠ 987
 ♥ Q52
 ♦ AQ54
 ♣ KJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>

Pass Pass 2♦(MAJs) Pass
 3♠ All Pass

Defending 1NT, Gonzalo Goded won the ♠Q at trick one and shifted thoughtfully to the ♦8. The defenders set up their two diamond winners and four spades and declarer misguessed clubs in the two-card ending to go two down. Since in the other room 3♠ lost one trick in each minor and three hearts, The Latin had 4 imps to close to 19-18.

Then on the next deal two overtrick imps reversed the position; The Latin by one. Could things get any more exciting? With the commentators on the edge



Would you buy a used car from this man?

of their seats...

Bd: 29 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q105
 Vul: Both ♥ 93
 ♦ 105
 ♣ A109765

West
 ♠ A98
 ♥ KQJ5
 ♦ K742
 ♣ Q3

East
 ♠ K7632
 ♥ 872
 ♦ QJ8
 ♣ K8

South
 ♠ J4
 ♥ A1064
 ♦ A963
 ♣ J42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Federico</i>	<i>Masamura</i>	<i>Gonzalo</i>	<i>Nakasaka</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nie</i>	<i>Frontaura</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Godeds had a highly restrained auction to 3♠, making nine tricks when trumps split. Lin followed a different route, offering a choice of games, and Nie had no reason to want to play spades. Had dummy's ♦J been the ♣J his decision would have looked a sensible enough one. As it was, on a club lead the defenders had seven winners. That was 10 imps to The Latin, up 30-19.

Board 30 ended up being flat, and The Latin had snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in the most spectacularly exciting comeback since...(Ok, our sarcasm pen has run out; normal service will be resumed as soon as possible).



"It may be just a caricature, but it'll still cost you \$30."

Match Seven: Lavazza vs Zimmermann

by Rich Colker (with a little help from his friend Barry)

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q76
 ♥ A976
 ♦ K4
 ♣ A764

West
 ♠ KJ854
 ♥ 10832
 ♦ J9
 ♣ 83

East
 ♠ 1092
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A10862
 ♣ QJ95

South
 ♠ A3
 ♥ KQJ4
 ♦ Q753
 ♣ K102

All but three pairs played 4♥ here; the three exceptions played 3NT and two of them went down. Four other pairs found a way to make only nine tricks in 4♥.

Bd: 2
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ K95
 ♥ KQJ4
 ♦ 85
 ♣ 9873

West
 ♠ QJ83
 ♥ 62
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ A1065

East
 ♠ 7642
 ♥ 109853
 ♦ 962
 ♣ 2

South
 ♠ A10
 ♥ A7
 ♦ KQ1073
 ♣ KQJ4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Dbl	4♣	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	1♣	1♦	Dbl
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥

All Pass

In the Open Room a series of relays landed Bocchi-Madala in the normal heart game. Zimmermann (Z'mann from now on) led a small spade, which eliminated one of Madala's worries when dummy's queen held. Madala came to hand with a heart to lead a diamond up. Multon won the ace and returned a diamond to declarer's queen. Then followed: diamond ruff (Z'mann pitching the ♣8), heart to hand (getting the bad news; Multon pitching the ♠9), heart to the ace (diamond from Multon), spade to the ace, ♥Q, top clubs, and Madala soon claimed ten tricks.

The auction in the Closed Room was shorter and sweeter, to the same end, but this time the contract was reached from the opposite side of the table. When Sementa led the ♣Q, again one of declarer's worries disappeared. Balicki won the ♣A in hand, played a heart to the king, cashed the ♥Q (getting the bad news), and led a diamond up as in the Open Room. Sementa won his ace and shifted to a spade, Zmudzinski (Z'ski from now on) ducking to Duboin's king. Dummy's nine won the heart return and now Z'ski could finesse the ♣10, unblock the ♠A, and soon was claiming 10 tricks for a push.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Again both tables reached the normal contract, this time 3NT, and again N/S in the Closed Room did so more economically (bid-wise) and from the opposite side of the table. In the Open Room Multon started the ♥10 and Madala played accurately: ♥A, ♣K to the ace, heart to dummy, diamond to the king (ducked), ♣Q (discovering the bad split), ♠10 to the king, and two more hearts. On the hearts Madala pitched two low diamonds but Z'mann had to unguard his spades. Now a spade to the ace allowed Madala to endplay Z'mann in whichever minor he wished for 10 tricks, +630.

In the Closed Room Duboin led the ♠Q, which gave Z'ski his tenth trick immediately via the spade finesse. Z'ski played a club to the ace, setting up two club tricks, and Duboin exited with the ♠J, conceding a trick to dummy's nine. A club to hand revealed the bad split there so Z'ski played the ♦K to Duboin's ace and inexplicably claimed only nine tricks. (We

suspect a Vugraph or player error here—or perhaps a more likely nicotine-deprivation induced *faux pas*.) That was 1 imp to Lavazza to take the lead 1-0.

Bd: 3 North
 Dlr: South ♠ K1086542
 Vul: E/W ♥ ---
 ♦ AJ5
 ♣ AK10

West
 ♠ 7
 ♥ KQ1087
 ♦ K1042
 ♣ 532

East
 ♠ AJ
 ♥ AJ632
 ♦ Q986
 ♣ J7

South
 ♠ Q93
 ♥ 954
 ♦ 73
 ♣ Q9864

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Z'mann	Bocchi	Multon	Madala
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Balicki	Sementa	Zmudzinski
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	5♥	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

The N/S pairs in both rooms reached the good spade game, neither pair making a serious attempt to look for slam (although Balicki did cue-bid 5♥ when Duboin saved over 4♠). Both tables quickly chalked up +480 for a push, and it was on to Board 4 with Lavazza still clinging to a 1-imp lead.

As you'd expect, some interesting contracts were played here. One N/S pair allowed their opponents to play 4♥(!?). The top scoring N/S pair played 5♠xx; Del'Monte notched up the unusual 1200, and Gold-Bakhshi pinned 6♠ on the Dutch: Pass-1♠; 2♠-4♥; 5♠-6♠. 2♠ was a weak raise, 4♥ showed a void and slam interest. Bakhshi deemed his two queens to be enough to go past 4♠. On a non-diamond lead declarer had 12 tricks.

We know a lazy composer who still has several scores to settle.

Bd: 4 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q3
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ73
 ♦ 54
 ♣ AQJ97

West
 ♠ KJ9652
 ♥ J5
 ♦ AKJ106
 ♣ ---

East
 ♠ A10
 ♥ 9842
 ♦ 98
 ♣ 106542

South
 ♠ 874
 ♥ A106
 ♦ Q732
 ♣ K83

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Z'mann	Bocchi	Multon	Madala
1♠	2♣	Pass	3♣
3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Balicki	Sementa	Zmudzinski
1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT
2♦	2NT	All Pass	

Z'mann might have gambled a 4♠ bid here, but there was no guarantee that partner would produce more than a small doubleton in trumps. And, as it turned out, it was good that he didn't bid on as he only took nine tricks. Bocchi started the ♣A. Z'mann ruffed, then played a spade to the ace and passed the ♠10 to the queen at trick three. Bocchi continued the club attack and Z'mann decided his energies were better spent elsewhere as he simply claimed nine tricks, conceding two hearts and a diamond; -140 for N/S.

When Balicki and Z'ski each bid notrump Duboin must have been bummed and consequently gave up on competing beyond the two level. Against Z'ski's 2NT he led the ♦K and shifted to...the ♥J. (You were expecting a spade, maybe?) But didn't Z'ski bid 1NT and therefore didn't *he* hold the ♠A? Isn't a lie as good as the truth if you can get someone to believe it? Instead of potentially defeating 2NT four tricks (a spade to the ten at trick two, ♠A, diamond through, spades) Z'ski soon claimed an overtrick for +150; 7 imps to Z'mann, who took over the lead at 7-1.

The Australian Oz players missed the chance for the biggest combined penalty any of us might ever have seen. In one room Federico Goded was in 5♦x as West. On a heart lead declarer is reduced to four trumps, and if he then misguesses the ♠Q he rates to go down a lot: a minimum of 1100. Del'Monte led a diamond and declarer might now have gone plus, but actually went down one. In the other room

Mullamphy sat East. The auction proceeded 1♠-(x)-Pass-(2♦), and came back to him in the balancing seat. He doubled for take-out, South shrewdly redoubled, and Klinger passed happily. Had Mullamphy passed he would have collected 3400, but he ran to 2♣ so Oz gained 9imps on the board instead of the 24 that were available. The one good news for Matt: he was sitting opposite the kindly Klinger and not the incandescent Ishmael.

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ K876
 Vul: N/S ♡ AKQJ976
 ♦ A2
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ Q32
 ♡ 108
 ♦ 95
 ♣ QJ5432

East
 ♠ 54
 ♡ 54
 ♦ J106
 ♣ K109876

South
 ♠ AJ109
 ♡ 32
 ♦ KQ8743
 ♣ A

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♡	Pass	2♦
3♣	3♡	6♣	Dbl
Pass	7♡	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	1♣(1)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	5♣(2)	Pass	5♡
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

- (1) Polish club
- (2) Exclusion RKCB

There is some question about Madala's double in the Open Room. Our guess is that it is PDI (Pass-Double Inversion: Pass shows a hand not interested in going on, asking partner to double with any hand that's "normal" for his previous bidding; Dbl shows a hand interested in bidding on but is willing to allow partner to override the decision and pass). So, with his ♦A, exceptional hearts and good values Bocchi was only too happy to bid on—to the grand! (Go directly to seven. Do not pass Go. Do not collect \$200.) His judgment was dramatically vindicated when 13 top tricks were there for the taking; +2210 for N/S.

North's actions in the Closed Room leave us scratching our heads—and *not* because we have dandruff. We're fine with the auction up to and

including the 5♡ response to Exclusion. But why, once Z'ski showed the ♠A, would Balicki not probe further? After all, didn't South respond with a game-forcing 2♦ to Balicki's Polish Club opening (which promised no more than a balanced weak notrump)? If South held as little as ♠Axxx ♡x ♦KQJxx ♣xxx, a hand surely sub-minimum for 2♦, wouldn't there be 13 top tricks (barring a 5-0 heart split)? Surely there was something North could have bid between 5♡ and 6♡ to elicit more information from South. Plus 1460 was 13imps to Lavazza, who led again 14-7.

The datum here was 2060. Very few pairs missed the grand slam, not that this should surprise us. By day two we are almost past being surprised.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ AKQJ5
 Vul: E/W ♡ AJ4
 ♦ 104
 ♣ A108

West
 ♠ 7
 ♡ Q6
 ♦ A76532
 ♣ KQ62

East
 ♠ 10986432
 ♡ K985
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ ---
 ♡ 10732
 ♦ Q98
 ♣ J97543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Dbl	1♠	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♡
Pass	5♣	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Dbl	1♠	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Some times you feel like a nut, some times you don't. Here Madala seems to be with the "nut" group with his 3♣ bid. (One of your editors—BR—feels strongly that South's only choice over 1♠ is between No Bid and Pass, and he has a strong preference for the former. Your other editor—RC—has sympathy for a 2♣ bid but is firmly opposed to 3♣ with a possible heart contract still in the picture.) On the other hand (or side of the table, if you prefer), did Bocchi really think Multon had psyched 1♠? Inquiring

minds want to know. With potential losers in diamonds, hearts and trumps 5♣ simply had no play, even on the unfortunate spade lead from Z'mann. Madala rose with the ace, pitching a diamond, and tried to rid himself of more diamonds by continuing the suit. Unfortunately for him, Multon had not been joking around with his 1♠ bid and Z'mann ruffed the second spade and played on diamonds before Madala could really get into the divestment process. Madala ruffed the second diamond and played a club up, Z'mann splitting. Madala then conceded a club to Z'mann's king and the ♥Q shift now held Madala to nine tricks; -300 for N/S.

The auction followed similar lines in the Closed Room but Z'ski took a more rational action by bidding only 2♣ over Sementa's 1♠. The defense to 4♣ was also similar to that in the Open Room. But when Z'ski ruffed the second diamond at trick four and led a club up Duboin did not split. Never fear. Z'ski rose with the ace rather than playing low and now Z'ski had to lose two more tricks. But -100 was still worth 5 imps to Z'mann, who pulled to within 2 imps of Lavazza at 14-12.

As for our survey of contracts reached here: four pairs went plus with the N/S cards (in 1♠, 2NT and 3♣). E/W bought the hand once, in 2♦, and N/S played in 12 different contracts (clubs, hearts, spades and notrump). The least successful spot was the one occupied by the pair who went six down undoubled in 4♥. But then again down three doubled in 4♥ wasn't that marvelous a feat either.

The next board was an unexciting push when both tables bid and made 3NT. Then came...

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ K653
Vul: None	♥ 742
	♦ K1054
	♣ Q4
West	East
♠ J107	♠ Q94
♥ Q9	♥ A10653
♦ AJ82	♦ 963
♣ 9862	♣ A5
South	
♠ A82	
♥ KJ8	
♦ Q7	
♣ KJ1073	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Z'mann	Bocchi	Multon	Madala
Pass	Pass	1♥	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Balicki	Sementa	Zmudzinski
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Most of us would not call the South hand a classic 1NT overcall of 1♥, but what are the realistic alternatives? Say you double and partner bids 2♦. (At least *our* partner, who has proven himself incredibly reliable in this regard, does.) What now? Surely you are endplayed into passing. We look at the South cards and see a strong notrump. Madala agrees, but not Z'ski. Madala gets to 3NT and with the help of the diamond finesse makes nine tricks; +400 for N/S. Z'ski's poor partner gets to 2♠ in the 4-3 fit and goes down one (Sementa led a low heart at trick one and Balicki understandably inserted the jack) even though trumps are 3-3; -50 for N/S. Have we convinced you yet? Ten sweet imps to Lavazza, who extended her lead to 12 at 24-12.

Both N/S pairs bid and made everyone's 4♥ contract (with two undeserved overtricks) on Board 9. Still 24-12 Lavazza.

Bd: 10	North
Dlr: East	♠ AK5
Vul: Both	♥ AK862
	♦ Q83
	♣ KQ

West	East
♠ QJ762	♠ 8
♥ J73	♥ Q1094
♦ 7	♦ AKJ1054
♣ J1086	♣ A9
South	
♠ 10943	
♥ 5	
♦ 962	
♣ 75432	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Z'mann	Bocchi	Multon	Madala
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Dbl	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Balicki	Sementa	Zmudzinski
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Ya' got trouble my friend, right here in Yokohama City. And that starts with "T" and it rhymes with "D," and that stands for *Down!* North has been dealt a bonanza in high cards along with a very respectable heart suit headed by the ace-king. Looks like a good hand to bid hearts, right? Not to Norberto Bocchi, whose radar for trouble is usually pretty good. But here it seems he received a fair amount of static. *BR* thinks the Dbl is reasonable (though he claims he would pass and see how things develop). *RC* would bid 2♥ and see how things develop. Neither of us would even consider bidding over 3♦ as Bocchi did here. But Bocchi is a many-time World Champion and we're just bulletin editors. Three hearts (mercifully undoubled) went quietly down three when the opponents managed to score two diamonds, one diamond ruff, one spade, one club, and two trump tricks; -300 for N/S. Unlucky.

In the Closed Room Balicki also chose to double—not once but twice. What was he going to do if, after the second double, Z'ski bid 3♣? Pass and watch Z'ski play 3♣ holding a 3=2=3=5 yarborough when he could have played a level lower in 2♥? Good grief. Luckily he did get to declare 2♥ and finished down two; -200 for N/S. That was 3 imps back to Z'mann, who closed to within 9 at 24-15.

Kendrick's team played 2♥ in both directions on this deal: -200 and +110. East could open 2♥ to show four hearts and a longer minor with a decent hand and no one had anything to say. We guess they were just unlucky with the vulnerability.

On Board 11 both N/S pairs in our featured match bid and made a standard spade game. No swing for matching 420s. Elsewhere there was rather more action.

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ A109874
 Vul: None ♥ K97
 ♦ J
 ♣ AJ7

West ♠ 52 ♥ A52 ♦ 108754 ♣ K83	East ♠ QJ63 ♥ 10864 ♦ KQ62 ♣ 9
South ♠ K ♥ QJ3 ♦ A93 ♣ Q106542	

Both Howard Weinstein and Ron Klinger sat West and heard North reach 4♠ on equivalent unopposed sequences: 1♣-1♠; 2♣-2♥; 2NT-3♠; 4♠. Both Easts

led a top diamond. Declarer won the ace, unblocked spades, then led a low heart from the board. Both Wests hopped up with the ace and fired a low club back, putting on their best "I have a singleton, partner" face. Both Norths fell for the bait and rose with the ace, hoping to hold their spade losers to one. Oops. Nicely done, gentlemen.

Meanwhile, our featured match was about to go out in a blaze of glory:

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ Q53
 Vul: N/S ♥ A109653
 ♦ J
 ♣ 1092

West ♠ 82 ♥ J87 ♦ K983 ♣ KJ75	East ♠ 107 ♥ K42 ♦ AQ542 ♣ A83	South ♠ AKJ964 ♥ Q ♦ 1076 ♣ Q64
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2♥(p/c)	1NT	2♦(1 MAJ)
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
Pass		All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
	2♦	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Whatever your feelings of warmth to Messrs B and Z, and we'd like to think they're both "friends of the Editors," a result like this just has to warm the cockles of your heart. Opening a weak two with the North cards *deserves* to lose 12 imps, wouldn't you say? in 2♥ Balicki lost four minor-suit tricks and two trumps. Z'mann's unfortunate trump opening lead (yes it has the sympathy of one editor, if not the other) let declarer ruff out the hearts when both majors behaved. 12 imps to Lavazza, up 36-15. Madala was the only player allowed to make 4♠ here; hardly surprising.

On the next deal Bocchi-Madala bid to a playable vulnerable game, one essentially needing a 2-2 diamond split or a very favorable lie in the side-suits. Trumps were 2-2 and everything else was as favorable as it could be. When Balicki-Zmudzinski stopped in 3♦ another 10 imps had gone to Lavazza,

up 46-15.

And finally...

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ K93
 Vul: None ♥ AK9
 ♦ K65
 ♣ A762

West
 ♠ AQJ10
 ♥ 76
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ KJ983

East
 ♠ 764
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ J9843
 ♣ Q104

South
 ♠ 852
 ♥ J108432
 ♦ A107
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
		Pass	2♦ (Multi)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦ (♥)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Declaring 4♥ as North on, for example, a club lead declarer can arrange to eliminate clubs and trumps, then exit on the third round of diamonds to endplay East to lead spades for him. Game is not great, but it is playable. Balicki duly collected 420, good for a 6-imp pick-up. That made the match score 46-21.

Meanwhile, at another table Howard Weinstein defended 4♠ as West after a Multi 2♦ from South, following which that player had shown a minimum. Despite his success (reported earlier) on Board 11, Weinstein was not done on his tour of deception. He led his ♠Q while again assuming his best "Innocent abroad" face. When that held, the ♠J appeared on the table and South ducked again. One can only assume that when the ♠A came next North uttered the Dutch equivalent of "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me."

Match Eight: WORLD YOUTH vs England Ladies

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 17 North
 Dir: North ♠ Q762
 Vul: None ♥ A75
 ♦ J2
 ♣ J1064

West
 ♠ A3
 ♥ KJ9864
 ♦ 105
 ♣ K98

East
 ♠ KJ10
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ Q764
 ♣ AQ75

South
 ♠ 9854
 ♥ 102
 ♦ AK983
 ♣ 32

Open/Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♦(♥)	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Easts were put under immediate pressure by three rounds of diamonds, knowing that North was in

position to over-ruff. Both Easts guessed well when they ruffed with the ♥9 (the Editors are split as to whether they would have made it; the one playing single-dummy never misguesses, the one playing double-dummy believes the percentage line is to ruff high and pass the ♥9). Oh well, no swing.

Only seven declarers went down in 4♥ here; obviously some played game from the West seat and received a spade lead which made their lives a lot easier.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ 742
 Vul: N/S ♥ 9762
 ♦ J5
 ♣ KQ93

West
 ♠ J103
 ♥ AQ105
 ♦ AQ2
 ♣ J84

East
 ♠ 5
 ♥ KJ3
 ♦ 9873
 ♣ A10762

South
 ♠ AKQ986
 ♥ 84
 ♦ K1064
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Dbf	2♠	Dbf	1♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	4♠
Pass	Dbf	All Pass	Pass

Dhondy's insouciant jump to 4♠ might have been just a little lucky to avoid a double, but neither defender knew about the wasted values that were just about to hit in dummy. Indeed, Miura made the mistake of believing his opponents, and sacrificed in 5♣. Repeated spade leads tapped declarer, but with four rounds of hearts standing up, the slow diamond loser and the master trump both took trick 13, and 5♣x was thus down only one trick.

In the other room Stockdale (perhaps bred from a more puritan stock than the typical player of her generation) passed 1♠ rather than doubling. I'm guessing this was the choice of only a small minority, but I'm not saying it isn't right. The English defended 4♠ undoubled down 200. Is there a lesson here? England led 7-0.

The next board provided a rarity:

Bd: 19	North	
Dlr: South	♠ QJ1094	
Vul: E/W	♥ K752	
	♦ J93	
	♣ 8	
West		East
♠ A853		♠ 2
♥ 8643		♥ 9
♦ AK4		♦ Q82
♣ A5		♣ J10976432
	South	
	♠ K76	
	♥ AQJ10	
	♦ 10765	
	♣ KQ	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥	3♣	1NT
All Pass			3♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	All Pass	2♥

Neither table found the spade ruff; -50 looked a pretty decent result for N/S here.

How often do you see a side almost shut out of the bidding when they are cold for game? Here 5♣ is icy-cold and neither West took a call with the best hand at the table while East took one call in total at the two tables.

With a freak deal of this sort you would expect to see some odd numbers appearing on the score sheet. You won't be disappointed then, we promise you. Let's start with the mundane. In the clash of would-be qualifiers The Netherlands and South Sweden, the Swedish East tried to put his partner in 3♣, facing a 1NT overcall, and a take-out double from one side looked like a penalty double from the other. That was 1070. In the match between Tsunami and Friends, Bob Geller played 2♣x from the West seat. That wasn't game, but those doubled vulnerable overtricks mount up; 780 to Tsunami. And finally... drum roll...a dispute about whether a pass of a redouble was to play, or "Pontius Pilate: you got me into this now you can get me out" saw Martin Garvey in 2♣xx, making five. Ok, out with the calculators; yes, that comes to 1960. We've been trying to get back to the 1960s for quite some time.

Bd: 20	North	
Dlr: West	♠ 1086432	
Vul: Both	♥ KJ2	
	♦ A10	
	♣ 106	
West		East
♠ 7		♠ AJ95
♥ A964		♥ Q10
♦ K82		♦ Q653
♣ AJ753		♣ K94
	South	
	♠ KQ	
	♥ 8753	
	♦ J974	
	♣ Q82	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	3NT	All Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♣	1♠	3NT	All Pass

Both tables reached 3NT but in somewhat disparate fashions. Dhondy could hardly do anything but lead a spade and continue the suit, since partner's discouragement might be based on an unawareness of who held the queen. Both declarers took an early club finesse (Brown a first-round finesse, Miura played the ♣K and then finessed). No swing at +600. The datum of 530 suggests few had problems here.

Bd: 21 North
 Dir: North ♠ 9
 Vul: N/S ♥ A942
 ♦ 10865
 ♣ 7653

West
 ♠ AQJ72
 ♥ QJ105
 ♦ J7
 ♣ 94

East
 ♠ 54
 ♥ K73
 ♦ 432
 ♣ AKQJ2

South
 ♠ K10863
 ♥ 86
 ♦ AKQ9
 ♣ 108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♥(♠)
Dbl	2♠	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

Dhondy chose discretion over valor and was rewarded by collecting +50 against 3NT. In the other room Macura, still a junior, put himself into -800 territory or so, but Brown was unprepared to defend with such a skewed hand for her earlier weak notrump. What's that phrase: "If you can't stand the heat, get off the pot"? Mixed metaphors aside, I do have just a little sympathy for East, but only a little. No swing, still 7-0 for England ladies.

Elsewhere a few lucky Wests were allowed to make 3NT after a spade lead by stealing an early heart trick. Only one South went for a number: a painful 500 in 1♠x.

The next deal demonstrated that giving partner superlative trump support can be both good news and can also lead to spectacular let-downs.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ 1096
 Vul: Both ♥ K985
 ♦ 74
 ♣ AKJ10

West
 ♠ KQJ
 ♥ QJ3
 ♦ J109
 ♣ 7643

East
 ♠ 75432
 ♥ A107
 ♦ A6
 ♣ Q92

South
 ♠ A8
 ♥ 642
 ♦ KQ8532
 ♣ 85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
Pass	1♦(1)	Pass	3♦
All Pass			
(1) Precision			

All Pass

(1) Precision

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦
2♠	All Pass		
All Pass			

It is always embarrassing to lose three trump tricks when partner gives you the KQJ in support and the opponents have no real shortages. Here the defenders led a top diamond against 2♠. Declarer won to play trumps, but Dhondy took her ♠A, gave her partner a ruff with the ♠10, and received a club ruff with her ♠8. Shame City.

If you think that might have been embarrassing, check out the other room. Against 3♦ the defenders led spades. Declarer took a desperation finesse of the ♣J—if that held he would be in decent shape. No luck. The defenders won and cashed their spade and three hearts. Now West fell from grace: a third spade would have allowed partner to take the ♦A and lead a fourth spade and promoted the ♦J, which would indeed have earned a special place in the pantheon of unlikely matching promotions. Stockdale missed out on the extra undertrick, but it was still 7 moreimps to England ladies, up 14-0.

If a photographer and an art thief met, would they take one another's picture?

Bd: 24 North
 Dir: West ♠ Q963
 Vul: None ♥ 7
 ♦ K54
 ♣ AQ972

West
 ♠ AK42
 ♥ QJ6
 ♦ A62
 ♣ 1085

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ AK852
 ♦ J10983
 ♣ 63

South
 ♠ J1075
 ♥ 10943
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ KJ4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Dbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1NT	2♦(♠+x)	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Both tables reached 3♥. Both defenses led spades. Miura cashed the spades to pitch a club, took two trumps to find the bad news, then led a low diamond from West towards his hand. That let Dhondy win her ♦Q and play on the black suits. Declarer was forced, and had only eight winners when the second diamond finesse lost.

In the other room Brown won the spade and cashed two top hearts from dummy to find the bad split. Then came a long pause. Eventually declarer crossed to dummy with a third trump, leaving the ♠K as protection against the force, and took the losing diamond finesse. She ruffed the third club, drew the last trump, and led a second diamond, claiming +170 when the ♦Q appeared. That was 6 imps and 20-0 to the England Ladies.

The datum here was 220 for E/W. The winning defense to 4♥ is to lead three rounds of clubs. Then North can take the ♦K and play a fourth club to let South pitch the ♦Q. Whichever hand the fourth club is ruffed in cuts declarer's communications. Did anyone find this?

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North ♠ 6
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKQ9873
 ♦ 842
 ♣ Q9

West
 ♠ AQ10532
 ♥ 52
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AJ732

East
 ♠ J874
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AKJ975
 ♣ K106

South
 ♠ K9
 ♥ J1064
 ♦ Q1063
 ♣ 854

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
	4♥	Dbl	Pass
5♠	Pass	7♠	Pass
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
	1♥	2♦	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	5♠	All Pass

Brown's leap to 7♠ is understandable because of the apparent source of tricks in diamonds, but maybe she was a trump honor short of that action, and maybe 6♥ would have been enough. We can all see that the action jeopardized a 13-imp swing, but if we could all visualize what our teammates were doing we would never sleep at night. Stockdale ruffed the heart lead in dummy and led a low spade to the queen (yes, running the ♠J gives her an extra entry that she might need to establish diamonds). Then she drew trumps, ruffed out hearts, played the top diamonds and ruffed a diamond, and ran trumps. In the two-card ending she had to work out if North had started life with 7-4-1-1 or 7-3-2-1 shape. She wisely played him for the more common pattern, and dropped the ♣Q offside. 17 imps and a 37-0 lead.

Two pairs bid the grand slam, two pairs played diamonds and regretted it, and one South really pushed his luck by *doubling* 5♦. The datum was E/W +1080.

The English Ladies had held their previous opponents scoreless in round seven. How much longer could they keep the streak going?

Bd: 26
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K8
 ♥ AK8
 ♦ QJ9864
 ♣ 95

West
 ♠ J109
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ AK3
 ♣ KQ832

East
 ♠ Q654
 ♥ 10952
 ♦ 1075
 ♣ 104

South
 ♠ A732
 ♥ J764
 ♦ 2
 ♣ AJ76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
1♣	1♦	Pass	1♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1NT	3♦	All Pass	Pass

3♦ was a delicate affair on the lead of the ♣10, covered all around, and a second top club to dummy. Senior led dummy's trump towards her hand and Koike went in with the king and returned a low club, letting Senior pitch her heart and hold her trump losers to three.

In the other room N/S had done well to stop in 1♥. Macura played to ruff diamonds in hand and a spade on the board. He took three plain-suit winners and five trump tricks, but the over-ruff on the fourth diamond held him to +110. No swing, still 37-0.

Bd: 27
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ A95432
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AQ2
 ♣ KQ10

West
 ♠ K106
 ♥ A10975
 ♦ J83
 ♣ A4

East
 ♠ QJ
 ♥ KQJ6
 ♦ K75
 ♣ J873

South
 ♠ 87
 ♥ 843
 ♦ 10964
 ♣ 9652

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
1NT	Dbf	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♥	1♠	2♠	Pass
3♥	All Pass		Pass

4♥ is certainly not the worst game you've seen, and on the auction from the Open Room it was an excellent one. Miura must have seen way too many of his partner's light openers if he gave him that much leeway. Admittedly the spade honors look weak, but even so...

Against 4♥ Kopecky tried for spade ruffs at trick one, knowing his partner had a yarborough, but nothing mattered. Another 6 imps for England Ladies, up 43-0. Still, as the song says, "all good things must end."

Bd: 28
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ Q54
 ♦ QJ9643
 ♣ K2

West
 ♠ 532
 ♥ AK10
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AQ10654

East
 ♠ K10974
 ♥ 9732
 ♦ A10
 ♣ 98

South
 ♠ J86
 ♥ J86
 ♦ K752
 ♣ J73

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
1♣	1♦	Dbf	2♦
3♣	3♦	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♣	1NT	2♣(MAJs)	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

3♦ lost the obvious five tricks, 3NT (reached after a value-showing 3♣ bid) on a diamond lead was held to six tricks. That 6 imps broke the shut-out; it was

43-6 now. Of course 4♠ is where E/W wanted to be. Blame that negative double—at least in part.

Bd: 29
 Dlr: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AQ8
 ♥ J102
 ♦ KQ1064
 ♣ A10

West
 ♠ J2
 ♥ AKQ5
 ♦ A82
 ♣ Q753

East
 ♠ K975
 ♥ 76
 ♦ J95
 ♣ J982

South
 ♠ 10643
 ♥ 9843
 ♦ 73
 ♣ K64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥

1NT Dbl All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
	1NT	All Pass	

In England a category of movies was listed as “H” for Horror until the 1950s. It was succeeded by X-rated movies, those suitable for adults only. The following deal reminded me of this fact, for reasons that will soon become apparent.

Senior’s contract of 1NT was not a favorite. She won the spade lead in her hand, capturing the jack with the queen, and advanced the ♥J. West won to play a diamond. Declarer took this and returned a second top heart. The defenders shifted to clubs. Declarer won in hand and played a third heart, letting East pitch a diamond. West won and reverted to spades. Senior could take this and set up the long spade in dummy, to come home with three spades, two clubs and one trick in each red-suit.

Stockdale’s 1NTx was a far easier affair. She captured the top diamond lead in hand and led a club up. Now the defenders could set up the diamonds but still had only six tricks. 7 imps for England; the Ladies led 50-6.

Bd: 30
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 1073
 ♥ 10832
 ♦ 1072
 ♣ KQ10

West
 ♠ KQ986
 ♥ A964
 ♦ Q85
 ♣ J

East
 ♠ J52
 ♥ J
 ♦ K964
 ♣ A9865

South
 ♠ A4
 ♥ KQ75
 ♦ AJ3
 ♣ 7432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Kopecky</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Macura</i>
		Pass	1NT

2♣(♥+x) Pass 2♦ Pass

2♠ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Koike</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Miura</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
		Pass	1♣

1♠ Pass 2♥(♠) Pass

3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass

4♠ All Pass

It was hard for Senior to lead a trump here. After a club lead it might be right to win and lead a diamond up before starting the cross-ruff. In fact Koike played to ruff three hearts in dummy while ruffing two clubs in hand. Then he ruffed the third club high, North pitching a diamond, and led the ♦Q from hand. He could not be prevented from scoring one diamond trick and his ♠K. Since 2♠ made a comfortable +140 WORLD YOUTH had a 7-imp pick-up to recover somewhat to 50-13.



“Peace and love, dude.”

15th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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	
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	
Sunday (Feb. 14)	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	F203-206
	18:30-20:30	Closing Ceremony	F201-202

