



NEC Bridge Festival

Friday, February 12, 2010
Bulletin Number 4

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Zimmermann Top Qualifier for the 2010 NEC Cup

At the end of the qualifying stage Zimmermann (Pierre Zimmermann, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski, Franck Multon) emerged the clear leader, outscoring Lavazza (Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Agustin Madala, Giorgio Duboin, Antonio Sementa, Guido Ferraro; Massimo Ortensi, Coach) by 9 VPs. 240 to 231. In third place was The Netherlands (Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen, Bob Drijver, Merijn Groenenboom) with 222 VPs and in fourth Oz Players (Ron Klinger, Ishmael Del'Monte, Ashley Bach, Matt Mullamphy) with 221 VPs. In fifth through seventh places were: the Bulgarian All Stars (205), South Sweden (202) and SARA (196). CANUKUSA and Kendrick tied for eight place with 195. In one of the closest tie-breaks we've seen in quite some time (using the imp quotient: totalimps won divided by totalimps lost) Kendrick snuck though by just over one one-hundredth of a point. The complete final rankings are shown below; individual match results for the final day can be found on page 5.

NEC Cup: Final Swiss Standings (Twelve Matches)

Rank	Team(#)	VPs	Rank	Team(#)	VPs	Rank	Team(#)	VPs
1	Zimmermann(3)	240	17	Beauty(23)	183	33	JAPAN WOMEN(17)	168
2	Lavazza(2)	231	18	China Women(1)	181	34	LAS FLORES(34)	167
3	The Netherlands(4)	222	19	Iza Yokohama(33)	181	35	Guriguri(47)	164
4	Oz Players(5)	221	20	The Latin(7)	180	36	Rosewood(29)	164
5	Bulgarian All Stars(8)	205	21	Yukinata(38)	180	37	CAMPANULA(26)	163
6	South Sweden(12)	202	22	TSUNAMI(19)	179	38	Korea CACTI(14)	159
7	SARA(20)	196	23	GIBS(24)	178	39	Hong Kong(15)	158
8	Kendrick(10)	195	24	ESPERANZA(21)	178	40	AQUA(35)	158
9	CANUKUSA(6)	195	25	MAKITA(27)	176	41	WHITE DREAMS(39)	157
10	WORLD YOUTH(44)	194	26	Kitty's(22)	175	42	Friends(42)	155
11	China Evertrust(13)	193	27	SAKURAI(36)	175	43	BANNO(31)	151
12	England Ladies(9)	192	28	NANIWADA(41)	174	44	Dolphin(46)	150
13	Oz Two(11)	191	29	Venus(28)	174	45	JAPAN YOUTH(48)	146
14	JAPAN OPEN(16)	189	30	NXST(32)	171	46	KATSUMATA(37)	145
15	TANAKA(25)	183	31	KAWABATA(30)	170	47	KinKi(43)	142
16	YAMADA(18)	183	32	Attack No. 1(40)	169	48	MY-Bridge(45)	136

Today's 1st QF VuGraph Match will feature The Netherlands vs Oz Players

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

Thursday's Match Results

Team #	CF	Match 9				Match 10				Match 11				Match 12			
		Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP(Rank)
1	118	35	96	25	143	44	20	10	153	24	31	14	167	18	22	14	181(18)
2	162	9	64	23	185	8	25	8	193	6	35	18	211	16	29	20	231(2)
3	152	23	81	25	177	7	68	25	202	8	26	13	215	38	85	25	240(1)
4	145	10	34	21	166	24	40	21	187	9	62	21	208	8	29	14	222(3)
5	149	12	46	21	170	9	14	15	185	20	38	20	205	6	16	16	221(4)
6	135	8	19	13	148	12	47	21	169	2	24	12	181	5	13	14	195(9)
7	133	44	26	16	149	3	18	3	152	18	23	15	167	25	22	13	180(20)
8	133	6	27	17	150	2	52	22	172	3	34	17	189	4	32	16	205(5)
9	146	2	33	7	153	5	16	15	168	4	36	9	177	11	22	15	192(12)
10	138	4	9	9	147	20	4	2	149	17	45	22	171	24	42	24	195(8)
11	129	20	32	11	140	23	28	11	151	34	41	25	176	9	23	15	191(13)
12	147	5	23	9	156	6	21	9	165	44	40	24	189	20	16	13	202(6)
13	110	31	72	25	135	18	31	14	149	22	44	24	173	23	28	20	193(11)
14	98	37	39	15	113	30	35	18	131	26	25	14	145	39	22	14	159(38)
15	118	19	38	11	129	32	20	10	139	47	19	13	152	36	9	6	158(39)
16	117	36	46	22	139	22	56	22	161	23	20	18	179	2	7	10	189(14)
17	116	32	34	14	130	41	32	19	149	10	17	8	157	27	21	11	168(33)
18	123	25	11	13	136	13	36	16	152	7	24	15	167	1	29	16	183(16)
19	118	15	56	19	137	28	35	21	158	38	13	7	165	33	19	14	179(22)
20	125	11	50	19	144	10	59	25	169	5	16	10	179	12	24	17	196(7)
21	104	26	26	15	119	29	55	25	144	28	11	15	159	40	36	19	178(24)
22	123	38	49	17	140	16	29	8	148	13	9	6	154	47	29	21	175(26)
23	142	3	14	0	142	11	44	19	161	16	6	12	173	13	6	10	183(17)
24	123	39	54	24	147	4	16	9	156	1	38	16	172	10	5	6	178(23)
25	122	18	21	17	139	38	35	12	151	32	23	15	166	7	30	17	183(15)
26	105	21	27	15	120	36	15	11	131	14	32	16	147	35	25	16	163(37)
27	106	46	52	21	127	33	27	14	141	41	51	16	157	17	37	19	176(25)
28	112	47	52	24	136	19	11	9	145	21	11	15	160	41	18	14	174(29)
29	98	42	34	20	118	21	1	3	121	46	30	20	141	48	47	23	164(36)
30	101	40	49	16	117	14	21	12	129	31	41	24	153	34	32	17	170(31)
31	110	13	10	1	111	48	22	14	125	30	5	6	131	45	25	20	151(43)
32	115	17	39	16	131	15	40	20	151	25	23	15	166	44	10	5	171(30)
33	114	41	27	12	126	27	30	16	142	36	47	23	165	19	26	16	181(19)
34	103	43	68	25	128	39	38	21	149	11	2	5	154	30	22	13	167(34)
35	118	1	4	0	118	47	35	10	128	48	32	16	144	26	19	14	158(40)
36	117	16	19	8	125	26	30	19	144	33	15	7	151	15	45	24	175(27)
37	83	14	39	15	98	42	35	15	113	43	33	17	130	46	21	15	145(46)
38	126	22	39	13	139	25	49	18	157	19	45	23	180	3	14	0	180(21)
39	123	24	18	6	129	34	15	9	138	40	2	3	141	14	25	16	157(41)
40	100	30	42	14	114	46	40	19	133	39	56	25	158	21	20	11	169(32)
41	115	33	40	18	133	17	17	11	144	27	47	14	158	28	23	16	174(28)
42	99	29	13	10	109	37	37	15	124	45	15	15	139	43	18	16	155(42)
43	104	34	17	3	107	45	28	8	115	37	24	13	128	42	15	14	142(47)
44	129	7	23	14	143	1	40	20	163	12	5	6	169	32	51	25	194(10)
45	71	48	42	18	89	43	57	22	111	42	13	15	126	31	6	10	136(48)
46	105	27	26	9	114	40	22	11	125	29	9	10	135	37	21	15	150(44)
47	112	28	16	6	118	35	54	20	138	15	27	17	155	22	3	9	164(35)
48	97	45	31	12	109	31	27	16	125	35	27	14	139	29	13	7	146(45)

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

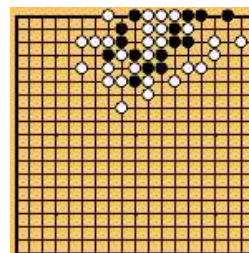
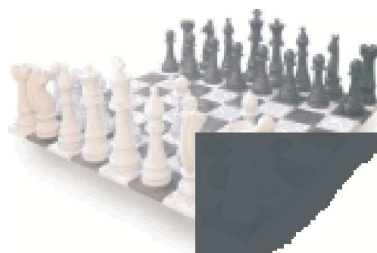
Place: Same as above

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 Nine: Oz Players vs South Sweden

by Barry Rigal

Do you feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk? Board one would test how lucky the various Easts felt.

Bd: 1 North
 Dlr: North ♠ Q10
 Vul: None ♥ KQ7
 ♦ KJ1032
 ♣ K53

West
 ♠ AKJ94
 ♥ 43
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ J742

East
 ♠ 762
 ♥ 10852
 ♦ 9876
 ♣ 106

South
 ♠ 853
 ♥ AJ96
 ♦ A5
 ♣ AQ98

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Wrang put his fingers unerringly on a spade lead. Go on partner; make my day. Mullamphy un-unerringly selected a heart. As Clint would say: "I tried being reasonable. I don't like it." 11-0 for South Sweden.

For anyone who has not been paying attention (go to the back of the class) the South Sweden team is an amalgam of South Africa and Sweden. Martin de Knijff was set to have played but is currently racked with kidney stones. Best of luck for a swift recovery Martin; in this case "All Pass" will be remarkably good news.

3NT went down 15 times when played by North on the initial spade lead. 5♦ went down once. About a third of the field climbed to 4♥ after West had bid spades. That played beautifully, typically for 450.

No problem, no matter how big and complicated, can't be completely ignored.

Bd: 2 North
 Dlr: East ♠ A98
 Vul: N/S ♥ J109
 ♦ 10942
 ♣ K85

West
 ♠ J6542
 ♥ A5
 ♦ A86
 ♣ AQ7

East
 ♠ KQ10
 ♥ K8432
 ♦ 753
 ♣ 62

South
 ♠ 73
 ♥ Q76
 ♦ KQJ
 ♣ J10943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♠ (reached after Wrang's Stayman sequence; he was planning a non-forcing sequence to show 5-3 in the majors because a transfer followed by 2NT would show 2-5 in the majors) played for 140 when declarer took no chances. Klinger needed a very favorable lie of the cards in 4♠ but was tested by North's diamond opening lead: South Sweden were two for two on opening lead so far. Declarer ducked the diamond (very dangerous), won the next and should now have played three rounds of hearts, ruffing in hand. That would have let him use the spades as entry to take two hearts and pitch his club losers. But he suffered a blind spot, pitching his losing diamond on the third heart, and let South win and shift to the ♣J. The winning line is not a sure thing but "If you want a guarantee, buy a toaster." The defenders had four tricks before declarer had ten, and that was 5 imps for South Sweden, up 16-0, instead of 7 imps the other way.

Only five Wests found their way to 4♠ and brought home the game, which seems just a little surprising to us.

Our next deal saw a very difficult bidding problem for E/W. You have 25 HCP and an eight-card major, but

the defenders have four top tricks against a spade game and seven top winners against notrump.

Bd: 4 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 987
 Vul: Both ♥ 8654
 ♦ A82
 ♣ A102

West
 ♠ AK54
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ Q9
 ♣ J873

East
 ♠ QJ63
 ♥ J1072
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ Q4

South
 ♠ 102
 ♥ 93
 ♦ KJ763
 ♣ K965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass

1NT(1) All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Sylvan's methods allowed him to stop low; Klinger's did not. Against 1NT the defenders led spades and Sylvan took the first eight, then graciously conceded the last five. Against 4♠ Gower underled the ♦A, giving Apteker the chance to make a discovery play of inserting the ♦J. (Had he done so he would have discovered he had let the contract through.) No, Alon has seen his partner on lead before. He played the ♦K, ever the optimist, and it held. "If you think it's going to rain, it will." After much thought Apteker shifted to hearts. Declarer needed to draw trumps before taking the third heart winner or he would go two down. (Was it worth the risk? Arguably so. It's only a 3-imp swing against a possible game.) But since the contract is not assured even if you get a diamond away on the fourth heart maybe Ron did the right thing by settling for down one. He drew all the trumps and played a club, and the defenders cashed out. 6 imps for South Sweden, 22-1 now.

Six E/W pairs brought home 4♠, two found a ninth trick in 3NT, but the vast majority racked up undertricks in notrump or major-suit games.

Bd: 5 North
 Dlr: North ♠ Q975
 Vul: N/S ♥ 76
 ♦ 105
 ♣ AKQ86

West
 ♠ K
 ♥ Q104
 ♦ AJ874
 ♣ J974

East
 ♠ 643
 ♥ A85
 ♦ 9632
 ♣ 1052

South
 ♠ AJ1082
 ♥ KJ932
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♣(SPL)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

For what it's worth the Editors prefer Del'Monte's unequivocal slam-try of 4♣, a splinter even in the suit "opened" to the 3♥ bid selected by Apteker, which might have been just a game-try. Partner, with ♠KQ/♥A/♣A, would not know he was supposed to cue-bid, would he? Bach knew to sign off; "A good man always knows his limitations."

Of course 4♠ by North had given Wrang the chance to be a star again; could he underlead his ♥A or would the lure of the diamonds prove too much? Reasonably enough, he opted for diamonds and the first danger was past. Bach lost a trick in spades, ruffed out the clubs, and in the ending guessed hearts. Wrang's decision to lead a diamond to trick one was probably the deciding factor.

Klinger led ace and a second diamond against 4♠. Had he not shifted to hearts when in with ♠K declarer would have had a blind guess which I think he would have got wrong: West's decision to lead an ace against a game argues for his having the other ace, too. It did not work out that way. After the heart switch declarer claimed ten tricks for a flat board.

Five pairs misguessed the play in 4♠, three overreached to the five or six level in spades.

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 10954
 ♥ A87
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AQ986

West
 ♠ AQ32
 ♥ 10632
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ J5

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ J954
 ♦ 97542
 ♣ K72

South
 ♠ KJ76
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ J1063
 ♣ 1043

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
1NT	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Neither North had a way to show their hand over the strong notrump. A good hand for Woolsey or the like where double shows a minor and a major. Against 1NT both Norths led a club around to declarer's jack. I can hear Paul Martston's comments about canape leads from here.

Declarer tested diamonds to find the bad news and then went after hearts. The defenders could set up clubs and had three club and three heart tricks, but that was it. No swing, still 22-1.

Just about a third of the field went plus as N/S here, making their own part-scores or defeating the opponents.

Bd: 7
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q1076
 ♥ AQJ943
 ♦ AJ5
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ 94
 ♥ 1075
 ♦ 10976
 ♣ A1052

East
 ♠ AKJ853
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q84
 ♣ QJ83

South
 ♠ 2
 ♥ K862
 ♦ K32
 ♣ K9764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	3♣(Fit)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT(♥)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Wrang led a top spade and shifted to a diamond. Bach now had 10 top winners and tried for 12 by ruffing the third spade low in dummy. West over-ruffed and played back a trump to hold declarer to ten. In the other room Mullamphy found the passive shift to the ♣Q at trick two. Declarer now had to be careful. He ruffed the first spade low and the second one high, and had his ten top winners. When he ran the trumps, East had to guard spades and diamonds and so let go of his last club. The strip squeeze was safe but after some thought Gower opted to cash his diamonds and settle for ten tricks. "The clock's ticking, Pops, and I'm only getting older." Still 22-1.

Who cares about overtricks anyway? Well, some times they matter more than others; as witness what happened when Lavazza played the English Ladies. After the auction followed the route taken by Bach-Del'Monte, Antonio Sementa had run out of pass cards. He put the red one on the tray, and after two passes he reached to pick up his bids. "We are not done yet" said Nevena Senior, contributing her blue card to the proceedings. The defenders accurately followed Mullamphy's route, but declarer played safe for her contract as Gower had done, then reduced to the four-card ending and exited with the spade to force a diamond play. The unusual score of 1480 meshed nicely with the +300 in the other room when declarer found 6♥ rather too challenging a spot.

Bd: 8
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AJ1087
 ♥ J7
 ♦ 973
 ♣ AKJ

West
 ♠ 9543
 ♥ A10
 ♦ AJ54
 ♣ Q97

East
 ♠ K62
 ♥ KQ542
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 10632

South
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 9863
 ♦ K10862
 ♣ 854

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

The auction from the Closed Room is what makes the forcing notrumpers wince. Even if you play a semi-forcing notrump you have a problem with a good 14-count like North's; do you upgrade to a strong notrump with two open suits, pass the notrump response and find partner with an 11-count and miss a game, or rebid 2♣, "promising" four? No system is perfect.

Against Bach's 1NT contract Wrang led a small heart. Sylvan won and played an unreadable spade. The defenders won and continued the suit and the defenders had six tricks but no more. Had Sylvan returned his partner's suit, 1NT would have gone down. But that's so passe, isn't it?

Mullamphy led a top heart against 2♣, then shifted to a trump. Declarer tried the ♠9: Q, K, A. Klinger unblocked hearts and played a second club and now declarer had three spade and three trump tricks, but that was it. Nice partnership defense. "They say marriages are made in heaven. But so is thunder and lightning." Down 100; 5 imps to Oz Players, trailing 22-6.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ 83
Vul: E/W	♥ K975
	♦ Q5
	♣ KQ764

West	East
♠ 107	♠ Q542
♥ AQ1084	♥ 3
♦ A73	♦ KJ1064
♣ 983	♣ AJ2

South
♠ AKJ96
♥ J62
♦ 982
♣ 105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
	1♣	1♦	1♥(♠)
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dbl	2♣	All Pass	

Facing the transfer advance Sylvan elected simply to introduce his hearts and support diamonds later...but there was no later. You can understand and sympathize with his expectation that he would get a second chance but in practice doubling the heart bid and then raising diamonds would have worked out better.

Playing in 2♥ North (nice opening, by the way, Ashley) led a top club. Declarer won and crossed to the ♠A to play a second club. North won and shifted to a spade. On the third spade declarer ruffed with the ♥10 and Bach discarded his second diamond. Declarer now could do no better than one trick in each minor and four trumps for down 200. Nice defense: "Anybody can do well at something he loves—it's just a question of finding the subject."

In the other room Gower's advance facing his partner's overcall was somewhat aggressive; he might have waited a round before committing himself. As it was, Klinger as West sold out to 2♣ when he might have chosen to compete to 2♦. The defenders took the first five tricks in the red suits via two heart ruffs and declarer now lost just ♣A. Oz Players had 6 imps; now 22-12 South Sweden.

Well done the East player who reached 3NT and was allowed to make it. Step forward Hikoe Enomoto. You can see how difficult defeating 3NT might be. On a top spade lead by South and a shift to the ♣10 (which looks reasonable enough) declarer can no longer be defeated. Declarer can duck the ♣Q if North splits his honors, and now when a spade comes back the defense must cash their spade or lose it. If they cash it, that is the ninth trick. If North returns a club at trick three declarer wins cheaply and plays a spade himself. Once the defenders' spade communications are cut, if they do not cash their spades declarer builds a second heart trick for himself.

Bd: 10	North
Dlr: East	♠ 98743
Vul: Both	♥ 5
	♦ Q10
	♣ AK765

West	East
♠ A10	♠ J
♥ K962	♥ AQ103
♦ 97642	♦ AKJ83
♣ 102	♣ J83

South
♠ KQ652
♥ J874
♦ 5
♣ Q94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	3♣(FIT)	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	4♠	Dbl	Pass
5♦	Dbl	5♥	Dbl
All Pass			

Bach's auction was far more helpful to his partner (should the defenders have worked out to bid 5♠? I think so) but it surely has to be South's responsibility, not North's. Gower went for the unrevealing blast to game, then doubled 5♦ to show unexpected defense. Now I'm not sure why Mullamphy removed to 5♥—how can hearts play better? Not to worry. In 5♥ he ruffed the second spade with the ♥10—yes, that was a careful play, and yes, we won't divulge the names of the players who were *not* careful in precisely this position (if the brown envelope with the hush-money in it is received by tomorrow morning). Mullamphy now drew two trumps to find the 4-1 break. At this point if you are going to play for 3-0 diamonds you should draw all of the trumps. If you are going to play for 2-1 diamonds you should cash the ♦A right now—at least that way if they are 3-0 you can save a doubled undertrick or two. Mullamphy did neither; he drew all the trumps and played diamonds from the top. Plus 850 and 6 imps, admittedly, but a smack on the wrist from his fairy godmother, who was making no plans to keep him out of trouble on future escapades. "Sometimes if you want to see a change for the better, you have to take things into your own hands."

Not surprisingly the scores were all over the place here: E/W bid and made game at a third of the tables N/S made 4♠x at about half of the rest of the tables, with the balance of scores being small penalties, generally of five-level contracts misguessed or misplayed by East.



"I don't know about you, but I can't take these editor guys much longer."

The match margin was down to 22-18 in favor of South Sweden. Up until this point in the match the bridge had been fairly accurate, but suddenly a cow flew by and deposited whatever cows deposit fairly and squarely on Fredric Wrang.

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ J10876
 Vul: None ♥ 965

West	East
♠ 5	♠ AK
♥ KQJ1084	♥ A7
♦ K	♦ J1097643
♣ KQ752	♣ A6
South	
♠ Q9432	
♥ 32	
♦ A2	
♣ 10943	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mullamphy Apteker</i>	
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠(1)	Pass	6♥	All Pass

(1) ♥Q plus either the ♠K or both minor-suit kings

When your partner uses keycard and decides on the final contract, you'd better be pretty sure you can count the top tricks in a different slam if you are going to over-rule him. "It takes tremendous discipline to control the influence, the power you have over other people's lives." Wrang could surely have known that his weak diamonds might prove an embarrassment, and that a club ruff could be critical in the small slam. But as usual, it is far easier to be wise after the fact. The defenders did not cash out against 6NT so Sylvan ran his heart winners and might have been able to set up a squeeze without the count if the same defender had everything. Today, though, the contract reduced to 3-3 clubs, and the Gods were not in forgiving mood.

6♥ on a spade lead gave Klinger a chance to

exercise his textbook expertise: Cash the top spades to pitch a diamond, play ♣A and duck a club, in case the suit is 5-1. Today the play was not necessary, but it is as well to propitiate the deities. You never know when you will need some cooperation from above.

Again, since we are in a forgiving mood, we won't mention by name the 18 E/W pairs who neglected the safety-play in clubs when declaring 6♥ on a spade lead. But you know who you are. We will, however, say that at one table West was right to reject the safety play since he was in 7♥. A triumph for Kimi Makita and Keiko Matzuzaki (and a missed opportunity for Mr Lightner and his double). That was 14 imps to the Aussies, now leading 32-22.

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ AKJ8
 Vul: N/S ♥ A109
 ♦ K9
 ♣ A983

West	East
♠ 532	♠ Q1097
♥ KQJ8742	♥ 53
♦ A4	♦ 72
♣ 10	♣ KJ754

South
 ♠ 64
 ♥ 6
 ♦ QJ108653
 ♣ Q62

Open Room
West North East South
Sylvan Bach Wrang Del'Monte
 4♥ Dbl Pass 5♦

All Pass
 Closed Room
West North East South
Klinger Gower Mullamphy Apteker
 1♥ Dbl 1♠ 3♦
 3♥ 3NT All Pass

The Editors are inclined to sympathize with both North and South in the Closed Room. Should South consider converting 3NT to 4♦? Alon Apteker had obviously taken lessons from Mr Eastwood: "Don't just do something, stand there. Gary Cooper wasn't afraid to do nothing." In 3NT on a heart lead Gower had six tricks, the defense seven.

In 5♦ Del'Monte flew with the ♣A at trick one and hoped for the best in the minor suits. Today his luck was in: "I don't believe in pessimism. If something doesn't come up the way you want, forge ahead." The defenders could not maneuver a club ruff and declarer could make the second club play after drawing trumps. 11 tricks and 14 imps, on a second

consecutive deal, making it 46-22 Oz Players.

Plus 600 in 5♦ was not achieved universally but it was the most common contract.

Bd: 13 North
 Dlr: North ♠ K
 Vul: Both ♥ A8632
 ♦ Q1096
 ♣ K107

West	East
♠ AQ10872	♠ 954
♥ 109	♥ KQJ74
♦ J74	♦ 83
♣ 95	♣ J82

South
 ♠ J63
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AK52
 ♣ AQ643

Open Room
West North East South
Sylvan Bach Wrang Del'Monte
 1♥ Pass 2♣
 2♠ Dbl Pass 3♦
 Pass 3♠ Pass 4♣
 Pass 5♦ All Pass

Closed Room
West North East South
Klinger Gower Mullamphy Apteker
 1♥ Pass 2♣
 Pass 2♦ Pass 3♦
 Pass 4♣ Pass 5♦
 All Pass

The problem with "automatic" cue-bidding is that you never know whether one hand has extras or not. The problem with jumping to game with a minimum is that sometimes all you need are the controls. Both tables really did not get to grips with this deal, not that slam is anything to write home about. On a heart lead, for example, 6♦ probably needs both minors to behave. Both tables guessed to leap to game to deny extras. Curiously it was North at one table, South at the other. In the Closed Room was it really dangerous for South to cue-bid 4♥ over 4♣? You live or die by the partnership rules, no doubt. "I think that for all of us, as we grow older, we must discipline ourselves to continue expanding, broadening, learning, keeping our minds active and open." One overtrick imp to South Sweden to make it 46-23 Oz.

Just five pairs brought home 6♣, which is curious in a way, given that slam does not have two top losers. Well bid the field, in a way.

The final board was a push; Oz Players by 46-23.

Match Ten: Lavazza vs Bulgarian All Stars

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 17 North
 Dlr: North ♠ ---
 Vul: None ♥ KJ5
 ♦ AKJ94
 ♣ QJ1073

West
 ♠ AQJ76
 ♥ Q10876
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 965

East
 ♠ 932
 ♥ A
 ♦ 107632
 ♣ AK42

South
 ♠ K10854
 ♥ 9432
 ♦ Q85
 ♣ 8

Bd: 18 North
 Dlr: East ♠ J109
 Vul: N/S ♥ 874
 ♦ Q93
 ♣ Q1042

West
 ♠ AK742
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ A874
 ♣ K5

East
 ♠ 86
 ♥ KQ65
 ♦ KJ2
 ♣ A863

South
 ♠ Q53
 ♥ 10932
 ♦ 1065
 ♣ J97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♦(1)
Dbl.	2♥	3♣	3♦
Pass	5♦	Dbl.	All Pass

(1) Majors, non-invitational

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
2♥	3♦	All Pass	

Against 3♦ Sementa led the ♥A and shifted to a trump. With the ♣9 falling declarer looks in decent shape but Isporski essentially drew trumps on himself and lost two spades, one heart and two clubs. He would have done better to ruff out the clubs and finesse a heart back to hand, conceding a ruff but retaining control.

If 3♦ was going down how would 5♦ play? Stefanov (Stefan, not Julian, by the way) led a top club and intelligently exited with a second top club honor, trying to ensure his trump tricks. Declarer guessed hearts by leading to the jack and ace, won the next club, and led a trump to the queen. At this point he had five trumps in hand and three club tricks, but no heart winners. Down 500 and 10 imps to the Bulgarian Allstars.

The datum score here was +20 for N/S.

If you live to be a hundred, does your lucky number go up by one?

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		1♦(PRE)	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The two tables took spectacularly different views as to how to advance facing a weak notrump with the East cards. Both Wests checked for a spade fit and in one case made a mild slam-try, then did not advance beyond 3NT, while in the other settled for a delicate slam probe of 6NT. I wonder whether 6♦ on the 4-3 fit might have been worth investigating. For sure Iliev's decision not to look for a diamond fit was a serious error though it did not cost today.

6NT needs either spades 3-3 or, if that fails, a diamond finesse and then either a diamond break or a simple or double squeeze. Best estimate per the Editors is that slam is no worse than 50%. Briggida tells us that the slam is 100%, and she should know. With spades 3-3 and the diamonds behaving, somebody up there was certainly trying to disprove Guido Ferraro's statement that "God is an Italian."

Approximately two thirds of the field bid slam. I guess when you have all the controls and 32 HCP together with a source of tricks that is about what you would expect.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ K752
 Vul: E/W ♥ J954
 ♦ Q
 ♣ QJ83

West
 ♠ AJ3
 ♥ A6
 ♦ AKJ1098
 ♣ 106

East
 ♠ Q10986
 ♥ 73
 ♦ 742
 ♣ AK4

South
 ♠ 4
 ♥ KQ1082
 ♦ 653
 ♣ 9752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	2♥(1)	Dbl
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Balanced spade positive

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
			2♥
Dbl	4♥	4♠	All Pass

4♠ in the Closed Room saw Sementa win the heart lead and play a club to hand, then a spade to the jack, ducked by North. Now declarer cashed the ♠A and played to ruff a club on the board, but still had to lose a heart and two trumps since he no longer could avoid the diamond ruff. Had the ♦Q not fallen, he would have gone down. A better line might be to win the heart and play the ♠J, and if it holds to play dummy's low spade. That way you ensure that you retain control. Alternatively, you can duck the heart, then just take a club ruff with the ♠J at once and play ♠A, ♦A and a second spade, retaining control, with the defenders having no communications left.

Iliev received the lead of the ♦Q, Bocchi hoping his partner had an entry to give him the ruff. Not today; declarer had 12 tricks, losing only to the ♠K. 23-0 now for the Bulgarian Allstars.



"How alert can you be at 10 o'clock in the morning?"

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ K85
 Vul: Both ♥ AKQJ62
 ♦ AQJ
 ♣ 7

West
 ♠ 72
 ♥ 9854
 ♦ K74
 ♣ AKQ6

East
 ♠ J10963
 ♥ 107
 ♦ 986
 ♣ 842

South
 ♠ AQ4
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 10532
 ♣ J10953

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♦	Dbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♣	Dbl.	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The Bulgarians certainly had the bit between their teeth in this match. To commit to slam Isporski needed to be prepared to gamble on the diamond finesse plus finding another working card in his partner's hand in addition to the ♠A, and today his luck was in. The 1♦ opening bid in the other room slightly changed the feel of the auction; maybe Bocchi did not do quite enough but I suspect most of us would not have driven his hand to slam, especially with that initial club response suggesting wasted values. Slam was easy to play. The ♦K was where it had a moral obligation to be. 35-0 Allstars. The fact that the datum was 720 here indicates how few pairs bid the slam.



"Who is this idiot who crawled underneath me?"

And there was more excitement to come:

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ Q10862
 Vul: E/W ♥ 764
 ♦ AKQ84
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ AJ7
 ♥ J3
 ♦ 732
 ♣ KJ872

East
 ♠ 53
 ♥ A5
 ♦ J105
 ♣ Q106543

South
 ♠ K94
 ♥ KQ10982
 ♦ 96
 ♣ A9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	4NT
All Pass		Pass	6♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	2♣(R)	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	2♠
All Pass		Pass	4♥

Reaching slam off two aces looks unnecessary. How do you make it? Easy. Trump lead and continuation, and with diamonds 3-3 the spades go away. The difficult we do at once; the impossible takes no time. East's trump continuation was the sort of instinctive move we all do but in reality there was no way that it would ever beat the slam. It was 35-13 and no doubt one pair of steaming Bulgarians in the Open Room.

Bd: 24 North
 Dir: West ♠ AQ94
 Vul: None ♥ K9
 ♦ 975
 ♣ K1053

West
 ♠ 7
 ♥ AQ742
 ♦ AK3
 ♣ AQJ2

East
 ♠ K8532
 ♥ 65
 ♦ Q102
 ♣ 876

South
 ♠ J106
 ♥ J1083
 ♦ J864
 ♣ 94

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♥	DbI	Pass	2♦
DbI	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

No doubt Iliev could not rebid 2♣ because that would have been canape, and 3♣ would have shown 5-5. Nonetheless, his 2NT bid looks a little uncouth. Stefanov raised to game and the low club lead did not really help declarer's cause. He needed to set up hearts, so he led low from his hand. Madala overtook the ♥9 and returned a second club, Bocchi won his ten and put the ♠Q on the table. Declarer won the king (good) but still needed hearts to come in. He took a finesse of the ♥Q and the defense eventually cashed their spades and hearts for down three.

In the other room Duboin followed a delicate route to 3♣ (note the take-out double of 2♦ with a singleton in the unbid major). He could set up a spade, then in essence play a cross-ruff. The defenders scored a spade, a heart and two trumps but East's ♣876 were too powerful for the defense. Plus 110 meant 6imps for Lavazza, down 35-18.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North ♠ K86
 Vul: E/W ♥ 10832
 ♦ 965
 ♣ KJ6

West
 ♠ Q104
 ♥ 76
 ♦ AKQJ7
 ♣ 982

East
 ♠ 75
 ♥ QJ95
 ♦ 84
 ♣ AQ754

South
 ♠ AJ932
 ♥ AK4
 ♦ 1032
 ♣ 103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
2NT	2♠	DbI	Pass
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Neither East led a club—can you blame them? Both declarers not surprisingly guessed trumps, and drew them all. The defenders scored their diamond winner but that was it. The play on a diamond lead is also very interesting. Declarer cannot duck the trick and after drawing trumps there are no entries to the South hand if West ducks the next diamond. There seems to be no pressure on the defenders; West can pitch spades as the trumps are drawn, and there is no way to establish a second club trick.

Kudos to the defenders from the East seat who found the club lead after their opponents had tried for the grand slam. Amongst others Nie Weiping hit on the club lead. Also, well done Kendrick-Senior and Nunes-Fantoni who bid to 6♦, which appears to be a somewhat better slam.

Bd: 29 North
 Dir: North ♠ A8
 Vul: Both ♥ 7
 ♦ 1095
 ♣ AQJ10953

West
 ♠ 97653
 ♥ AJ2
 ♦ 832
 ♣ 82

East
 ♠ K42
 ♥ KQ10985
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ 64

South
 ♠ QJ10
 ♥ 643
 ♦ KQ764
 ♣ K7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♣	1♥	1♠(1)
Pass	3♣	3♥	4♣
4♥	5♣	All Pass	

(1) Denying spades

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♣	1♥	Dbl(1)
2♥	3♣	Dbl	3♥
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

(1) Denying spades

Both defenses were up to the task of holding declarer to 10 tricks by overtaking the ♥K and shifting to spades. There were a few embarrassed Wests who were weighed in the balance and found wanting. 6 imps to the Allstars, now leading 52-23.

The match ended 22-8 in VPs to the Bulgarians, who were now back in a qualifying position.



“He says he wants to be a Director, too.”

Nunn But the Brave

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

In Round eight there were many Souths who attempted 4♠, running into an unfavorable lie of the minor-suit cards and going two down at almost every table. Tony Nunn played game from the South seat on a low club lead. Following the advice given by Tony Forrester (about the power of the closed hand) he smoothly called for a low card from dummy. Fooled, East won the ♣A and tried to give his partner a ruff. That let declarer shake his heart losers on the club winners and play a diamond. He now had the tempo to set up a diamond and ruff a diamond in dummy. Ten tricks made, the only declarer in the field to bring home his game contract.

Match Eleven: Oz Players vs SARA

by Rich Colker

Going into Match 11, Oz Players were sitting in third place with 170 VPs, likely to qualify for the KO stage fairly comfortably, about 21 VPs ahead of the eighth-place cutoff. SARA, on the other hand, was fighting for their qualifying life sitting twelfth with 144 VPs, 5 VPs and four places out of qualifying. Buckle up.

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 742
 ♥ A542
 ♦ A94
 ♣ 1043

West
 ♠ AK65
 ♥ K106
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ KQJ

East
 ♠ J10
 ♥ J87
 ♦ 8763
 ♣ 9875

South
 ♠ Q983
 ♥ Q93
 ♦ KJ10
 ♣ A62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣

1NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦

1NT Dbl All Pass

In both rooms West overcalled South's minor opening with 1NT. In the Open Room Del'Monte cut his partner some slack for having opened in third seat and went quietly, while in the Closed Room Mad Man Fu threw caution to the wind and let the axe fall. Style, baby.

Del'Monte led the ♠7, giving Kobayashi a third spade trick and an entry to dummy. Bach covered dummy's ♠10 with the queen (perhaps it would have been better to duck; the seven is clearly a high spot) and Kobayashi won the ace and started clubs with the queen. Bach won the club and immediately returned a spade, wisely killing dummy's late entry. Now a heart to the ten and ace upped declarer's trick count to six. Del'Monte exited with a heart and Kobayashi was in again with the king. He cashed his two high clubs and the ♠K, but the defense was able to claim for down one; +50 for N/S.

In the other room, where the stakes were higher, Fu

led low in his partner's bid suit (diamonds). Teramoto rose with the king and switched to his "real" suit—a low spade. Klinger ducked this around to the ten and, deceived by the earlier play in diamonds, led a diamond to the ten, queen and ace. Not a success. Now Fu, looking for the magic bullet, tried a low heart: 7, 9, 10. Not a success there, either. Klinger played the ♣K to Teramoto's ace, won the ♠Q return, unblocked clubs, cashed the ♠K, and exited with a diamond. Teramoto could cash the thirteenth spade but found himself endplayed to lead a heart, which Klinger ducked to score the ♥K and his contract at trick thirteen. Plus 180; 6 imps to Oz Players.

Plus 180 was the largest score recorded on this deal in either direction. Only eight pairs managed to record a score greater than 100. We hope all our readers feel special for having been shown where the real action was.

Both sides bid and made 3NT on Board 2. No swing.

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KJ3
 ♥ AK8
 ♦ AK76
 ♣ 743

West
 ♠ 1064
 ♥ Q94
 ♦ 952
 ♣ J1085

East
 ♠ A9852
 ♥ J3
 ♦ QJ4
 ♣ KQ2

South
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ 107652
 ♦ 1083
 ♣ A96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both tables reached the good 3NT on 24 combined HCP. In the Open Room Mizuta led a spade to

dummy's queen and Del'Monte set up hearts, Mizuta pitching the ♣2 on the third round. Kobayashi won the queen and switched back to the ♠10, K, A, 7, and Mizuta cleared the suit, declarer pitching a club from dummy. Now Del'Monte played a club to the ace (king from Mizuta) and cashed his two good hearts, pitching a diamond and a club from his hand as Mizuta pitched diamonds to hold on to his good spades and ♣Q. That meant that Del'Monte's ♦10 scored at trick twelve; +430 for N/S.

In the other room the play was virtually identical except that when Fu cashed dummy's last two hearts Mullamphy sagely discarded his two good spades and held declarer to nine tricks; +400 for N/S and 1 more imp to Oz Players, now ahead 7-0.

Datum here was 230 for N/S suggesting that only about a third of the field bid and made game here.

Bd: 4 North
 Dlr: West ♠ QJ5
 Vul: Both ♥ J9
 ♦ 9763
 ♣ AK64

West
 ♠ 976
 ♥ AK102
 ♦ K54
 ♣ QJ10

East
 ♠ AK108
 ♥ Q763
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ 852

South
 ♠ 432
 ♥ 854
 ♦ Q1082
 ♣ 973

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) Relay, game forcing

The natural auction in the Open Room produced a 4♥ contract while the artificial one in the Closed Room, which must have revealed Wests' flat shape, produced game in notrump. Who was right? Against 4♥ Bach got off to the unfortunate lead of the ♦10. Mizuta won jack, drew trumps in three rounds, and soon was claiming ten tricks; +620 for E/W.

Against Klinger's 3NT Fu led the ♣A followed by a low club to declarer's jack. Four rounds of hearts followed and now Klinger could have taken eleven tricks by double hooking the spades. Instead he exited with the ♣Q and the defense eventually came to four tricks; +600 for E/W. That was 1 imp back to SARA, who trailed now 7-1. (600 would have been a matchpoint zero for Klinger; fortunately he was not playing pairs.)

Another board, another game.

Bd: 5 North
 Dlr: North ♠ J64
 Vul: N/S ♥ QJ95
 ♦ 106
 ♣ AQ62

West
 ♠ Q972
 ♥ A842
 ♦ J5
 ♣ K54

East
 ♠ 108
 ♥ K106
 ♦ 98743
 ♣ J93

South
 ♠ AK53
 ♥ 73
 ♦ AKQ2
 ♣ 1087

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With the auction revealing that declarer held spades and dummy hearts, Kobayashi led low from his longer minor: 4, 2, J, 7. Eureka! Mizuta returned the ♣9: 10, K, A, and declarer mysteriously crossed to hand with the ♣8 to lead a heart to the queen and king. (This could have left the ♣Q stranded if the ♠Q had been with East, plus declarer had plenty of hand entries in diamonds.) Bach won the diamond exit and tabled a low spade. Kobayashi rose with the queen and tried a low heart, hoping to score his partner's ten. But Bach rose with the jack and claimed ten tricks; +630 for N/S.

Against 3NT in the Closed Room Mullamphy also led a club (the three) because that was the only unbid suit. Teramoto won Klinger's king with the ace,

crossed to the ♠A, led a heart to the jack and king, ducked the spade return to the queen, ducked the club return to the jack, won the club exit in dummy and claimed nine tricks, never scoring a heart trick. Plus 600 was another imp to Oz Players, now 8-1.

Rather more pairs had problems with this board than you would expect; the datum score was N/S +440.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ KQJ642
 Vul: E/W ♥ 7
 ♦ AJ964
 ♣ 6

West
 ♠ 85
 ♥ KJ1095
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ AK94

East
 ♠ A1093
 ♥ Q643
 ♦ 108
 ♣ 1085

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ A82
 ♦ 7532
 ♣ QJ732

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
1♥	2♥	3♥	4♣
4♥	4♠	Dbl	5♣
Dbl	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
1♥	1♠	2♠	Pass
4♥	4♠	Dbl	All Pass

No matter what the result, the Aussies' bidding is nothing if not exciting. With trumps splitting 2-2 in 5♦x the Open Room play was undramatic, and Del'Monte finished one down; -100 for N/S.

The E/W auction in the Closed Room is perplexing. Most of the world would treat Mullamphy's 2♠ bid (by a passed hand) as a limit raise, though maybe 2NT was also available as a better hand here. Klinger seems to have been of the opinion that partner had a hand not a foot (or perhaps he couldn't take a joke). But Deep Dude says 4♥ is cold (though only because the ♣QJ are both onside) so maybe Matt knows something the rest of us don't. In any case Fu really had no choice but to take the save in 4♠, and in time lost one club, one diamond and two spades; -100 for N/S. An exciting push. Still 8-1 Oz.

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ 95
 Vul: Both ♥ Q10953
 ♦ A87
 ♣ 874

West
 ♠ J8732
 ♥ A2
 ♦ J952
 ♣ K5

East
 ♠ AQ64
 ♥ K764
 ♦ Q643
 ♣ Q

South
 ♠ K10
 ♥ J8
 ♦ K10
 ♣ AJ109632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	1♦(♥)	Dbl	1♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	2♣
			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1♥	Dbl	1♣
2♠	3♣	3♠	2♣
All Pass			3NT

Kobayashi's 3♠ bid in the Open Room looks entirely reasonable, but Mizuta's 4♠ bid looks like a reckless gamble with what figures to be a worthless ♣Q and a hand whose values he had already shown when he doubled. In fact, 4♠ could have been set two tricks if the defense had been a bit more aggressive. Del'Monte led a club to the ace and Bach continued with the ♣J to Kobayashi's king (diamond from dummy). When the spade finesse lost Bach could have obtained a diamond ruff but instead exited with the ♠10. With the ♦10 coming down early in that suit Kobayashi soon claimed down one; -100 for N/S.

In the Closed Room it was Teramoto's turn to overreach with 3NT. Discipline? Fu heard that his partner had a long club suit and chose to simply compete to 3♣. What extra did Teramoto have to suggest that he could take nine tricks in notrump (unless 2NT would have been good/bad here)? Give Fu something like ♠xxx ♥Kxxx ♦Qxx ♣Kxx and even assuming a spade lead South can take no more than seven clubs and a spade in 3NT, while both major-suit aces would have to be offside for 3♣ to fail. Klinger led a spade and Teramoto won the second round and crossed to the ♦A to take the safety play in clubs. Now, when the defense came in with the ♣K, they cashed their spades and hearts for two down, -200 for N/S. That was a useful 7 imps to Oz

in a match in whichimps had been quite difficult to come by. Oz now by 14 at 15-1.

Bd: 8
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AJ1086
 ♥ 52
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ AQJ9

West
 ♠ 7
 ♥ AK6
 ♦ AKJ95
 ♣ 8432

East
 ♠ Q9432
 ♥ J10
 ♦ 843
 ♣ K105

South
 ♠ K5
 ♥ Q98743
 ♦ 1076
 ♣ 76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
1♦	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	2♣	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

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

Bridge can be such a cruel game. North has two good suits in which South holds a modicum of fit, while South has a modest six-bagger of his own for which North has a doubleton in support, but they can not legitimately make even one of any suit. In the Open Room Kobayashi led the ♦K against 2♥ and switched to a spade at trick two: ♠7, J, Q, K. Bach led a second diamond to the king and Kobayashi now tried a club. Bach tried the queen, letting Mizuta win the king and shift to the ♥J, for the queen and king. At this point Kobayashi did not trust his partner to have led low from jack-and-one and cashed the ♥A, relinquishing one of the defense's trumps tricks, before he took the ♦J for down one; -50 for N/S.

Mullamphy's 1NT bid looks to us to be just a tad aggressive (in the same sense that the population of Tokyo is a tad large); better, surely, to pass and then back in with 1NT when partner reopens with double, or defend 1♠ if that comes to pass. Klinger's 2NT bid seems reasonable (though some might be inclined to try 2♠ instead), assuming his partner's 1NT is at least semi-constructive. And that 3♣ bid. Ugh. As has been said in these pages before, we'd ask about the bid except that we're worried we might never sleep again if we found out. And that's not just because 3NT is cold (double dummy) or because

you can legitimately only come to eight tricks in 3♣.

Against 3♣ Teramoto led the ♥8 which Mullamphy bravely passed around to his hand. Next came a second heart to dummy and a spade off, ducked when Fu produced the ten. Fu tried the ♣Q and Mullamphy won the king. Then came a spade ruff followed by the ♥A, ruffed with the ♣9 and over-ruffed. Next declarer played diamonds from the top. Fu ruffed the third round and tried the ♠8, 9, ♣7, ♣8, and now Mullamphy could crossruff two of the last three tricks for ten tricks; +130 for E/W. A vacuum-producing 2imps for Oz, leading now 17-1.

The next hand was a dull 3NT with the SARA team making an extra overtrick. Oz with the lead, 17-2.

Bd: 10
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 643
 ♥ AQ75
 ♦ J3
 ♣ A762

West
 ♠ Q97
 ♥ 9832
 ♦ A6
 ♣ J1098

East
 ♠ KJ10852
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 10974
 ♣ 43

South
 ♠ A
 ♥ KJ106
 ♦ KQ852
 ♣ KQ5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
3♠	4♥	2♠	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♣(Q)	Pass	3♠(Spl)
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦(1)
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♥

(1) Probably a cue-bid (but possibly Last Train)

There is something to be said for Bach's pass of 4♥—but it's not printable in a publication meant for the general public. 4♥ easily made twelve tricks; +680 for N/S.

The auction in the Closed Room is as good as any, though almost any road should lead to the excellent slam on this deal. When Teramoto showed two key cards Fu parked the buggy in six, and ended up with what had to be a surprising 13imps for his effort.

The lead was now down to 2 at 17-15.

The datum shows six pairs going down in slam. Why, you say? Don't ask me why. (Copyright Annie Lennox.)

Bd: 11 North
 Dlr: South ♠ A86
 Vul: None ♥ A9
 ♦ Q8543
 ♣ J62

West East
 ♠ Q10972 ♠ KJ53
 ♥ K5 ♥ J1064
 ♦ KJ2 ♦ A96
 ♣ Q104 ♣ 95

South
 ♠ 4
 ♥ Q8732
 ♦ 107
 ♣ AK873

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
1♠	Pass	2NT(1)	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

(1) Limit raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
			Pass

1♠	Pass	2NT(1)	3♣
3♠	4♣	All Pass	

(1) Limit raise

Kobayashi's 3♠ in the Open Room must have disavowed interest in going any further but it seems Mizuta thought differently of it after Bach's 3♣ bid. Del'Monte must have wondered if this was a pinochle deck but kept his wits about him long enough to express doubt that it was E/W's pinochle deck. Del'Monte led the ace and a heart, declarer winning and playing the ♠9, which held. Del'Monte won the second spade, led a club to Bach's king, and when the ♣A held on the next trick the defense had their four winners. The diamond loser went on the ♣Q. +100 for N/S.

The bidding to 4♣ at the other table looks sensible to us, but when there turned out to be a trump loser to go with the heart and two diamond losers N/S had surpassed par by the margin of a double (since 3♠ was cold for E/W); -50 for N/S and 4 imps back to Oz, ahead 21-15.

Fasten your seat belts. This next one is a doozy.

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ A10987
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q2
 ♦ 10976
 ♣ Q8

West East
 ♠ 654 ♠ Q3
 ♥ K764 ♥ AJ10
 ♦ KQJ5 ♦ 842
 ♣ J2 ♣ AK965

South
 ♠ KJ2
 ♥ 9853
 ♦ A3
 ♣ 10743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♠(1)	Dbl	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Game with four hearts

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣(2)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) Puppet Stayman

(2) Checkback for a 4-card major

With the help of Del'Monte's (somewhat risky) double Bach found the lead of the ♠K followed by the ♠J. The defense cashed five spades and the ♦A and the contract was quickly down two; +100 for N/S. This might be a difficult result to match.

"No" said Tadashi Teramoto. With nothing in the auction to go on Teramoto led a normal ♥8, 4, Q, A. Mullamphy led a diamond towards dummy and Tadashi rose with the ace...and placed the ♠K on the table. When Fu signalled encouragement Teramoto found the only effective continuation—the ♠J—and equality had been achieved: dueling +100s for N/S. No swing—just swingers.

The datum was E/W +50; only a handful of pairs made 3NT but successful part-scores were plentiful enough.

Ok; white-knuckle time. It's going to be a bumpy ride.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ K4
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ107
 ♦ KJ86432
 ♣ ---

West
 ♠ Q1087
 ♥ J6
 ♦ A75
 ♣ K1075

East
 ♠ A6532
 ♥ 4
 ♦ Q109
 ♣ J864

South
 ♠ J9
 ♥ K98532
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AQ932

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Bach</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣(Spl)	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

If we hadn't seen this happen we would not have believed it. In the Open Room Del'Monte and Bach seem to have been on different planets during the auction. 4♣ was clearly a splinter raise of hearts, but the meaning of 5♦ is murky. Many would play it as exclusion RKCB for hearts (as seems to have been the case here) but Del'Monte seems to have thought

differently (perhaps something big in diamonds like the AQ?). In any case 5NT was either Grand Slam Force or some other sort of asking bid and Bach must have decided it was the former, or a key-card response showing two aces, excluding the ♦A. With his extra trump length he was happy to be in seven opposite as little as ace-fourth, and went there without further ado. Now all he had to do was avoid a spade lead and then find a way to make it. Kobayashi led a trump. Bach rose with the ace, then diamond ruff (with the ♥K), heart to the queen, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, claim. Plus 2210. No problem, man.

In the other room Fu-Teramoto sniffed at slam but never made it to the six level. Fu must have thought splintering would overstate his values, so he opted for a more "gambling" game bid. Teramoto made one try by cue-bidding 5♣ but this apparently did not excite Fu and he signed off in 5♥. On the spade lead from Klinger Teramoto could only manage twelve tricks; +680 for N/S. That was a hefty 17-imp pickup for Oz, whose lead had now swelled to 23 at 38-15.

Surprisingly, perhaps, only two other pairs bid and made the grand slam: Isporski-Kovachev have asked me to submit it to IBPA for the best bid hand of the year. Apteker-Gower brought it home doubled. Other "interesting" contracts attempted by N/S included 5♣ and 5♦. Two pairs went down in 6♥, and 15 pairs contracted for 12 tricks successfully.

On the final board SARA picked up another overtrick imp when both E/W pairs declared 2♥ and SARA made an extra overtrick when a defender ducked a trick and it went away. The match finished with Oz Players outdistancing SARA 38-16.

Match Twelve: South Sweden vs SARA

by Barry Rigal

As we entered the final match both South Sweden and SARA knew they needed a win to qualify. The top four teams (Lavazza, Zimmermann, Oz Players and The Netherlands) looked to be locks to qualify but South Sweden and Bulgaria could survive with a draw. The other four teams who would need a big win, or a win and help, were CANUKUSA, Yukinata, JAPAN OPEN, and the English Ladies. Both of the Japanese teams would have their work cut out for them though (they were playing the top two teams, and indeed both lost handily) Accordingly, Kendrick might come through with a big win—and some help. We will do our best to keep you abreast of all the matches involving these contenders.

Bd: 17 North
 Dir: North ♠ A975
 Vul: None ♥ A10
 ♦ J10763
 ♣ AJ

West
 ♠ KQ108
 ♥ KQJ97
 ♦ A42
 ♣ K

East
 ♠ 643
 ♥ 53
 ♦ K95
 ♣ 98732

South
 ♠ J2
 ♥ 8642
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ Q10654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♣(MAJs) 2♦		Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl.	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

With SARA back on Vugraph, I suppose that makes West in the Open Room one of the Usual Suspects. Here Kobayashi showed both majors and Mizuta corrected to 2♠. Apteker had what looked like an automatic diamond lead—how could preventing heart ruffs really help when you hold four small hearts? Declarer won dummy's ♠Q, knocked out the ♥A, won the diamond shift in hand and played a second trump. With the ♥10 falling declarer had to lose two trumps and one trick in each suit.

2♥ was a somewhat simpler affair. Declarer took a spade finesse with his only entry to dummy and wrapped up eight tricks. Only a spade opening lead might have set 2♥.

Bd: 18	North
Dlr: East	♠ K43
Vul: N/S	♥ 1094
	♦ Q10653
	♣ Q5

West
 ♠ AQJ985
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A87
 ♣ K74

East
 ♠ 62
 ♥ KQJ82
 ♦ J4
 ♣ 10862

South
 ♠ 107
 ♥ A753
 ♦ K92
 ♣ AJ93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
	1NT	Pass	1♣
1♠		Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

On a top club lead declarer had one club and one

diamond and five trumps. I suppose an initial trump lead might have done even better. It was certainly possible to do worse than lead clubs. Gower led a diamond and declarer won it and played back a diamond. Gower shifted to a trump. Declarer won and took a diamond ruff, then led a club to his king for the eighth winner. Plus 110 and 5imps for SARA.

CANUKUSA made 2♠ in one room and 3♦ in the other to take the lead in their match.

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ 10
Vul: E/W	♥ K873
	♦ KJ1043
	♣ Q62

West
 ♠ 532
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ 98752
 ♣ K105

East
 ♠ A4
 ♥ J1092
 ♦ AQ6
 ♣ AJ84

South
 ♠ KQJ9876
 ♥ A54
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 973

Open/ Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
			4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Teramoto looked booked for -300 in 4♠x but he swindled his way to an extra trick, winning the lead of the ♥Q in hand to knock out the trump ace. Then he led a low club from dummy. Declarer could not possibly have a singleton ♣K or he would have led it to trick two, but Wrang went in with his ♣A and a club trick got away.

Kobayashi led a low club (a lead that bears the awesome seal of both Editors' approval) which Mizuta won cheaply, and now three rounds of clubs and a shift to the ♥J saw declarer win in hand and knock out the ♠A, then run the trumps. East kept the hearts and SARA had another 5imps, leading 10-0.

The board was flat in Bulgaria-The Netherlands in 4♠x. All our other contenders took a more discreet approach to the South cards, losing 50 or picking up a small plus. The datum here was N/S -60.

If the bouncer gets drunk, who throws him out?

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AJ4
 ♥ 863
 ♦ QJ87
 ♣ QJ2

West
 ♠ 6
 ♥ KQJ2
 ♦ 10965
 ♣ AK93

East
 ♠ K1032
 ♥ A107
 ♦ K432
 ♣ 104

South
 ♠ Q9875
 ♥ 954
 ♦ A
 ♣ 8765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

In the old days we opened the West hand 1♥. Things have advanced since then, but not necessarily for the better. Sylvan could rebid 1♠ to show 11-14 and fewer than four spades, and Wrang had no qualms about heading for 1NT. Mizuta hates to miss games, and 3NT scores more than 1NT—though only if it makes. Gower led a low diamond. Declarer quite reasonably flew with the king...oops. Now Apteker exited with a club (the spade play is certainly hard to find). Declarer flew with the ♣A and tried to establish a diamond by leading the ten. Gower won, and now knew West was long in both minors. South had discarded the ♠7. The shift to the ♠J would allow the defenders to come to six tricks: declarer has to duck and now a club switch sets up the sixth winner. Gower played back a club instead and now declarer set up the ♣9 for his eighth winner. No swing; 10-0 for SARA.

The field generally coped well enough with this deal but Stockdale-Brown reached 3NT, down 200. Oz Two led 12-0 now, very bad for the Ladies, but putting the Antipodeans into the mix of qualifying.

South Sweden got off the schneid with an overtrick imp, then another imp on the next deal. After six deals none of the teams in contention had made much of a move, be it forward or backwards.

The future isn't what it used to be.

Bd: 23
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 432
 ♥ 7543
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K8643

West
 ♠ AJ875
 ♥ J8
 ♦ A1032
 ♣ 72

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ K10962
 ♦ Q876
 ♣ AJ105

South
 ♠ KQ1096
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ KJ95
 ♣ Q9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1NT	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

You certainly can't blame West for thinking he could beat 2♠, although my experience in these positions is that one is always disappointed by partner having shaded his initial action. At least West hit on the lead to keep his side in the game: the ♥J. Declarer won cheaply and needed to play for diamond ruffs as well as try to avoid trump promotions. He found the maximum pressure play when he advanced the ♦J. West knew his partner did not have much in hearts; surely the duck looks best in case this is the position. No. Sylvan cracked and took his ace to play back a heart. Declarer won and cashed the ♦K to pitch a heart from the board, ruffed a diamond, led a club to the king and ace. Sylvan exited with a club to his partner and had the trump spots to ensure three spades, but that still meant -670 for his side.

In the other room West got to express his opinion about spades a level lower. When Mizuta pulled the redouble Kobayashi was not tempted to up the ante in 2♠. He led the ♥J, captured Apteker's ♦K with the ace, and played a second heart. Declarer could ruff two diamonds in dummy but West had the wherewithal to score four trumps and the two aces. 13 imps for Sara, up 23-2.

Elsewhere Senior-Dhondy played 3♠x down only 200. Not bad since Gosney-Gill climbed to 4♠, doubled and down a cool 800. England Ladies-Oz Two was back to 14-12 for Oz. The Bulgarians doubled 2♠x and defended it accurately, but played 1♠x in the other room and brought home 360 for an 11-imp gain. In Kendrick-GIBS both tables played 4♠x, Senior escaping for the flesh-wound of -500 to pick up an "expected" 7 imps. Kendrick led 14-5 now. Oz Players collected 500 from 3♠x and conceded 100 in 3♠ undoubled; CANUKUSA now trailed 14-9.

Bd: 24 North
 Dir: West ♠ 532
 Vul: None ♥ K52
 ♦ AKQ3
 ♣ J97

West
 ♠ 4
 ♥ AQ7
 ♦ 107654
 ♣ A1053

East
 ♠ J10987
 ♥ 106
 ♦ 82
 ♣ KQ62

South
 ♠ AKQ6
 ♥ J9843
 ♦ J9
 ♣ 84

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Sylvan led a diamond against 4♥. Declarer tried to set up the suit for discards and East ruffed in with the ♥10. Teramoto pitched a club loser. Wrang thoughtfully led a low club to his partner so that he could ruff away the fourth diamond winner. Declarer could now lead a heart to dummy and run spades. West scored his two trump tricks but declarer had escaped for down one.

Apteker—who might well have played in partscore here—also received a diamond lead and the play developed along identical lines. The only difference was that after over-ruffing the diamond declarer led a low heart and West won the ace. No swing though, and still 23-2.

The Netherlands were one of only a handful of teams to make game. After the same first two tricks Groenenboom over-ruffed the third diamond and led a trump up. What could West do? If he ducked declarer would win the ♥K and take his discard while if he won and cashed the clubs declarer would know how to guess the trumps, since West would have given his partner the trump promotion if he could have done so. That match now stood at 15-13 for The Netherlands.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North ♠ A8732
 Vul: E/W ♥ K87
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ 103

West
 ♠ QJ5
 ♥ A1054
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ AQ72

East
 ♠ K94
 ♥ QJ63
 ♦ K975
 ♣ 65

South
 ♠ 106
 ♥ 92
 ♦ AJ43
 ♣ KJ984

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	1♠	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

As a passed hand Wrang got to show a constructive hand with hearts by his cue-bid, and was not tempted to bid on facing Sylvan's minimum action. Without South's opening it would be easy enough to get to the game That looks dangerously high here. And yet 4♥ is surely like the right place for E/W: if the trump and club finesse work you are home, and even as the cards lie you have excellent chances. One can hardly blame Gower for leading the ♣10; only a low spade makes life easy on defense. Declarer needed to go after club ruffs. When he tried to set up his spade tricks before playing on clubs North ducked, won the second spade, and gave his partner the ruff. Unlucky for Kobayashi. He needed the trump finesse now, and when it lost the defenders were in control. A second trump forced declarer to win in hand. Then, when he ruffed the fourth club in dummy it let the defenders pitch diamonds and arrange a trump promotion for the ♥8. Down 200, and 23-10 for Sara.

Both Verhees for The Netherlands and Stockdale for England Ladies brought home 4♥ on the lead of the ♣10. England led 22-18. Both pairs in Kendrick-GIBS played 3NT, not 4♥. Senior doubled this “on spec” and collected 500 for 7 imps. They led 21-5 now.

Datum to E/W was +100 here.

Everyone’s routine 4♥ produced a 13-imp pick-up for Kendrick when some aggressive preemption by Cooke-Garvey pushed their opponents into a slam off two aces. At 34-5 Kendrick was sneaking into a qualifying spot; three deals to go.

Bd: 28 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 98
 Vul: N/S ♥ AK
 ♦ KQ10852
 ♣ A32

West
 ♠ 10763
 ♥ Q102
 ♦ 9
 ♣ QJ984

East
 ♠ KJ52
 ♥ J6
 ♦ A743
 ♣ 1075

South
 ♠ AQ4
 ♥ 987543
 ♦ J6
 ♣ K6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Neither of our tables got close to the moderate 6♦ (though it is a fine contract from the South seat). An overtrick imp for SARA saw them lead 24-12. If they could maintain an 8-imp lead they would win 17-13 and finish with 196 VPs. Equally, South Sweden would finish fifth or sixth.

Bulgaria bid and made slam after a strong club auction. They had now leveled their match with The Netherlands and were virtually assured of the fifth or sixth qualifying place. Thus, four or five teams were fighting it out for one place. If any of them could make slam here, that might be enough. No one did and worse, from CANUKUSA’s perspective they dropped two overtrick imps to trail Oz Players by 3 imps. If the match finished that way, they would have

195 VPs, still good enough for eighth place.

On the penultimate deal Sara dropped 3 undertrick imps. They still led by 9 imps and had a projected finishing score of 196. On to the last deal.

All Pass

Bd: 30 North
 Dlr: East ♠ Q3
 Vul: None ♥ 92
 ♦ Q9543
 ♣ A952

West
 ♠ 74
 ♥ AJ5
 ♦ A10872
 ♣ KQ7

East
 ♠ AK10862
 ♥ 43
 ♦ J
 ♣ 10864

South
 ♠ J95
 ♥ KQ10876
 ♦ K6
 ♣ J3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Mizuta</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
2♥	Pass	2♦(Multi)	Pass
2♠		3♥	

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
2♠	All Pass	2♦	2♥

2♠ played for ten tricks and +170, 3♥ escaped for –150 and an imp to South Sweden. The 8-imp win for SARA gave them 196 VPs and seventh place by the skin of their teeth.

In CANUKUSA-Oz Players both Easts played 4♠ with ten tricks available on careful play. Both declarers ran into trump trouble (you can see how, if you get a heart lead, you might play on diamonds early, and then run into an over-ruff in diamonds followed by an uppercut on the third round of hearts). Both went down one. The 14-16 loss gave CANUKUSA 195 VPs and sole possession of eighth place—unless Kendrick (currently leading by 30 imps) could pick up 5 imps and an extra VP. That would lead to the vicissitudes of a tie. On this deal Cooke played 3♠, making 170 for Kendrick. Maeda played 4♠ for GIBS. After a top heart lead declarer misjudged the play to go two down. The 7 imp pick-up led to a tie that was broken on IMP quotient (imps won over imps lost). By the smallest of margins the Kendrick team squeaked through. Oh, Canada!

15th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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

Senior Service

Peter Gill told us about a nice play Brian Senior (seated South) found in 4♠, reached after a jump raise in spades by Dave Kendrick (as North).

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ J876
 Vul: None ♥ K1097
 ♦ 10732
 ♣ J

West
 ♠ 953
 ♥ AJ6
 ♦ KQJ6
 ♣ 1095

East
 ♠ 2
 ♥ Q843
 ♦ A985
 ♣ AQ86

South
 ♠ AKQ104
 ♥ 52
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K7432

The defenders led a diamond and shifted to a trump. It looks natural to win this cheaply in dummy and lead a club, but the defenders have the upper hand if they win and lead a second diamond. Declarer can cross-ruff to set up the clubs, but will run out of trumps in the process. In the two-card ending when he leads a heart West can keep a master diamond and the ♥A.

Senior could work out that he needed the ♥A onside, come what may. So he took the trump shift in hand and led a heart up. West ducked and now declarer won the king and led a club. The defenders could win the ♣A and cross with a heart for the second trump play but now declarer was in control and could establish clubs. Had the defenders played to force him, the fact that the heart trick was in the bag made the critical difference.

NEC Bridge Festival Closing Ceremony and Party

On Sunday, February 14, the Festival will hold its closing ceremony at 18:30 (that's 6:30 pm) in F201-202. As usual, everyone is invited to attend. Festivities will include food and prize giving. As a special treat, this year JCBL is bringing back their tradition of holding a lottery at the end of the evening. Prizes, such as chocolates and candies, gift mugs, coasters, stuffed animals, postcards, gift toiletries and collectible souvenirs of Japan will be given to lucky ticket holders. In addition, prepaid gift cards to local bookstores and free entries to JCBL bridge games will be among the prizes for local players. So come to the closing ceremony and be sure to stay for the lottery. You may win an exciting gift.