



NEC Bridge Festival

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Bulletin Number 1

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Welcome to the 16th NEC Cup Bridge Festival

This year's NEC Cup once again sports an impressive international field, including many of the world's top players. Stage One features a 12-round, three-day Swiss Teams qualifier with 14-board matches, imps converted to Victory Points using the 14-Board WBF scale. As in previous years, eight teams will qualify for the final KO phase. The 48-team field has been divided into two halves, with each of the top 24 teams paired at random against one of the remaining 24 teams (see p.5). Subsequent pairings will be based on current VP totals. The quarter- and semi-finals will consist of 32-board matches, while the final will be contested over 64 boards (with the two losing semi-finalists tying for 3rd/4th). On Friday, February 11th, the Yokohama SRR & Swiss will begin, followed on Saturday, February 12th, by the Yokohama Swiss Final (A, B & C) and on Sunday, February 13th, by the Asuka Cup (Open Pairs). (Note the Convention Regulations for pair games on page 6.)

The Daily Bulletin Office/Secretariat and the Chief Director

As always, we need your help to keep everyone informed of the happenings at this tournament. Please report anything amusing, challenging, or skillful that happens in your matches (bridge or otherwise) to the **Daily Bulletin Office, a.k.a. The Secretariat** (Conference Center, Room 421). If we're not in, leave a note on one of our computers (they're the two computers at the right as you enter the room). The **Secretariat** opens each day at 9:30 am. You can contact the Secretariat via a house phone from the hotel (Ext. 5785), or dial 228-6445 (from the Yokohama City area), 045-228-6445 (from outside the city area), or +81 45 228-6445 (from overseas). The editors may also be contacted via e-mail at rcolker@gmail.com or barryrigal@mindspring.com. If you're trying to reach someone you can't find here at the festival, you may leave a message with us and we'll do our best to get it to them. The **Chief Tournament Director** at the **NEC Bridge Festival** is once again the witty, urbane and occasionally immovable **Richard Grenside**, as always under the close supervision of wife Sue. Be advised that you call him at your own risk. The Co-Director of the NEC Cup is **Akito Omasa**.

PCs with Internet access are available for player use in the Secretariat (Room 421), along the wall to the left as you enter.

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 16th NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

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

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

NEC Cup 2011: 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: This year Bridgemate scoring terminals will be used. Match results should 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 playing area 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. (For those wishing to smoke at other times, smoking rooms are located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.) Automatic penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director as follows: Qualifying Swiss — 1 VP for the 1st offense, 3 VPs for all subsequent offenses; KO — 3imps for the 1st offense, 10imps for all subsequent offenses.

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. Penalties for violations are the same as for smoking violations.

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

The 16th NEC Cup Guest List

Konichi wa, and welcome to the 16th NEC Bridge Festival. As always, every session of the NEC Cup will be on Bridge Base Online, the world's leading Online Bridge site (hi Fred, Sheri, Uday, world), with live broadcasts starting with our Round One match: CHINA WOMEN vs NARITA. It is the history of this event that not just the favorites will be playing for the championship come Saturday. So if you start off poorly, keep your chin up, play with heart, and fight until they say you can't play any longer. As always, we're thrilled to see the many foreign teams here (17 this year, including a record five teams from China), and a special welcome to those attending the festival for the first time — or at least the first time in a while. It brings joy to our hearts to once again see so many friendly and familiar faces from around the bridge world.

One of this year's NEC Cup favorites is the China Women, the reigning 2010 McConnell Cup champions from Philadelphia. Three of its members, **Sun Ming**, **Wang Hongli**, and **Feng Xuefeng**, were on the winning 2009 NEC Cup team while two others, **Gu Ling** and **Lu Yan**, were members of the 2005 and 2004 China Women NEC Cup teams, respectively. Joining them is NEC Cup newcomer **Sun Yanhui**. *Ni hao, huan ying*.

Patrick Huang, last here in 2009, is back with team Taipei Weide, including newcomers **Jonky Chung**, **Herstein Liu**, **Sidney Yang**, **Grace Lin** and **Sophia Kuo**. Welcome.

The team from Indonesia has a number of returning members (**Henky Lasut**, **Eddy Manoppo**, **Denny Sacul** and **Munawar Sawirudin**) and two newcomers (**Donald Tuerah** and **Bambang Hartono**). Whatever their makeup, Indonesia, with their cast of World and International champions, is always a threat to go all the way.

What can we say about the team from Great Britain except "Welcome back, Papa Bear." **Paul Hackett** returns with cub **Justin**, **Tom Hanlon** and **Hugh McGann**. The luck o' the Irish to ye. (The bar's that ==> way.)

As its name implies, team NEDUK comprises players from The Netherlands (**Louk Verhees** and **Ricco van Prooijen**) and the UK (**David Bakhshi** and **David Gold**). Both partnerships have been here before, though on separate teams. We trust these pairs will not be separated by a channel, as are their parent countries. Good luck, gentlemen.

Last year's semi-finalist Bulgarian All Stars (**Valio Kovachev**, **Vladi Isporski** and **Manol Iliev**) are back, this time with **Hristo Hristov** replacing Stefan Stefanov. Welcome, gentlemen.

He-e-e's ba-a-a-ck! The inimitable JC (**John Carruthers**) has returned with a new acronymic team (KISS, representing the home countries of its members: **Kanada** [JC has never been a good speller], **India**, **Sweden** and **Sweden**). Two were members of JC's 2006 acronymic team (FISK: **France**, **India**, **Sweden** and **Kanada**), **PO Sundelin** and **Subhash Gupta**, are joined by NEC newcomer **BG Olofsson**. Both last year and in 2006 JC's teams finished ninth, one spot short of qualifying. (Check out JC's sad tale of his bad luck at the NEC, going all the way back to the 5th NEC in 2000, in last year's NEC daily bulletin #5.) Better luck this time, guys.

This year's Oz Players include: **Ron Klinger** and **Matt Mullamphy** (quarter-finalists last year and semi-finalists in 2009), **Justin Howard** (from 2008's VEGA*) and newcomer **Michael Whibley**. According to our spies, Howard and Whibley are members of the Australian Junior team who have done quite well in several major events down under recently, including reaching the finals of the 2011 Aussie NOT (with Oz Two's Edgton). G'day mates.

Oz Two returns with **Sartaj Hans**, **Tony Nunn** and **Paul Gosney**, this year with **Nabil Edgton** playing the role of Peter Gill ("the fastest mouth in the West"). Edgton is part of the junior team (with Oz Players' Howard and Whibley) that has done so well recently. Our spies tell us that Gosney-Edgton's recent accomplishments include: the Hills-Hurley Trophy for the most successful Australian youth partnership for 2010, a win in the Australian Autumn NOT (with Oz players' Howard and Whibley), a win in the ANC Youth Teams, 4th place in the ANC Open Butler, the best datum score of all Australian pairs in the 2010 Rosenblum, and spearheading the Australian Junior Team that qualified for the quarter-finals at the World Junior Championships. Here at the NEC, this year's Oz two team hopes to raise their status even further against their fellow Aussies (not to mention the rest of the field) compared to their 13th-place showing in last year's Qualifying Swiss. Looking forward to the showdown...if it comes, mates.

Back again from England come last year's England Ladies (**Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown** and **Susan Stockdale**). Dhondy and Senior won the World Women's Teams in Beijing in 2008; Brown and Stockdale were highly regarded juniors — this year slightly less junior. If our reports are correct, this team qualified at last year's Europeans for the upcoming 2011 Venice Cup. Their much anticipated quest to replace the China Women as darlings of the NEC failed to materialize last year. Maybe this year will be different.

From India comes Hemant Jalan (**Hemant K. Jalan, Ashish Malhotra, Keyzad Anklesaria, Anal Shah, Sunit Chokshi** and **K.R.Venkataraman**). Shah was a member of the 2007 NEC Cup India-Tolani Shipping team; the others are newcomers to the NEC. Welcome, and good luck.

The **Godeds (Federico and Gonzalo)**, members of the 2008 NEC Cup finalists The Latin, are back, this time with newcomers **Miguel Gonçalves** and **Jordi Sabate**. Now they're team Spain. Hola — and olé!

This year's team from Korea includes two players from last year's Korea CACTI (**Sung Kyunghae** and **Park Jungyoon**), one member of 2004's Korean Amante team (**Kim Yoonkyung**), and newcomer **Park Myungkee**. Welcome, and good luck.

In addition to the China Women, four other Chinese teams join us this year. The first of these is Zhe Jiang Hua Men (**Xu Qun, Zhang Yu, Nie Weiping, Wang Xiaojing, Dai Jianming** and **Zhuang Zejun**). While Xu Qun is a newcomer to the NEC, Zhang Yu was a member of the 2000 China Women, Nie Weiping was a member of last year's Japanese team Beauty (and a professional Go player, widely regarded as one of the strongest in the world in the 1980s), Wang Xiaojing was on the 1997 NEC China team, and Dai Jianming and Zhuang Zejun were both on the 1998 NEC China team.

China's Heng Sha Ke Ji (**Wang Kui, Liu Haitao, Li Xiaoyi, Zhao Yonghui, Liu Huazong** and **Peng Jianfeng**) has several members with NEC Cup experience. Wang Kui was a member of the 2007 China-Beijing team, Liu Haitao was on the 1997 NEC China team, and Li Xiaoyi was a member of the 2004 NEC China Open team. The remaining three (Zhao Yonghui, Liu Huazong and Peng Jianfeng) are NEC Cup newcomers.

China's Beijing Trinergy (**Lu Dong, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Zhengjun, Wang Yanhong** and **Li Rui**) also has NEC Cup experience. NEC Cup newcomers Lu Dong and Li Rui are joined by Ju Chuancheng, coach of last year's NEC Cup champion China Women, Shi Zhengjun, from 2010's China Evertrust, and Wang Yanhong, of the 2004 NEC China Ladies.

China's "virgin" entry this year is Shenzhen Nangang Power (**Chen Shenghong, Shen Jiaxiang, Shi Xiao, Yang Lixin, Zhan Banxiang** and **Zhan Qiang**), all newcomers to the NEC.

To all of our Chinese entrants, welcome, and *hao yun*.

Among the top Japanese teams this year are: Good Oxygen (**Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino** and **Tadashi Imakura**), Okay+ (**Kazuhiko Yamada, Akihiko Yamada, Kyoko Ohno, Takahiko Hirata, Katsumi Takahashi** and **Masaaki Takayama**) and SARA (**Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Shugo Tanaka, and Takeshi Niekawa**, along with the irrepressible **Fu Zhong**).

So welcome to the 2011 NEC Bridge Festival. May your bids all be inspired. May your plays all be double-dummy, and may your fiercest competitors finish one place below you in the standings. Good luck, everyone.

NEC Bridge Festival Smoking Policy

NEC Cup:

See the Smoking section of the CoC (page 2).

Other events:

Once a session has started, and until the player has finished all boards in the session, smoking is prohibited at ALL times other than a single designated smoking break, which may be announced at the option of the Director.

Smoking areas:

Smoking is only permitted in the smoking rooms located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.

Penalties:

Penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director.

Team Rosters: 16th NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	China Women:	Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Gu Ling, Sun Yanhui, Feng Xuefeng, Lu Yan, Fan Guansheng (NPC)
2	Taipei Weide:	Patrick Huang, Jonky Chung, Herstein Liu, Sidney Yang, Grace Lin, Sophia Kuo
3	Manado-Indonesia:	Henky Lasut, Eddy Manoppo, Denny Sacul, Donald Tuerah, Munawar Sawirudin, Bambang Hartono
4	Hackett:	Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann
5	NEDUK:	David Bakhshi, David Gold, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen
6	Bulgarian All Stars:	Valio Kovachev, Vladi Isporski, Manol Iliev, Hristo Hristov
7	KISS:	John Carruthers, Subhash Gupta, PO Sundelin, BG Olofsson
8	Oz Players:	Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Justin Howard, Michael Whibley
9	Oz Two:	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Paul Gosney, Nabil Edgtton
10	England Ladies:	Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown, Susan Stockdale
11	Hemant Jalan:	Hemant K. Jalan, Ashish Malhotra, Keyzad Anklesaria, Anal Shah, Sunit Chokshi, K.R.Venkataraman
12	Spain:	Federico Goded, Gonzalo Goded, Miguel Gonçalves, Jordi Sabate
13	Korea:	Park Jungyoon, Sung Kyunghae, Kim Yoonkyung, Park Myungkee
14	Zhe Jiang Hua Men:	Xu Qun, Zhang Yu, Nie Weiping, Wang Xiaojing, Dai Jianming, Zhuang Zejun
15	Heng Sha Ke Ji:	Wang Kui, Liu Haitao, Li Xiaoyi, Zhao Yonghui, Liu Huazong, Peng Jianfeng
16	Beijing Trinergy:	Lu Dong, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Zhengjun, Wang Yanhong, Li Rui
17	Shenzhen Nangang Power:	Chen Shenghong, Shen Jiexiang, Shi Xiao, Yang Lixin, Zhan Banxiang, Gui Shengyue
18	Good Oxygen:	Chen Dawei, Kazuo Furuta, Masayuki Ino, Tadashi Imakura
19	Okay+:	Kazuhiko Yamada, Akihiko Yamada, Kyoko Ohno, Takahiko Hirata, Katsumi Takahashi, Masaaki Takayama
20	SARA:	Tadashi Teramoto, Kumiko Sasahira, Shugo Tanaka, Takeshi Niekawa, Fu Zhong, Takashi Matsuda
21	Pretty Cats:	Yoko Nenohi, Kyoko Toyofuku, Kumiko Matsuo, Toshiko Kaho, Makiko Sato, Yoshiko Sakaguchi
22	ESPERANZA:	Haruko Koshi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Misuzu Ichihashi, Michiko Iwahashi, Yayoi Sakamoto
23	Lion:	Yuichi Masamura, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Eiji Otaka, Yoichi Ito, Masaru Yoshida, Masayuki Hayasaka
24	AKAMA:	Ayako Miyakuni, Hiroko Ota, Yoko Maruyama, Keisuke Akama, Masako Katsube
25	HANA:	Yuki Fukuyoshi, Takeshi Hanayama, Tadashi Jomura, Hiroaki Iwata
26	NARITA:	Yasuhiro Shimizu, Makoto Hirata, Seiya Shimizu, Hidenori Narita, Takashi Maeda, Nobuyuki Hayashi
27	TimTam:	Kazuko Kawashima, Fumiko Kimura, Kiyoko Usui, Takako Fujimoto, Sumiko Sugino, Kazuko Takahashi
28	Fairy Tale:	Kyoko Shimamura, Akio Kurokawa, Ryo Okuno, Akira Ohara, Brian Senior, Kazunori Sasaki
29	KAWABATA:	Akiko Kawabata, Misako Fukazawa, Teruo Miyazaki, Kunio Kodaira, Yasuko Kosaka, Harue Iemori
30	Iza Yokohama II:	Osami Kimura, Hiroko Kobayashi, Yasuyoshi Toriumi, Aiko Banno, Setsuko Kimura
31	NAITO:	Kikuo Tatai, Kenji Miyakuni, Sakiko Naito, Toru Henmi
32	JAPAN YOUTH:	Hiroaki Miura, Hiroki Yokoi, Noriaki Koike, Yoshiro Kido, Tomoyuki Watanuki, Daisuke Sugimoto
33	SKOTII:	Tsuneo Sakurai, Takahiro Kamiyo, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Motoharu Ushio
34	Venus:	Atsuko Kurita, Emiko Tamura, Junko Den, Yoshiko Murata, Noriko Takami, Miyako Miyazaki
35	LAS FLORES:	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Shimako Yaji, Yoko Komuro
36	Jiuzhaigou:	Shunsuke Morimura, Zhao Jinlong, Jiang Yi, Hiroya Abe
37	Rosewood:	Yoko Fukuyama, Takashi Sumita, Hiromu Nishida, Yoshie Nishida
38	KATSUMATA:	Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Kimiko Kamakari, Misae Kato
39	Yukinata:	Yukiko Umezu, Etsuko Naito, Yukiko Hoshi, Megumi Takasaka
40	River side:	Yumiko Kawakami, Toyohiko Ozawa, Masakatsu Sugino, Ryoichi Yasuhara, Hiroko Tanaka, Tomoko Sakai
41	NANIWADA:	Masaru Naniwada, Hisami Kataoka, Hikoe Enomoto, Toshiro Nose, Hideo Togawa
42	Friends:	Yoko Saito, Mamiko Odaira, Yumiko Kichise, Toshiko Hagiwara, Koichi Onishi, Taiko Bando
43	Summer Wine:	Shintaro Sentsui, Hiroko Sentsui, Kenichi Ito, Tadashi Yamasaki, Yumi Yanagida
44	MammoM:	Ryo Matsubara, Toru Amano, Mark LaForge, Midori Ito, Takayo Otsuka, Ayako Matsubara
45	KinKi:	Sonoko Namba, Chizuko Sugiura, Toru Tamura, Mimako Ishizuka
46	MY-Bridge:	Masafumi Yoshizawa, Noriko Yoshizawa, Iwao Oishi, Kuniko Miyauchi, Yoshitaka Agata, Aiko Nabeshima
47	SYNH₂O:	Katsuro Hatoyama, Michiko Hatoyama, Miyoko Yonezawa, Mariko Sakamoto, Kiyoko Oki, Yumiko Nagato
48	NAGUMO:	Natsuhiko Nagumo, Kazuko Sakamoto, Kazuko Yamagata, Akira Fujii, Michi Kamatani, Toshiko Sasaki

1st-round match-ups: 1v28; 2v29; 3v37; 4v42; 5v35; 6v43; 7v48; 8v36; 9v32; 10v39; 11v38; 12v34; 13v46; 14v47; 15v30; 16v44; 17v45; 18v33; 19v26; 20v40; 21v41; 22v27; 23v31; 24v25

Today's 1st VuGraph Match will feature CHINA WOMEN (1) vs Fairy Tale (28)

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



The 7th Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress FUKUOKA 2012

August 25th - September 2nd, 2012



Japan Contract Bridge League would like to welcome all member countries of Zones 4, 6 and 7 to participate in the 7th APBF Congress to be held in Fukuoka, Japan, in August, 2012.

Fukuoka, the historical city located on the Kyushu island, has developed as the gateway city to western Japan from its Asian neighboring countries. We are pleased to inform all our Bridge friends that we are able to offer a wonderful venue for the Congress - the Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk, and the warmest welcome by the people of Fukuoka, headed by Mayor - Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida. We sincerely hope that all players, coaches, other officials, and supporters will come and enjoy this beautiful city of Fukuoka.

Let us get together and share wonderful moments of Bridge and friendship, in Fukuoka!

Japan Contract Bridge League
2012 APBF Congress Organizing Committee

➤ Venue: Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk

Address: 2-2-3 Jigyohama, Chuo-ku,
Fukuoka City 810-8650, Japan
TEL 81-92-844-8111 FAX 81-92-844-7887
<http://www.fukuokaseahawk.hilton.com>



➤ Event Schedule

- | | |
|--|---|
| ◆ Opening Ceremony/ APBF Official Meetings | August 25, 2012 |
| ◆ APBF Championships
Open, Women, Senior, Youth Teams
Open Pairs | August 27- September 2, 2012
September 1-2, 2012 |
| ◆ JCBL Events (* details to be announced in 2011)
Open Teams, Open Pairs and more | August 25-September 2, 2012 |
| ◆ Closing Ceremony | September 2, 2012 |

Accommodations (next page)

➔ Accommodation

Three Hotels are of our recommendation for participants' convenience
The one, of course our host Hotel – the Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk – and two other hotels, both only 7 minutes walking from the APBF venue.

- ◆ Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk - *Stay at the APBF venue!*
<http://www.fukuokaseahawk.hilton.com/>

The Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk hotel is situated on a prime waterfront location, adjacent to Fukuoka Yahoo! JAPAN Dome, Hawks Town Shopping mall and Zepp Fukuoka concert hall. Their first class high-rise hotel in Fukuoka provides splendid views overlooking Hakata Bay and the City of Fukuoka.



- 1,052 air conditioned rooms with varying room configurations (4 persons-room available)
- Coffee / Tea making facilities in room
- Satellite Television / Pay-Per-View
- Fitness room and Pool
- Free Broadband in all rooms and conference areas

*Special Room rates for APBF participants: TBA in 2011



- ◆ Hyatt Residential Suites Fukuoka - *With kitchen and laundry/dryer machine!*
<http://www.hyatt-rsf.co.jp/>

- Air conditioned rooms with varying room configurations (6 persons-room available)
- Each room is equipped with a washing and dryer, microwave oven and a mini kitchen.
- Fitness room and Pool
- Free internet service in all rooms
- Self service system (No room service)
- No foreign currency exchange service.
- No Hyatt Gold Passport acceptance
- Room charge: approx.US\$100~ (as of 2010)



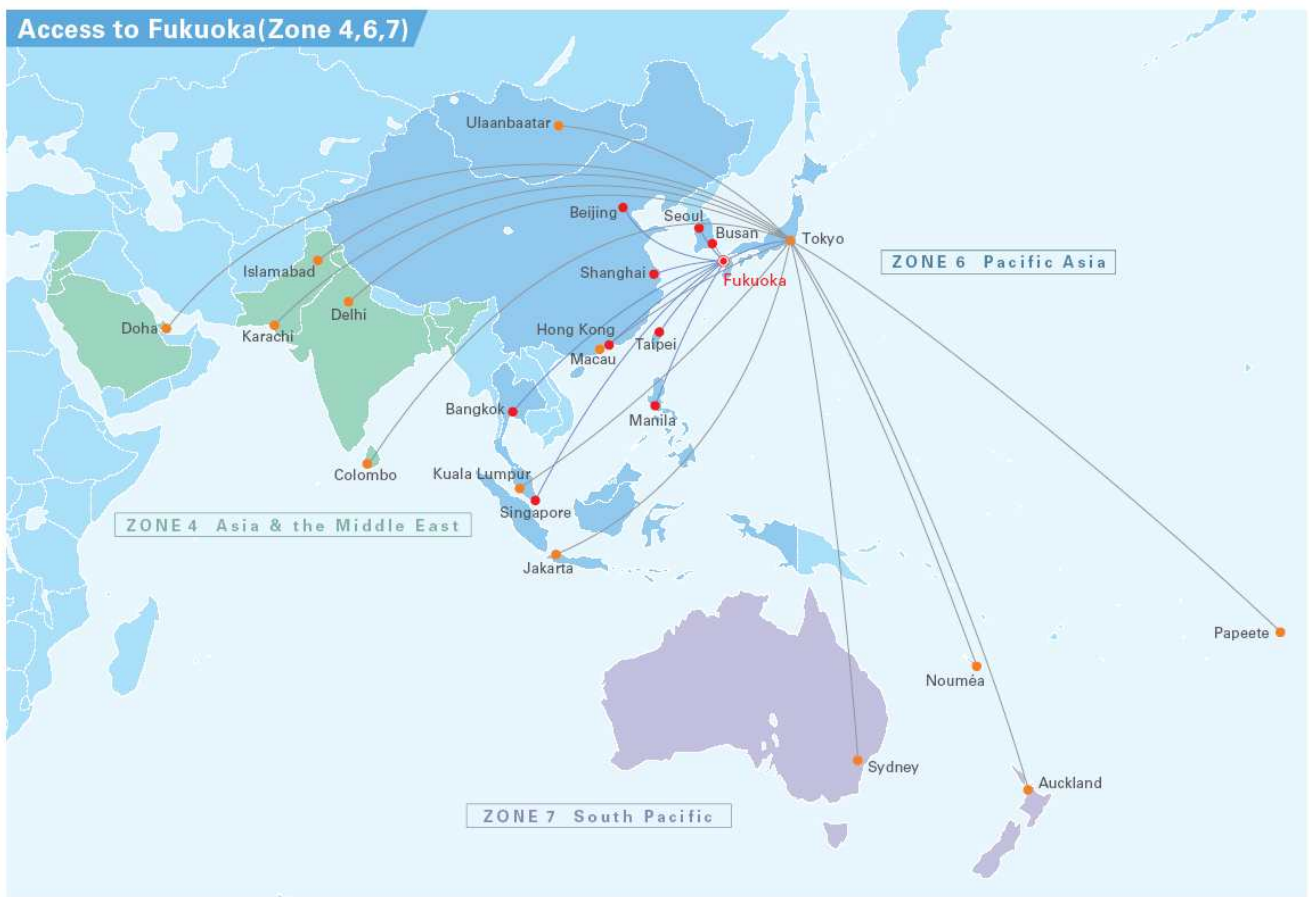
- ◆ Hotel Twins Momochi - *Practical type Hotel*
<http://www.twinsmomochi.jp/> *Sorry, No English site available.

- Air conditioned rooms with varying room configurations (4 persons-room available)
- Free internet service in all rooms, etc.
- Pay laundry/dryer machine corner on the ground floor
- Room charge: approx.US\$63~ (as of 2010)



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Access to Fukuoka (next page)



Quite a Score

by Barry Rigal

As we all know, it was 20 years ago today that Sergeant Pepper taught the band to play. But it will be 20 years ago this October that the Grand Intercontinental Hotel in Yokohama opened its doors and hosted the WBF as its first guests.

The bulletin took its usual uneducated guess as to which of the people and players at this year's NEC Bridge Festival were also present 20 years ago. Some guesses were easy enough: Editor Barry Rigal was at his first Bermuda Bowl, Director Richard Grenside was well established, and Sun Ming and Gu Ling of the Chinese Ladies distinguished themselves in the Venice Cup. PO Sundelin collected one of his many World Championship bronze medals, the Japanese ladies reached the Round of Eight, and the Japanese men fared rather less well. We believe five of the six members of that Open team will be playing here but only Kyoko Shimamura from the ladies will be participating.

We know Paul Hackett was not here (one of the few events he has missed in Japan). We don't know if Ron Klinger attended as a reporter (he was not on the Australian team). And since Indonesia was not participating we suspect none of the their team were present.

John Carruthers was here as npc of the Canadian ladies. We know there was a Choksi on the Indian ladies team but we don't know if Sunit Choksi was present in any capacity. And we are guessing that Patrick Huang may have put in an appearance.

The largest category of all may be members of the JCBL who were helping in official or unofficial capacities. To all of them we hope that 2011 will bring as many happy memories as the earlier championships did.

The 2010 NEC Cup: Zimmermann vs Lavazza

Zimmermann, the top qualifier in the Swiss, chose SARA as their quarterfinal opponent while second-place Lavazza chose Kendrick as their quarterfinal opponent. The Netherlands, the third-place qualifier, chose the fourth-place Oz Players as their semifinal opponent, leaving the fifth-place Bulgarian All Stars to play sixth-place South Sweden in the other quarterfinal match.

The quarterfinals held true to form as the higher seed in each match made it to the semifinals. Top seeded Zimmermann took a 30-imp lead over SARA at the half, then picked up another 33 imps in the second half to win 98-35. Lavazza got off to a 32-imp half-time lead over Kendrick, then gave back 6 imps in the second half to win 90-64. The Netherlands led Oz Players by 20 imps at the half, then blew things wide open in the second half to post the widest semifinal victory margin, 117-39. In the closest match of the quarterfinals, the Bulgarian All Stars suffered a 4-imp time penalty to find themselves trailing South Sweden by 2 imps at the half. They won the second half by 13 imps to advance to the semifinals, 84-73.

In one semifinal match-up, Zimmermann got off to a 54-imp half-time lead over the Bulgarian All Stars, 82-28, which turned out to be the final score as well when the All Stars withdrew. In the other semifinal match-up, Lavazza led The Netherlands by 7 imps, 22-15, at the half, then tied the second half 19-19 to

advance to the final, 41-34.

So the 2010 NEC Cup final showcased powerhouses Zimmermann vs Lavazza. This was Zimmermann's first NEC Cup appearance and Lavazza's second (her 2006 squad — her 2010 team minus Antonio Sementa — reached the semifinals).

First Quarter (Boards 1-16):

Bd: 1	North		
Dlr: North	♠ 987		
Vul: None	♥ KJ10642		
	♦ 5		
	♣ Q84		
West		East	
♠ 63		♠ AKJ5	
♥ Q9875		♥ A	
♦ K862		♦ Q943	
♣ 32		♣ AK107	
	South		
	♠ Q1042		
	♥ 3		
	♦ AJ107		
	♣ J965		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
		(1) Many strong hand-types	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmud'ski	Sementa	Balicki	Duboin
	2♥	DbI	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Lebensohl, weak hand

Fantoni did not have a weak-two in hearts available to him — lucky Fulvio — and that kept his side out of trouble and left declarer with no idea of the relative patterns of his opponents. Madala finessed the ♠J on the ♠9 opening lead and Nunes scored his queen, then got out with a heart. Declarer led a diamond to the king and got the bad news — that he had seven winners and no more — at the next trick.

Zmudzinski had a chance to be a hero by a judicious use of the green card at his first turn. Not surprisingly he elected to run (our single-dummy Editor, when confronted with his decision, opted to pass when told it was Sementa who had opened 2♥, adding “If it was *me* who had opened 2♥ I’d never sit for it, but that would be too tough a game”). After a spade lead Zmudzinski won and advanced the ♦Q. Duboin won and exited with a heart (it might have helped declarer to cash the ♥A at trick two, but not against best defense). Zmudzinski sneaked a diamond through to the eight and now had seven top winners, eventually endplaying South to lead spades for an eighth trick. He would have needed the ♣9 to negotiate a second successful endplay for the contract. Eventually South scored two diamonds, a spade and two clubs. 2-0 for Zimmermann; it could easily have been much more.

Bd: 2	North
Dlr: East	♠ 65
Vul: N/S	♥ 742
	♦ Q1093
	♣ QJ43

West
♠ AJ104
♥ AKQ5
♦ 6
♣ K1062

East
♠ 72
♥ J10963
♦ J85
♣ 985

South
♠ KQ983
♥ 8
♦ AK742
♣ A7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Fantoni	Bocchi	Nunes
		Pass	1♠(F)
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
DbI	3♦	Pass	Pass
DbI	Pass	3♥	4♣
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmud'ski	Sementa	Balicki	Duboin
		Pass	1♠
All Pass			

Duboin produced a simple auction. Zmud'ski at the vulnerability was surely right to pass, hoping that the auction would not die. Alas for him it did, and after two rounds of hearts declarer set up dummy's ♣QJ and had an entry to them via the ♦Q. He emerged with three minor-suit winners and four trump tricks.

Nunes had a very cultured auction to 4♦. Our regular readers will observe the TTASL (Teach Them A Sharp Lesson) try of 4♣: If they reopen my partscore contract I try for game. Fantoni was the ♠10 away from an acceptance.

Against 4♦ the defense began with two rounds of hearts, then ducked the ♠K to cut declarer's communications. Nunes drew three rounds of trumps, squeezing West down to three spades and four clubs. Nunes ducked a spade to West, won the forced club return, unblocked the ♣A and led the third spade, discarding dummy's losing heart and endplaying West to give him a spade or a club trick. A very nice +130; 2 imps to Zimmermann, up 4-0.

Bd: 3	North
Dlr: South	♠ AK4
Vul: E/W	♥ 654
	♦ 94
	♣ AQ964

West
♠ 83
♥ KJ83
♦ A762
♣ 853

East
♠ 10962
♥ A109
♦ KQ103
♣ KJ

South
♠ QJ75
♥ Q72
♦ J85
♣ 1072

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Fantoni	Bocchi	Nunes
	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmud'ski	Sementa	Balicki	Duboin
	1♣	DbI	Pass
1♥			
All Pass			

Zmud'ski did not come all the way from Poland to

play the opening bidder for a missing queen. He won the diamond lead and passed the ♠10, then drew trumps, cashed the diamonds, and played a club up for +140.

Against 1NT Bocchi led a top diamond, received encouragement, and cashed out the diamonds, Madala signaling for the higher suit en route (presumably the choice was between clubs and hearts with spades impossible, given dummy's holding). Bocchi shifted to the ♠10 at trick five and the defenders cashed out. Had Bocchi played a spade declarer might have made a trick less, but that is nit-picking. 1 imp to Zimmermann, leading 5-0.

Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North	♠ AK7
	♥ 5
	♦ AQ1098
	♣ KQ65

West	♠ 842	East	♠ Q5
	♥ J103		♥ AK642
	♦ K732		♦ J64
	♣ 732		♣ 984

South	♠ J10963
	♥ Q987
	♦ 5
	♣ AJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl (4/5♠)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl (4/5♠)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

When two experts are confronted with an identical sequence and one makes a winning decision while the other makes a losing one, does that mean one was right and the other wrong? Perhaps. Sementa opted for 3NT surely "knowing" that neither minor had to be running and that his partner rated to have five spades and a single heart stop. One could argue that South might have bid 2♠ with his hand the second time and notrump the third, but without an intricate knowledge of the methods there may have been nuances that escaped our eagle eyes.

In 3NT Zmud'ski led the ♠J, ducked, followed by the ♠10, ducked to Duboin's queen. Declarer cashed one top spade, then played the percentages, coming to hand to pass the ♠J. Curtains.

Against 4♠ Madala led a trump, giving declarer a choice of lines. Nunes elected to play low from dummy, won the trump return, then played ♦A, ♦10, running this to Madala who cashed his side's heart before the rats got at it. Regardless of whether this line was best, it was simple and would fail only if West had both diamond honors in a five-card suit — and maybe not even then. 12 well-earned imps and 17-0 for Zimmermann.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ J96
	♥ 9843
	♦ AJ42
	♣ AK

West	♠ KQ4	East	♠ 10732
	♥ Q52		♥ 76
	♦ K98753		♦ 106
	♣ 4		♣ J10763

South	♠ A85
	♥ AKJ10
	♦ Q
	♣ Q9852

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Nunes found the club fit and showed his diamond control while denying a club control. One of the weaknesses of their continuations here was that they could not specifically agree hearts and show shortage as opposed to a control. With excellent controls Fantoni showed a slam-try with two key-cards but no spade control. Nunes had nothing more to say but 5♣ indicated that they were still in position to play slam, and transferred responsibility to Fantoni, who could not bid on with such bad trumps.

By contrast, Sementa showed a balanced minimum

and 4♣ was intended as agreeing hearts (and not pessimistic either — but what is the Italian for “*cela va sans dire*”?). When Duboin raised to 5♣ Sementa went back to hearts and there the matter rested.

Both declarers won the opening lead and took one top trump, then both clubs. West ruffed, and declarer now needed to guess trumps to make his contract. Both did, of course. Still 17-0 Zimmermann.

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ KQ102
 Vul: E/W ♡ A652
 ♢ 62
 ♣ J104

West
 ♠ 43
 ♡ QJ1093
 ♢ KJ75
 ♣ 95

East
 ♠ AJ98
 ♡ K84
 ♢ A10983
 ♣ 8

South
 ♠ 765
 ♡ 7
 ♢ Q4
 ♣ AKQ7632

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		1♦	2♣
2♥(NF)	Dbl	3♣	3♥
4♦	4♥	Dbl	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Bocchi's 1♦ guaranteed an unbalanced hand. Madala could double 2♣ planning to convert spades to diamonds, but now the hearts got lost in the shuffle. Nunes showed a good hand with his 3♦ bid and no doubt Madala could not double this because it would have shown a better hand — not just diamonds. 4♣ drifted down one when the defenders led hearts and defended accurately thereafter.

The Poles were on their way to 4♥ when their opponents got there first. Affronted, Balicki doubled and then doubled 5♣. The defenders took their two tricks in each of the pointed suits for +300. Credit that result to Zmud'ski's non-forcing 2♥ bid. As dedicated haters of that method we must point out its occasional good result so we can whale on it when necessary. The swing was 6 imps, and the score was 23-0 Zimmermann.

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ K93
 Vul: Both ♡ 6
 ♢ K
 ♣ AQ1096432

West
 ♠ A864
 ♡ AK104
 ♢ AQJ2
 ♣ J

East
 ♠ Q1072
 ♡ 98
 ♢ 98763
 ♣ K8

South
 ♠ J5
 ♡ QJ7532
 ♢ 1054
 ♣ 75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
			Pass
1♦	4♣	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
			Pass
1♣(POL)	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	2♣	Dbl	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Had Sementa come in with 4♣ at his first turn E/W might not have found spades so easily, though they might equally have collected 500. So Sementa's remarkable restraint paid dividends. In 4♠ Declarer won the second club and misguessed trumps, then misguessed diamonds; down one. Zmud'ski was used to seeing the smiling face from the other side of the table reassuring him “No worries; I would have done the same.” At least we think that's what he said — our Polish being just a bit rusty. In 5♦ (notice Bocchi's extremely aggressive raise) Madala misguessed diamonds but got the spades right in an odd way: by running the queen and thus picking up the jack on the next round. No swing.

Bd: 8 North
 Dir: West ♠ 98654
 Vul: None ♡ 62
 ♢ 3
 ♣ A8653

West
 ♠ Q72
 ♡ 983
 ♢ J975
 ♣ 742

East
 ♠ 103
 ♡ AQJ1074
 ♢ 86
 ♣ K109

South
 ♠ AKJ
 ♡ K5
 ♢ AKQ1042
 ♣ QJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	3♥	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	3♥	Dbl
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Sementa's decision to raise 5♠ to six looks bizarre; it was not as if he had a lot to spare for his earlier bids. But according to him, 4NT was encouraging and asked for features. Sementa asked rhetorically "How could I have more? If I had five trumps to the queen and five clubs to the ace wouldn't I cue-bid 4♥ as a passed hand?" Whatever you say, Antonio, whatever you say. Declarer won the second heart, took one top trump, then ruffed a diamond to hand to take the losing spade finesse. With four discards for his club losers he escaped for down one.

That was worth 2 imps for Lavazza when Nunes took what seems the entirely normal action of bidding 3NT over the 3♥ preempt. When partner had the wrong high-cards and the defenders could set up hearts, declarer would still make if diamonds split, the ♠Q dropped, or the ♣K was onside. And he could take all three chances in order. An unlucky way to lose 2 imps (but if East held a 3-6-2-2 with the ♠Q and ♣K it would have cost 14). 23-2 for Zimmermann.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ 97542
Vul: E/W	♥ J2
	♦ K54
	♣ A54

West	East
♠ AQ	♠ J63
♥ 76	♥ KQ10953
♦ 982	♦ QJ10
♣ J108763	♣ 2
South	
♠ K108	
♥ A84	
♦ A763	
♣ KQ9	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	2♥	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦(Multi)	2NT
Pass	3♥	Dbl	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both defenses scored two trumps and one trick in each side-suit. However, Madala led a club and continued the suit (Bocchi had not doubled 3♥ so there were inferences about his suit quality) while at the other table Zmud'ski led a heart and Balicki shifted to a diamond. But West switched to a club to give the ruff when in with the first trump. No swing.

Bd: 10	North	
Dlr: East	♠ A1094	
Vul: Both	♥ KJ73	
	♦ 76	
	♣ K82	
West		East
♠ J75		♠ K8
♥ 64		♥ Q85
♦ Q105		♦ K93
♣ J9653		♣ AQ1074
	South	
	♠ Q632	
	♥ A1092	
	♦ AJ842	
	♣ ---	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♦	1NT	Dbl(MAJs)
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass

A good chance to compare methods — or lack of them. Duboin had no convenient way into the auction (pause for a plug for Woolsey). He led a diamond against 1NT and declarer won cheaply in dummy and played on clubs. The defenders failed to get their hearts going in time for a spectacular +120 — or was the result from the other room the spectacular one? Facing a minor and a major North relayed for the major. Nunes felt he needed more to cue-bid 3♦, which would have shown this pattern but an extra card. So he bid spades, hoping to get a further chance to bid 3♥ to describe this precise pattern. Never fear. Fantoni drove his partner to game with the knowledge that South would know which way to finesse if necessary (looking at the North hand there might be a finesse for either major-suit queen). The defenders led hearts, probably as good as anything. Declarer set up diamonds and conceded a trick to

the heart ruff but had 10 painless tricks and 12 equally painless imps. 35-2, Zimmermann.

Bd: 11
Dir: South
Vul: None

North
♠ 2
♥ A10752
♦ Q9854
♣ AJ

West
♠ K7653
♥ K93
♦ 72
♣ 876

East
♠ A108
♥ QJ4
♦ KJ10
♣ Q1032

South
♠ QJ94
♥ 86
♦ A63
♣ K954

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>

Pass	2♥(1)	All Pass	
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(1) 9-13; 1- or 2-suited

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>

Pass	1♥	Dbl	Rdbl
2♠	3♦	All Pass	

2♥ handled very nicely on Bocchi's trump lead. The defenders took their hearts early and could not set up a force by leading the king and another spade (declarer would have discarded diamonds and come to eight tricks via two tricks in each black suit and four red-suit winners). So Madala played a diamond and declarer set up that suit for +110.

Sementa got to 3♦ in entirely reasonable fashion and played to ruff a heart in dummy. Again the friendly red-suit splits helped (declarer ran the ♦Q after ruffing a heart in an attempt to generate an overtrick; no dice). Still 35-2 for Zimmermann.

Bd: 12
Dir: West
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 1096
♥ Q
♦ J832
♣ QJ954

West
♠ 54
♥ A765
♦ A6
♣ A10632

East
♠ A7
♥ KJ982
♦ 10974
♣ K7

South
♠ KQJ832
♥ 1043
♦ KQ5
♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	All Pass

Do you like Nunes' 4♠ sacrifice at unfavorable vulnerability? True, it cost only 2 imps against the 420 at the other table, but was that singleton heart guaranteed? And even if delivered, North's failure to do more holding a singleton heart suggested 4♠x would not be cheap. Then again, keeping the auction open gives the opponents a chance to misjudge. To be fair to Nunes, his partner delivered a working one count with three trumps and he still only went down 500 with 4♥ making an easy 420. Case dismissed but 2 imps for Lavazza, trailing 35-4.

Bd: 13
Dir: North
Vul: Both

North
♠ A106
♥ 974
♦ 1042
♣ KQ94

West
♠ Q75
♥ Q62
♦ 653
♣ 6532

East
♠ J9842
♥ J85
♦ KQJ
♣ J7

South
♠ K3
♥ AK103
♦ A987
♣ A108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠(1)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) 0-9 No Major

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦(18-19)
Pass	2♠(Xfer)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Although there were only eight top tricks, all normal lines led to ten winners and the defenders led clubs at one table, hearts at the other, to ensure declarer would only be playing for overtricks. 630s were duly achieved for a push. Still 35-4 Zimmermann.

Bd: 14
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q72
 ♥ AQ1042
 ♦ 953
 ♣ 104

West
 ♠ 53
 ♥ 987
 ♦ J72
 ♣ AK963

East
 ♠ J1084
 ♥ J653
 ♦ AKQ104
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ AK96
 ♥ K
 ♦ 86
 ♣ QJ8752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		1♦	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		1♦	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Madala was prepared for blood, Zmud'ski was not; perhaps a commentary on their age, experience, and temperament. And who was prepared to believe whom at the table?

The defense appears to have five top winners in 3♣. Not so fast. Although the incredibly easy way to beat the contract was to cash two clubs and then play on diamonds, it was not entirely obvious since neither defender found it. But shouldn't one have considered it given that dummy was almost guaranteed to hold a doubleton club honor?

Instead, Madala led a diamond and Bocchi took his tricks, at which point the play record ended. We believe declarer ruffed the third round, sneaked the ♣7 past Madala (taking the ace and king still beats the contract) and then cashed his spade and heart winners to reduce to the ♣QJ85 facing the ♣10. When he played the ♣10 the defenders had turned their three trump winners into two.

Curiously, the heart lead in the other room managed to set the partscore. Declarer had nine tricks easily enough but he cashed the hearts to pitch diamonds, then led a low trump from the board. Oops. Zmud'ski won, cashed his second club winner, and forced declarer with a diamond. With West left with ♣9xx

and declarer ♣Q87 the defenders were now due two more trump tricks and a spade. 11 imps to Zimmermann, up 46-4.

Bd: 15
 Dir: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 106542
 ♥ AKJ
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ J5

West
 ♠ AJ7
 ♥ 8763
 ♦ K103
 ♣ 643

East
 ♠ Q83
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ 98742
 ♣ K97

South
 ♠ K9
 ♥ 10942
 ♦ A5
 ♣ AQ1082

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣(Xfr)	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both Norths offered a choice of games to their partner, who of course settled for notrump. Both Wests led a revealing heart spot. Declarer finessed in clubs, then played hearts for the drop. Easy game bridge; no swing at 630, still 46-4.

Bd: 16
 Dir: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ AQ10653
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 72
 ♣ AQ92

West
 ♠ K92
 ♥ J9
 ♦ AKJ8
 ♣ J1064

East
 ♠ J84
 ♥ A1062
 ♦ Q9653
 ♣ 3

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ KQ8753
 ♦ 104
 ♣ K875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♣	1♠	Dbl	Pass
1NT	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♣	1♠	Dbl	Pass
1NT	2♣	All Pass	

Sementa was prepared to cater to clubs since West might have had two in a balanced hand; Fantoni was not. Against 2♠ the defenders led the singleton club. Declarer won in dummy, unblocking the nine, then drew trumps. The defenders set up the heart winner in dummy, cashed one diamond, and carelessly played the low club. (If North was 6-1-3-3 with East having the ♣32 the ♣J would have worked just as well.) Fantoni had the complete count. He ran the club to dummy's eight and discarded his second diamond for a scintillating +170. That was worth an imp when Sementa also brought home +130 on a cross-ruff that ended up smothering West's trumps. Zimmermann led 47-4 at the break.

Second Quarter (Boards 17-32):

Bd: 17	North
Dlr: North	♠ 76532
Vul: None	♥ 874
	♦ A74
	♣ AQ

West
♠ AQ10
♥ A109
♦ J10953
♣ K5

East
♠ 84
♥ J6532
♦ Q2
♣ J742

South
♠ KJ9
♥ KQ
♦ K86
♣ 109863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dbl	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	1♥(♠)	Pass	1♠
Dbl	Rdbl	2♥	2♠
All Pass			

In the Open Room Duboin doubled Nunes' weak notrump for penalties and Fantoni transferred Nunes

to spades. Duboin led the ♦J and Nunes won the ♦K in hand to take the club finesse. Next a heart went to the king and ace and a second diamond went to dummy's ace. Nunes then exited with a diamond and Sementa ruffed in front of Duboin to play a second heart through (a trump might have worked better). Nunes won the queen, played a club over, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club (Duboin pitching a diamond), and in time Duboin scored three trumps for +110 to N/S.

In the Closed Room Bocchi-Madala reached the same contract and Zimmermann led the ♦J. Madala won the ace in dummy and led a heart to the king and ace. A second diamond went to the king and Madala cashed the ♥Q, finessed the club, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a heart, and led a third club planning to ruff in dummy. Zimmermann erred by ruffing with the ♠10 in front of dummy, allowing Madala to pitch dummy's third diamond. Then, when Zimmermann exited with a diamond, dummy ruffed. The defense came to one heart and three trumps, +140 to N/S. 1 imp back to Lavazza, trailing by 42 at 47-5.

Bd: 18	North
Dlr: East	♠ J862
Vul: N/S	♥ K8
	♦ J83
	♣ Q1043

West
♠ K94
♥ J1052
♦ 962
♣ A96

East
♠ 73
♥ AQ973
♦ AQ107
♣ J2

South
♠ AQ105
♥ 64
♦ K54
♣ K875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		1♥	Dbl
3♦(1)	3♠	All Pass	
(1) Constructive 4-card heart raise			

Closed Room

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

Duboin had a perfect systemic bid to describe his hand; Sementa suspected that his side's prospects for game were not great (though that's never stopped him before) and passed Fantoni's 3♠. As for 3♠, with the ♥K being of dubious value we have a serious bone to pick with his action. If South cannot reopen with a double it's probably right to go quietly — especially at the given vulnerability. But no

double, no trouble. Sementa led a trump to Duboin's king and he dutifully switched to the ♠J, king, ace. Sementa underled his ♥Q to Duboin for a diamond through: ♦2, 3, 10, K. Fantoni drew trumps ending in dummy and exited with a diamond. Sementa then cashed a third round of the suit. By this time he had a complete count on the hand and worked out that he could afford to give declarer a ruff-and-discard. So he exited with a heart and left declarer to work out how to bring in the clubs on his own. Fantoni ruffed the heart in dummy and got clubs right by leading low to the queen. When the jack showed up on the second round he claimed down two (a Pyrrhic victory at best), -200 for N/S.

In the Closed Room the auction (effectively) began the same way and once again North came in directly with 3♠. We were *not* impressed: If someone in the E/W seats had found a red card in their bid box there would have been a large pool of blood on the table. But Multon removed the hook that North had so cavalierly implanted in his own mouth by competing to 4♥. Madala led a trump to the jack, king and ace and Multon led a spade up as Madala rose with the ace and led back the queen. A club went to the jack and king and Madala got out with a second heart. A club to the ace then produced the moment of truth as Multon called for a low diamond from dummy and when Bocchi followed low he inserted the...ten. Bingo! Plus 420 for E/W; 6 imps to Zimmermann, ahead 53-5.

Thus far the match was fairly accurate, especially by the Zimmermann team. But we're just about to take leave of double-dummy perfection and head for the uncharted waters of the Twilight Zone. That's the signpost up ahead. Next stop, trouble town!

Bd: 19 North
 Dlr: South ♠ Q
 Vul: E/W ♥ K1096
 ♦ A854
 ♣ QJ93

West ♠ 8532 ♥ A2 ♦ 1092 ♣ 10654	East ♠ 1097 ♥ J8754 ♦ 63 ♣ A72
South ♠ AKJ64 ♥ Q3 ♦ KQJ7 ♣ K8	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♣(R)	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2♣(R)	Pass	2♥(♦)
Pass	2♠(R)	Pass	3♥(5422 Max)
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Aces are not to be sneezed at. Plenty of experts turn up their nose at Blackwood, but using it efficiently, along with Burn's Law (subtract the number of aces missing from seven and play at that level and no higher), would keep us all happier.

Neither table subscribed to this approach. Both were too sophisticated to use keycard, preferring to set diamonds as trump, use a non-forcing 4NT bid, and leap majestically to slam over it. Aces, we don't need no stinkin' aces. Multon led a heart to Zimmermann's ace and continued the suit (playing for the ♣A and ♥K to be switched). This seems illogical. Surely North had implied a heart control by bidding on over 4NT. When diamonds and spades behaved declarer had 12 tricks. In the other room Sementa led the ♣A and the sight of dummy made the rest of the defense easy enough. He shifted to hearts and that was 14 imps for Lavazza, who now trailed 53-20.

What's that phrase about swings and roundabouts?

Bd: 20 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 10
 Vul: Both ♥ Q10963
 ♦ K9
 ♣ AK1075

West ♠ AK53 ♥ 72 ♦ AQ8632 ♣ 9	East ♠ QJ9862 ♥ AK4 ♦ 54 ♣ 86
South ♠ 74 ♥ J85 ♦ J107 ♣ QJ432	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♦	2NT(♥+♣)	3♥(♠)	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♦	2NT(♥+♣)	3♥(♠)	5♣
5♠	All Pass		

When you are down a bunch ofimps you need your slams on a finesse to come home. Sementa read his partner as having precisely the values he did, with a doubleton heart and a singleton club. Accordingly, slam rated to be laydown or at worst on the diamond finesse. And so it was, but the -100 when the diamond finesse lost was highly aggravating to all concerned — except perhaps the Zimmermann team. We could say “Lucky Pierre” but then we’d get you all humming “I got it from Agnes” for the rest of the afternoon. The margin was back to 46imps.

Bd: 21	North
Dlr: North	♠ J10984
Vul: N/S	♥ Q96
	♦ A943
	♣ Q

West
 ♠ KQ6
 ♥ 104
 ♦ K76
 ♣ A8743

East
 ♠ A53
 ♥ A532
 ♦ J102
 ♣ J102

South
 ♠ 72
 ♥ KJ87
 ♦ Q85
 ♣ K965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♣	1♠	Dbl	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

We’re not going to say that opening leads are easy; heaven forfend. But the Editors’ flabber has never been so ghasted as by Madala’s choice of a club lead rather than a heart against 1NT. It’s one thing to play for swings. But the opponents were potentially in an unusual contract, and surely a heart lead was normal from those cards. The defenders shifted to hearts; declarer built a diamond trick to go with his five black-suit winners and the ♥A for a peaceful +90.

In the other room Fantoni’s spades were both good enough to bid and to lead. Duboin won in hand and led a low club, transposing to the winning position. He must have had a blind spot, though, because he eventually won the ♥A and played on clubs, not diamonds, despite the 4-1 split coming to light. He lost three hearts, two clubs and two diamonds when he misguessed the suit. So 4 rather randomimps to Zimmermann, up 70-19.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ A52
Vul: E/W	♥ ---
	♦ KJ1076543
	♣ J9

West
 ♠ 10763
 ♥ AK754
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 1083

East
 ♠ KQJ
 ♥ QJ932
 ♦ 82
 ♣ A64

South
 ♠ 984
 ♥ 1086
 ♦ A9
 ♣ KQ752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
3♦(♥)	5♦	Dbl	Pass
			All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
4♥	5♦	Dbl	Pass
			All Pass

Both Easts led a top spade and cashed out for down one; no swing. Zimmermann’s decision to bounce to 4♥ looked slightly surprising: if partner wants to play slam don’t you have a decent hand for him?

Bd: 23	North
Dlr: South	♠ AQJ3
Vul: Both	♥ KQ82
	♦ 64
	♣ K32

West
 ♠ 2
 ♥ A76543
 ♦ AQJ85
 ♣ 7

East
 ♠ 10765
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 103
 ♣ AJ10854

South
 ♠ K984
 ♥ J10
 ♦ K972
 ♣ Q96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
1♥	1NT	Pass	2♣
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Z'mann	Bocchi	Multon	Madala
1♥	1NT	2♣	DbI
2♦	Pass	Pass	DbI

All Pass

Few top-level players would pass the North hand after a 1♥ opening on their right (though this might be the vulnerability at which to do it). You might go for a number if you bid, or collect one if you pass.

2♦x might not have seemed like a great spot to Multon as he put down his dummy on a trump lead, but Zimmermann had something in reserve. He won the trump cheaply in hand, played two rounds of clubs ruffing in hand, then played ♥A and ruffed a heart. With the ♦K onside he could not be prevented from scoring three more trumps in hand. A painless +180, but not enough. Against 3♠ the defenders astutely led diamonds and scored their four plain-suit winners and two ruffs for +200. A mere flesh-wound, but an imp for Lavazza.

An overtrick imp for Zimmermann when an ace got away against an unexciting suit game on Board 24 made the margin 51 again.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ 98764
Vul: E/W	♥ Q92
	♦ Q43
	♣ J10

West
♠ AQ10
♥ 653
♦ A1052
♣ 974

East
♠ KJ3
♥ J1087
♦ K7
♣ AK52

South
♠ 52
♥ AK4
♦ J986
♣ Q863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
3NT	All Pass	1NT	Pass

Closed Room

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

Nunes led three rounds of hearts against 3NT. Now it looks like South might have come under pressure on three rounds of spades, but he can surrender the diamonds, leaving them to North, as now there are no entries to set up the suit. Declarer simply played for clubs to be 3-3 and went down in due course.

Madala led a top heart and shifted to clubs himself. That might appear to give declarer some additional chances, but in fact he too really had no choice but to play on clubs and in due course went down one. Again, no swing.

Bd: 26	North
Dlr: East	♠ 6
Vul: Both	♥ KQ3
	♦ AJ42
	♣ AK953

West
♠ 95
♥ J8764
♦ 96
♣ QJ64

East
♠ K8743
♥ A109
♦ 1087
♣ 107

South
♠ AQJ102
♥ 52
♦ KQ53
♣ 82

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Fantoni	Sementa	Nunes
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT(1)	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

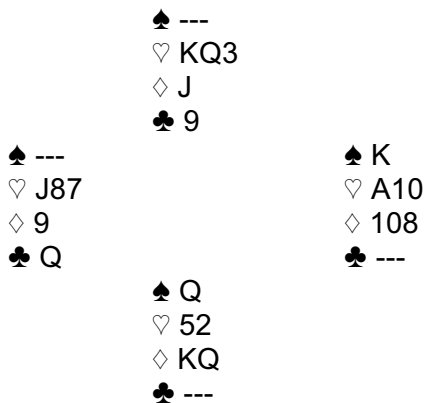
(1) 2 keycards

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Z'mann	Bocchi	Multon	Madala
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Unpleasant as we might all find it to open 1NT with the South hand, the rest of the auction was simple enough. South showed spades and diamonds, then cue-bid in spades, and over the Turbo 4NT showing two keycards he cooperated with 5♣, letting Fantoni jump to 6♦. On a heart lead and trump shift Nunes followed a simple line. He ruffed out clubs, then took a ruffing finesse against the ♠K (his rationale being that East's failure to shift to a spade at trick two argued that West held the ♠K). The line was simple, the operation unsuccessful, the patient died.

Bocchi played 6♦ on a trump lead. He won in hand (with the ♦A, not the ♦J, which subsequently turned out to be critical; can you see why?) and took an immediate spade finesse (Bravo!). Next he played the ♠A and ruffed a spade, getting the bad news, followed by three rounds of clubs, ruffing in dummy as East pitched a heart. On the fourth spade West discarded a fatal heart (see below), allowing declarer to ruff low and reach this ending (North to lead; declarer can afford one loser):



Declarer led a top heart, giving East his choice of poisons. If he rose with the ace and played back a trump to stop the cross-ruff, declarer would draw the last trump and squeeze West in hearts and clubs, hence the necessity to unblock the ♦A at trick one to leave the lead in South. If East ducked the ♥A declarer would be left with a high cross-ruff.

Had West ruffed in on the fourth spade, East would have had a choice of two defenses in the pictured ending. The first: win the ♥A and return a heart, letting East pitch his ♠K when declarer tries to ruff a major-suit in dummy. The second: duck the ♥Q and again pitch a spade when declarer ruffs his club in dummy.

At double-dummy there is no defense after winning the spade finesse if declarer plays on clubs at trick three. He can establish the long club using a trump and heart entries to do so. While it was certainly not clear to do that, it was also not clear that Bocchi's decision to play on spades at once was better than

Nunes' line — except inasmuch as it was clearly 17 imps better on the score sheet. Zimmermann, 71-37.

Bd: 27	North	
Dlr: South	♠ K4	
Vul: None	♥ K54	
	♦ J9865	
	♣ Q97	
	West	East
	♠ J9752	♠ AQ1083
	♥ J3	♥ 92
	♦ Q2	♦ K74
	♣ KJ83	♣ A106
	South	
	♠ 6	
	♥ AQ10876	
	♦ A103	
	♣ 542	

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♠	Dbl	2♥
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Pass
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♠	2♥	3♥	1♥
3♠	All Pass		Pass

Game was distinctly poor in the Closed Room but excellent in the Open Room, a function of South's opening bid. Multon's decision to stay out of game after issuing a strong invitation in spades might look swifty, but he could point to the percentages while his opponents were happily inscribing 6 imps in the plus column. Both tables guessed the location of the black honors, neither being exactly a sure thing, and the match score went to 71-43.

Bd: 28	North	
Dlr: West	♠ KJ54	
Vul: N/S	♥ 1087	
	♦ KJ82	
	♣ 109	
	West	East
	♠ 7	♠ Q986
	♥ KQ65432	♥ AJ
	♦ Q95	♦ A106
	♣ 86	♣ K532
	South	
	♠ A1032	
	♥ 9	
	♦ 743	
	♣ AQJ74	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

It was hard to see how Lavazza could have lost out here. With the ♣A offside 4♥ went down a trick, but 4♠ seems to be excellent. The defenders might get a trump, a diamond and a club but what else could they take? But it was not so simple. After Multon led the ♥A, having missed the double-dummy lead of a small diamond at trick one (we can all sympathize), he shifted to a low club — as good as anything. Had he played a second heart declarer's route home would have involved ruffing, leading a diamond to the jack, taking two club finesses, then playing a spade to the ten and finally cross-ruffing clubs and hearts.

In fact, at trick two Bocchi won the club shift in hand and untypically erred by cashing the ♠K (he needed to repeat the club finesse or lead a spade to the ten to preserve the small trumps for the cross-ruff). Then he set about the clubs and spades, but when neither suit behaved he could not get enough diamonds and hearts away on the clubs. He took three clubs and one diamond, but only five trumps; East over-ruffed declarer on the fifth club. 4 imps to Zimmermann, leading 75-43 instead of 11 the other way.

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: North	♠ AK5
Vul: Both	♥ Q632
	♦ 65
	♣ AKQ3

West	East
♠ 4	♠ QJ862
♥ AKJ108	♥ 5
♦ KJ7	♦ AQ943
♣ 10752	♣ J6

South
♠ 10973
♥ 974
♦ 1082
♣ 984

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
2♥	1♣(1)	1♠	Pass
	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠ (xfer)
	2NT	All Pass	

Fantoni's forcing club would almost certainly have gotten him somewhere inconvenient had East and West not joined in the fun. Although Duboin could have pulled the plug on what sounded like a forcing auction, 3♦ was a little high. However, with the red suits behaving predictably and the defenders leading clubs at every turn, declarer emerged with +110 via two spade ruffs. Not enough. The 18-19 2♣ opening saw Madala transfer to 2NT and Bocchi had to sweat to emerge with -200 (Zimmermann shifted to a heart after winning the fourth club and declarer scored his ♥Q). Still, 3 imps to Zimmermann, up 78-43.

After a quiet partscore on which both Wests saved in 1NT against their opponents' 3NT (down only 100) we come to:

Bd: 31	North
Dlr: South	♠ 87542
Vul: N/S	♥ A765
	♦ ---
	♣ 10532

West	East
♠ J10	♠ AQ3
♥ Q	♥ J10
♦ KJ76432	♦ AQ85
♣ A84	♣ Q976

South
♠ K96
♥ K98432
♦ 109
♣ KJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
3♦	4♥	4NT	2♥
5♦	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Z'mann</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Two very different auctions to the same spot. Fantoni unerringly put his fingers on a spade lead. Nunes won the ♠K, shifted to hearts, and the deal was over. Down one.

In the other room Bocchi led the ♥A knowing West had no major-suit stoppers. Madala encouraged, but was that the right thing to do? Maybe he should have seen that a spade shift might be necessary. Bocchi continued hearts. Zimmermann ruffed and knew that if the spade finesse worked he was cold. The extra chance that he could play for was to duck a club after drawing trumps, hoping West had a doubleton ♣K. Accordingly, he ducked a spade to Madala.

Then he won the spade return (Madala's spade return was correct) before crossing to the ♣A at trick nine. Had the ♣K not fallen declarer would have played off his trumps and taken the spade finesse. But when the ♣K fell declarer did not need the spade finesse. Very nicely done. 10 imps to Zimmermann meant that after a flat game on Board 32 the set had ended at 40-40. Not perfect bridge, but very exciting. Now Zimmermann led 87-44 at the half.

Third Quarter (Boards 33-48):

Bd: 33 North
 Dir: North ♠ 64
 Vul: None ♥ 63
 ♦ AJ1082
 ♣ J762

West
 ♠ KQJ975
 ♥ A9
 ♦ 54
 ♣ 543

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ QJ87542
 ♦ KQ96
 ♣ A

South
 ♠ A1032
 ♥ K10
 ♦ 73
 ♣ KQ1098

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
	Pass	1♥	1NT
Dbl	2NT	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	1♥	Dbl
Rdbl	2♦	4♥	All Pass

At both tables South led a top club against 4♥. Declarer won and tracked his spade. South rose with the ace and tried to cash his other top club. Declarer ruffed, played a top diamond to North's ace, and a third club came back, ruffed by declarer. In the Open Room Sementa led a trump to the ace, cashed the ♠K pitching a diamond, played the ♠Q and soon was claiming. In the Closed Room Fantoni cashed his other top diamond at trick six and led a third diamond toward dummy. Madala ruffed in with the ♥10 and dummy over-ruffed with the ace. Declarer pitched his last diamond on the ♠K and claimed, conceding a trick to the ♥K. Matching 420s; no swing.



Bd: 34 North
 Dir: East ♠ J1092
 Vul: N/S ♥ ---
 ♦ AK87643
 ♣ 109

West
 ♠ 876
 ♥ KQJ97
 ♦ J5
 ♣ AQ8

East
 ♠ KQ
 ♥ A653
 ♦ Q109
 ♣ J632

South
 ♠ A543
 ♥ 10842
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K754

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♥	2♦	2♥	Pass
4♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♦	3♦	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Zmud'ski held a terrific hand for defense here: the ♠A in a suit his partner should hold at most four of (see below), the ♣K behind the 1♣ opener, four reasonable trumps, and a singleton in the suit of a partner who had announced a very good hand. Plus, at this vulnerability maybe the Italians were trying to steal from them. Maybe North's double was a test to see whether his partner could take a joke. 4♥ was cold and maybe — just maybe — North's double, even if intended primarily for takeout, wasn't such a good idea after all.

Balicki cashed the ♦AK, then continued with a third round to kill dummy's queen. Duboin over-ruffed the ♥2, cashed the ♥KQ, then played a spade to the king and ace. Zmud'ski exited with the ♥10 to the ace, covered the ♣J with the king, and when the ♣9 showed up from Balicki Duboin saw light at the end of the tunnel. Balicki started with seven diamonds and by inference four spades (with five he would surely have bid 4♠ over 4♥ rather than double; if Zmud'ski had five spades he would have bid 4♠ over the double; so spades rated to be 4-4). So North had to be 4=0=7=2 and — unless he was being Grosvenored — had started with a doubleton ♣109. He confidently cashed the ♣Q and when the ten appeared he was in with +590.

In the Closed Room E/W were allowed to play 4♥

unmolested and on virtually the same sequence of plays once again declarer picked up the ♣109 to make his contract. That was 5 imps to Lavazza, who closed the lead to 38 at 87-49.

Bd: 35
 Dlr: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ Q1063
 ♥ Q10873
 ♦ 8
 ♣ K84

West
 ♠ A4
 ♥ A4
 ♦ AJ965
 ♣ 10932

East
 ♠ 52
 ♥ K96
 ♦ Q1043
 ♣ QJ65

South
 ♠ KJ987
 ♥ J52
 ♦ K72
 ♣ A7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
Pass	2NT(♠)	Pass	3♣(R)
Pass	3♦(1)	Pass	3♠

All Pass

(1) Short diamonds

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	2NT(♠)	Pass	3♣(R)
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Both N/S pairs were able to invite game in spades while describing their hands. Balicki showed a singleton diamond, Bocchi his hearts. In neither case was South interested in advancing beyond the three level. If E/W had been able to find a way into the auction they might have considered playing a minor-suit partscore. Ten tricks in clubs look likely since the defenders would find it hard, though not impossible, to get both a diamond ruff and establish their spade winner. Still 87-49.

Bd: 36
 Dlr: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AK54
 ♥ 73
 ♦ 10964
 ♣ A75

West
 ♠ QJ2
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A53
 ♣ QJ10643

East
 ♠ 76
 ♥ AQJ10852
 ♦ KJ82
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ 10983
 ♥ K94
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ K982

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
Pass	1♣	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
2♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both tables reached 4♥ with a minimum of fuss. Both Souths led a top spade, covered in dummy, and North was in. Balicki guessed to return a passive trump and declarer finessed. That let Zmud'ski return a second top spade and then play a third. Declarer ran a few trumps, but had no real option but to finesse in diamonds; down 200.

Bocchi returned a very dangerous ♦10. If declarer had read the position he might actually have made the hand: win the ♦K, clear hearts, then lead a diamond to the queen and ace with a finesse coming back. Not surprisingly, Fantoni could not read the position. He inserted the ♦J, covered by the queen and ace. Then he led a second diamond to the eight and tried to clear trumps from the top, needing only 3-3 diamonds to come home. Madala won the second trump, led a low spade to his partner, and got his diamond ruff to set the hand at once. And since Fantoni had nowhere to dispose of his small diamond, it was eventually down two. No swing.

Both N/S pairs played an entirely normal game on Board 37 that eventually reduced to a club finesse, and found it working. Then:

Bd: 38
 Dlr: East
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ KQ963
 ♥ K7
 ♦ 7654
 ♣ 105

West
 ♠ 1087
 ♥ J1085
 ♦ Q1083
 ♣ J6

East
 ♠ AJ52
 ♥ AQ64
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ Q92

South
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 932
 ♦ A92
 ♣ AK8743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
Pass	2♠	1NT	Pass
All Pass		Pass	3♣

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	1♠	2♥	3♣
All Pass			

Duboin's decision to lead a low trump as West strikes us as downright bizarre, but in a way he did exceedingly well, since declarer was indeed looking for heart ruffs in dummy. Zmud'ski took the ♣9 in hand and led a spade to the ten, queen and ace. The defenders shifted to the ♦K, ducked, but declarer won the next diamond and played ace and another trump. Sementa declined to unblock his ♣Q so he was thrown in to lead a heart or a spade around to dummy. (Note that Duboin's helpful signal at trick two cost a trick.)

In the other room Nunes' lead of the ♥J let Fantoni overtake with the queen to shift to a trump. With the tension eliminated in the heart suit declarer had no play for more than his six top tricks. 3 imps to Zimmermann, leading 90-49.

Bd: 39	North
Dlr: South	♠ KQJ9832
Vul: Both	♥ 73
	♦ ---
	♣ Q985

West
♠ 74
♥ A84
♦ AKJ92
♣ AK3

East
♠ A5
♥ KQ6
♦ Q8654
♣ J76

South
♠ 106
♥ J10952
♦ 1073
♣ 1042

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
			Pass
2NT	3♠	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
			Pass
1♣(F)	3♠	3NT	Pass
All Pass			

Nunes must have been close to a move over 3NT here, having guaranteed only 15-17 balanced. But maybe a king over average is not enough. After the lead of the ♠10 Fantoni threw North in with a spade in the three-card ending to lead clubs and gain an

overtrick. In the other room no such endplay was possible when Zmud'ski retained his ♠10. 91-49, Zimmermann.

Bd: 40	North
Dlr: West	♠ KQ9
Vul: None	♥ A1096
	♦ A762
	♣ 43

West
♠ 82
♥ KQ83
♦ K94
♣ AK95

East
♠ 10753
♥ 5
♦ Q853
♣ 10872

South
♠ AJ64
♥ J742
♦ J10
♣ QJ6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♣(F)	Dbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Madala guessed well to stay low when Bocchi denied extras at his second turn. Fantoni led a club and Bocchi put up an honor from dummy (ducking might have been an option here). A low diamond went to East who then played a top club through dummy. Bocchi ruffed the third club, then crossed to dummy with a spade to lead a heart to the ten. When it held, he laid down the ♥A, a strange looking play, and the 4-1 trump break left him unable to take more than seven tricks.

In the other room the defenders led the ♥10 against 1NT. Declarer won in hand and led a diamond to the queen and a diamond back to the king and ace. The fall of the ♦J10 was very helpful, but now the defense peeled off four spades and shifted to the ♥J through declarer. This was covered all around, and Balicki tucked declarer back in hand with a diamond to give up two more hearts at the end for down two. The 4 imps to Zimmermann gave them a 95-49 lead.

Here Massimo Ortensi, coach of the Lavazza team, made a personal appeal to the Senior Editor to stop watching, saying: "How can we gain imps if neither side scores any?" Obediently, the SE passed the reins to the Junior Editor and immediately all hell broke loose.

Bd: 41
 Dir: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 754
 ♥ 10753
 ♦ A954
 ♣ 94

West
 ♠ K93
 ♥ 962
 ♦ KJ72
 ♣ AK7

East
 ♠ AQJ2
 ♥ Q
 ♦ Q63
 ♣ QJ1063

South
 ♠ 1086
 ♥ AKJ84
 ♦ 108
 ♣ 852

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦(GF)	Pass	2♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	1♣(F)	1♥
1♠(1)	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

A virtually unopposed sequence for Duboin-Sementa saw them have no trouble stopping low and avoiding 3NT. Fantoni, by contrast, showed 14+ and then passed over 3♥ with nothing to say. His jump at his next turn suggested an unbalanced hand with clubs and a smattering of extras, though diligent review of his 13 cards failed to suggest what extras he thought he had. Nunes certainly assumed he would have two first-round controls, and although West made the last error it appeared East was at somewhat complicit. 12 imps for Lavazza, trailing 91-65.

Free of the constraints of the Senior Editor's favorite 4-3-3-3 ten counts, the computer dialed up another snorter. This one looked just right for Bobby Wolff's favorite dictum: "Last bidder gets the zero."



Bd: 42
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q
 ♥ AQ754
 ♦ 9
 ♣ KJ9643

West
 ♠ KJ9642
 ♥ J96
 ♦ J54
 ♣ Q

East
 ♠ A10853
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 8762
 ♣ A1082

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ K10832
 ♦ AKQ103
 ♣ 75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
		Pass	1♥
1♠	3♠	4♥	Pass
4♠	4NT	Dbl	5♣
Pass	5♥	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♥	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
		Pass	1♥
1♠	3♦	4♠	5♦
5♠	Dbl	Pass	6♥
6♠	Dbl	All Pass	

Balicki used Blackwood to discover that his side was off two keycards. We're not sure what opening bid he thought his partner could have to make the sacrifice necessary (and of course fit jumps would have made his life easy since they would have permitted him to allow his partner take control over 5♠). But he bid on and Sementa informed him of his mistake.

In the other room the jump to 3♦ by Bocchi got everyone into a tizzy. Fantoni's 4♠ bid persuaded Nunes he had no defense; maybe the 4♥ bid found by Sementa was a better idea. But another unilateral action, this time by Nunes, was harshly punished. Matching 500s for Lavazza changed the whole complexion of the match: it was 95-74 now.

Bd: 43
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AK976
 ♥ A
 ♦ KJ104
 ♣ 1084

West
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ KJ5
 ♦ AQ32
 ♣ AQ73

East
 ♠ 10542
 ♥ Q84
 ♦ 85
 ♣ KJ65

South
 ♠ J8
 ♥ 1097632
 ♦ 976
 ♣ 92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
2♦(18-19)	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♣	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Duboin got his hand off his chest at his first turn and then logically introduced his cheapest suit over the negative double. The defenders had four top winners but declarer had nine tricks in the form of a spade, a diamond, two hearts and five trumps (by ruffing a spade in hand) for +110. Against 2♠ Fantoni led a heart and Bocchi won to lead a club. Fantoni shifted to a spade and Nunes let dummy's eight hold. That let declarer run dummy's ♦9 and repeat the finesse. Declarer ended up winning one diamond, one heart and all five of his trumps. Down one, but 2 imps for Lavazza, down 95-77.

Bd: 44	North
Dlr: West	♠ KQ974
Vul: N/S	♥ K964
	♦ A6
	♣ K3

West	East
♠ A1065	♠ J832
♥ 83	♥ 10
♦ Q1097	♦ K53
♣ A96	♣ J10874

South
♠ ---
♥ AQJ752
♦ J842
♣ Q52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT(1)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Cezary Balicki perpetrated one of the more uncouth calls we've seen in a long time when he used Blackwood over a 2♥ bid that was consistent with an

invitational hand with hearts. On a trump lead 5♥ needed the ♠A right, spades to be 4-4, or a minor miracle somewhere along the way. Not to worry, though. Duboin led the ♣A, speeding things up a lot. An imp to Zimmermann when in the other room declarer in 4♥ took no chances and drew trumps before taking a ruffing finesse in spades; 96-77.

Bd: 45	North
Dlr: North	♠ K632
Vul: Both	♥ ---
	♦ AJ1073
	♣ Q876

West	East
♠ A94	♠ QJ107
♥ A75	♥ J62
♦ KQ862	♦ 4
♣ A10	♣ KJ432

South
♠ 85
♥ KQ109843
♦ 95
♣ 95

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	Pass	Pass	3♥
3NT	All Pass		

Both tables reached 3NT, but it was much harder for Duboin-Sementa, whose opponents gave them a really hard time. 2♥x rated to be down just 200, by the way. Balicki led the ♦J. Duboin won, led the ♣A10, overtaking with the jack to clear clubs (and pitching hearts from hand). When a low diamond came back to Zmud'ski's nine Duboin ducked and ended up losing a spade, a club and two diamonds.

In the other room Bocchi led a low diamond to the nine and queen. He covered the ♣10 on the second round of the suit and declarer ran the ♠Q, which held, then cleared the clubs. When a diamond came back he could win and cash his heart trick, then endplay North with a spade to lead diamonds or with a diamond to lead spades. Again, no swing.

When the Senior Editor threatened to look at another deal Ortensi threatened him with Bocchi: "You don't want to make me angry!" SE retreated to type up set two, and the Card Gods gave us their next offering.

Bd: 46
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q87
 ♥ QJ10984
 ♦ 762
 ♣ 9

West
 ♠ K1096
 ♥ 62
 ♦ J104
 ♣ KJ52

East
 ♠ A
 ♥ AK5
 ♦ AQ93
 ♣ AQ1084

South
 ♠ J5432
 ♥ 73
 ♦ K85
 ♣ 763

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
2♦(R)	2♥	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	All Pass	3NT	Pass

Closed Room

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

It sounded like Fantoni showed clubs and diamonds by his second bid, then real extras. Nunes may not have been able to raise clubs at his second turn but surely he owed his partner a club raise somewhere along the line.

Duboin heard his partner show a good hand (though Antonio *always* thinks he has a good hand) but whatever the combination of the cue-bid and the notrump bid were supposed to show, the message did not get through. We were unable to subject them to a polygraph and a year later the jury is still out. No swing at 490 and two disgruntled Easts.

On the next hand game was cold, though perhaps not any of the games you were thinking of.

Bd: 47
 Dlr: South
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J95
 ♥ AQ102
 ♦ J5
 ♣ Q1064

West
 ♠ Q10874
 ♥ J6
 ♦ A643
 ♣ KJ

East
 ♠ K
 ♥ K987
 ♦ K1087
 ♣ A953

South
 ♠ A632
 ♥ 543
 ♦ Q92
 ♣ 872

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Fantoni found his way to the best game here, 2♥xx, after Bocchi's [fill in an adjective] double of 2♥. Why Nunes pulled this we do not know; presumably the redouble did not guarantee heart length. Even so, eight tricks are clearly very easy. The hand plays just fine at notrump, in essence, with club ruffs on top of that if they fail to lead trumps at once.

Sementa played 3NT on a heart lead from South. Balicki shifted riskily to the ♦J when he regained the lead in hearts. Declarer had five red-suit winners and could get two clubs and a spade, but the defenders were able to establish the ♣10 in time and there was nothing East could do. When 3♦ proved straightforward, with just two aces and a trump to lose, Zimmermann gained 5 imps to make it 101-77. One deal to go.

Ortensi was wrestling SE out of the room as the last deal flashed up on the screen.

Bd: 48
 Dlr: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ J743
 ♥ AQ964
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K32

West
 ♠ 1092
 ♥ 7532
 ♦ 1096
 ♣ QJ6

East
 ♠ 85
 ♥ K
 ♦ J8532
 ♣ 109854

South
 ♠ AKQ6
 ♥ J108
 ♦ AK74
 ♣ A7



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Zmud'ski</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT(R)
Pass	3♠(Min)	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Bocchi-Madala did perfectly to reach the only 100% slam, while the Poles got to a 50% slam after some confusion about what bids were asking for what. If all our confused auctions had such a potentially happy ending we'd all be World Champions — or at least NEC Champions. Not here though. (The ♥K refused to cooperate; poetic justice for the slam by Sementa earlier in set one that failed on the losing diamond finesse?) 14imps to Lavazza, and the margin was down to 10imps, 101-91, with just 16 deals to go.

Fourth Quarter (Boards 49-64):

Bd: 49	North
Dlr: North	♠ K5
Vul: None	♥ A74
	♦ AQ7
	♣ A10732

West
 ♠ QJ642
 ♥ K963
 ♦ KJ10
 ♣ 9

East
 ♠ 983
 ♥ QJ10
 ♦ 9653
 ♣ QJ4

South
 ♠ A107
 ♥ 852
 ♦ 842
 ♣ K865

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	1♣(F)	Pass	1♠(no MAJ)
Dbl	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♣(MAJs)	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl(1)	Pass	2♠	3♣
All Pass			

(1) Better spades than hearts

Fantoni got to play 1NT virtually undisturbed, his 1NT rebid showing 15-17. The defenders led spades and declarer drove out the defense's club trick and took the diamond finesse in the ending to come to a ninth trick. In the other room clubs offered no real extra chances over notrump. Duboin tried for an endplay but was eventually reduced to the diamond finesse. 1 imp for Zimmermann; 102-91. Had the diamond finesse failed it would have been 5imps.

Bd: 50	North
Dlr: East	♠ Q62
Vul: N/S	♥ 107
	♦ QJ1093
	♣ K74

West
 ♠ 103
 ♥ Q43
 ♦ K74
 ♣ A9832

East
 ♠ KJ954
 ♥ AKJ9862
 ♦ ---
 ♣ 6

South
 ♠ A87
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A8652
 ♣ QJ105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		1♥	Dbl
2♦(♥)	3♦	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT(♠)	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Bocchi was never going to bid a slam that required the partner of the take-out doubler to have a spade honor. When Madala bid 2♦ he was almost sure not to have four trumps so even facing the doubleton ♠Q slam figured to be poor. Balicki had a chance; his "combination call-out" 2NT bid — Poland's answer to Reverse Rosenkrantz Help-Suit tries — was a long-suit try in spades. Had Zmud'ski bid 3♣ he might have shown at a lower level that he had no spade honor. As it was, the partnership teetered on the brink of what would have been the third 50% slam of the match. Surely we'd all rather win matches some other way (not that Balicki would have rejected the 11imps that would have been riding on the location of the ♠Q). No swing, though.

Bd: 51
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ A976
 ♥ AJ5
 ♦ K92
 ♣ AJ4

West
 ♠ QJ
 ♥ 8642
 ♦ Q543
 ♣ 1052

East
 ♠ K1052
 ♥ 107
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ Q863

South
 ♠ 843
 ♥ KQ93
 ♦ 1076
 ♣ K97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1NT	All Pass	

Both tables played 1NT with the only issue being overtricks. Both Easts led a spade and West continued the suit when his jack was allowed to hold. Fantoni ducked two spades, and the defense shifted to diamonds. Declarer ducked and later misguessed the diamond suit to hold himself to 90. Duboin took the second spade, ran hearts pitching a diamond from hand, then endplayed East with the fourth spade for an overtrick. An elegant imp back to Lavazza, who trailed 102-92.

Bd: 52
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ Q103
 ♥ K754
 ♦ 864
 ♣ Q74

West
 ♠ AK8
 ♥ 83
 ♦ Q10752
 ♣ J52

East
 ♠ J542
 ♥ Q92
 ♦ KJ9
 ♣ 983

South
 ♠ 976
 ♥ AJ106
 ♦ A3
 ♣ AK106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣(F)
1♦	Dbl	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Fantoni's first and second doubles did not guarantee shape, just high cards. He must have been delighted with the way things progressed. Madala avoided the top spade lead (clearly a good time to do so) but led a trump instead to pickle Bocchi's queen. Declarer guessed clubs as well and had +170. Duboin was in some trouble in 1NT. He won the diamond lead and played hearts from the top (no joy) and clubs from the top (deep joy). Mind you, +90 was a loss of twoimps, but it could have been so much worse. Zimmermann 104-92.

Bd: 53
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ QJ42
 ♦ K873
 ♣ AJ7

West
 ♠ AKJ96
 ♥ A
 ♦ Q1042
 ♣ 1063

East
 ♠ 8742
 ♥ K86
 ♦ J6
 ♣ Q854

South
 ♠ 105
 ♥ 109753
 ♦ A95
 ♣ K92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

When Bocchi stretched to raise to 2♠ (note Fantoni's silence over this bid) Madala, hoping for a tad more in the way of useful cards in dummy, raised himself to game — not exactly a pessimistic decision. On the top heart lead Madala played to ensure down one after the trump queen fell by crossing to dummy with a trump to take his discard.

Zmud'ski failed to take his discard, but went after diamonds once he had cashed the top trumps. The cards forgave, with the ♣9 well placed for him, but

Briggida does not appreciate being taken for granted. 5 imps to Zimmermann, up 109-92.

The number of weak and strong notrumps for N/S this set, and thus swings from the Fantoni-Nunes system, seemed high. But even pairs playing "strong" notrumps can differ about valuations. Here came another more serious swing along those lines.

Bd: 54 North
 Dir: East ♠ Q108432
 Vul: E/W ♥ A95
 ♦ 432
 ♣ K

West East
 ♠ 75 ♠ KJ9
 ♥ KQJ ♥ 32
 ♦ KJ5 ♦ AQ97
 ♣ AQJ73 ♣ 10854

South
 ♠ A6
 ♥ 108764
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ 962

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

3NT by East on the ♠A lead was not challenging. Declarer lost a spade, a club and a heart. Of course when declared by East the contract was safe (on a heart lead and spade shift declarer could afford to misguess spades and still make 3NT thanks to the avoidance/safety-play in clubs). Since Zmud'ski does not escape unscathed in the rest of this set, we'll credit those imps to his decision to open a Polish club and upgrade his hand to 18-19. With a small doubleton in a major there was more than one way for his action to gain.

3NT by West on a spade lead was a straight toss-up; the ♠9 would lead to happiness, the ♠J to despair. Madala guessed wrong. Nunes won his ace, chewed things over for a while, then returned a spade. The tempo of the first trick may have convinced him that declarer had a guess in spades, but one draws those inferences at one's own risk. 3NT went down 300 when declarer failed to follow the Rabbi's rule.

Zimmermann ahead by 31 at 123-92.

Board 55 was a 4♠ contract that needed one of the red-suit finesses to work. Both tables played game the right way up and brought home 11 tricks. No swing. Time for the Lavazza charge.

Bd: 56 North
 Dir: West ♠ K43
 Vul: None ♥ K963
 ♦ KJ7
 ♣ A43

West East
 ♠ AJ10972 ♠ 85
 ♥ J108 ♥ A754
 ♦ 96 ♦ AQ543
 ♣ 106 ♣ 98

South
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ 1082
 ♣ KQJ752

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
2♦(Multi)	Dbl	2♥	Dbl
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables reached 3NT, and both declared it the wrong way up. Both Easts led a spade and both declarers found the correct technical move of rising with the queen, forcing the defender to win the suit and thus cut himself off from the long spades. So far, so technically competent. The difference was that Madala knew from the lead of the ♠8 that his partner had two. He shifted to a diamond and found Bocchi with the perfect hand to defeat the game. Zmud'ski had to deal with the possibility that his partner had started with ♠854 ♥A754 ♦AJ54 ♣98, for example, the ♠5 being the systemic lead from that holding. All MUD followers know that feeling, and if you play MUD you deserve to encounter it regularly.

If Balicki had three spades, a spade continuation might have been necessary. However, there were two reasons why that was unlikely. The first was that Balicki might have bid 3♠ over the double of 2♦. The second was that with a balanced 15-count Sementa might have bid 2NT at his first turn, after which, if his partner had the ♦AQ and three spades, he could have reverted to spades himself.

Zmud'ski guessed wrong and continued spades. Declarer won in dummy, crossed to a club winner to

set up a heart trick, then led a diamond to the jack and claimed 9 tricks a moment later; 123-102.

Bd: 57 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 8
 Vul: E/W ♥ 1092
 ♦ 109853
 ♣ AK43

West
 ♠ KQ1092
 ♥ J876
 ♦ 7
 ♣ Q95

East
 ♠ J54
 ♥ K5
 ♦ AJ62
 ♣ 10872

South
 ♠ A763
 ♥ AQ43
 ♦ KQ4
 ♣ J6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♠	2♦(NF)	2♠	3♦

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	3♥(1)	Pass	1NT
Dbf	4♦	All Pass	3♠

(1) short spades, both minors

As a passed hand Sementa had a way to invite game with short spades. Duboin guessed well at the vulnerability to play his partner not to have anything to spare (when you've been down a road a thousand times you get to know the lay of the land).

In 4♦ Sementa needed both to exercise care and to get some favorable breaks. He won the spade lead, crossed with a club to take the heart finesse, then played to ruff two clubs high in dummy and one spade low in hand. That left him in possession of the first eight tricks, with ♦10985 and a losing heart in hand. When he led a trump to the ten and jack he could not be prevented from scoring two more trump tricks as the cards lay, thanks to the fall of the ♦7. East could win the diamond but could not prevent the ♦5 from scoring a trick.

In the other room Fantoni played safe for 3♦ on a spade lead by playing along cross-ruff lines without risking the heart finesse. Things were going well enough at his table that he could spare overtrick imps. The only defense to 4♦ was to lead two rounds of trumps, but no one would find that; Zimmermann up 123-103. Note: the location of the ♥K represented

a 6-imp swing to Lavazza.

Bd: 58 North
 Dlr: East ♠ Q2
 Vul: Both ♥ K7652
 ♦ K7
 ♣ 8752

West
 ♠ A743
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ AJ9653
 ♣ Q

East
 ♠ K865
 ♥ 94
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ A10943

South
 ♠ J109
 ♥ Q1083
 ♦ 1082
 ♣ KJ6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥(1)	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣(2)	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

(1) Multi-purpose including...

(2) Splinter for spades (but not a power-house)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Well bid by Bocchi-Madala. All those hours spent on system definition paid off here when both players could explore slam sensibly and still stay low. 4♠ was not entirely safe on a heart lead if both diamonds and spades misbehaved. But Nunes led an uninspired trump and declarer wrapped up 11 easy tricks. By contrast, Zmud'ski's 4♣ rebid, while limited by his failure to open 1♣, left Balicki expecting an important secondary honor in spades or diamonds (change the ♦J to the ♦K and slam is quite playable, even on a heart lead). Against 5♣ Duboin knew to lead hearts. When the diamond finesse lost that meant 13 imps to Lavazza, but well-deserved ones, since stopping in 4♠ deserved to pick up something against par. With Zimmermann's lead down to 7, 123-116, hearts were beating faster.

Bd: 59
 Dlr: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AJ3
 ♥ Q87543
 ♦ ---
 ♣ A985

West
 ♠ 9542
 ♥ A1092
 ♦ J8
 ♣ J73

East
 ♠ Q106
 ♥ J6
 ♦ KQ9654
 ♣ K2

South
 ♠ K87
 ♥ K
 ♦ A10732
 ♣ Q1064

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦ (9-13)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	3♦

Nunes' limited opening had Fantoni scrambling for a sensible spot to play — and clubs was it. Sementa forced to game facing a "real" opening, and the pair did well to avoid 3NT — or indeed 4♥, which was not without play (in theory). A trump lead might have worked well, but Zmud'ski's spade lead would surely avoid criticism from all but the harshest critic (initials CB). The only other lead to set the hand was the ♦J, also not high on our "most likely lead list."

Both tables played the deal perfectly. They put in the ♠J, covered all around, knocked out the ♥A, won the spade return and took their discard, ruffed a heart, played ♦A and ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade, and led a third diamond. When West pitched his last heart, they had reached this position:

♠ ---
 ♥ 87
 ♦ ---
 ♣ A9

West
 ♠ 9
 ♥ ---
 ♦ ---
 ♣ J73

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ ---
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ K2

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ ---
 ♦ 107
 ♣ Q10

Both declarers ruffed a heart with ♣Q, and when that could not be over-ruffed they led a diamond to dummy to force West to ruff in with the ♣J. They over-ruffed and led a heart to score one of the ♣109 at the death. Well played; 6 imps for Lavazza, who trailed now by a single imp, 123-122.

Bd: 60
 Dlr: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ QJ107
 ♥ 104
 ♦ Q10964
 ♣ K2

West
 ♠ A4
 ♥ 8753
 ♦ KJ72
 ♣ Q87

East
 ♠ K98653
 ♥ AQ6
 ♦ ---
 ♣ AJ65

South
 ♠ 2
 ♥ KJ92
 ♦ A853
 ♣ 10943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♦(2)	Pass	2♠	All Pass
(1) 16+ or ♠+♣ (Gazzilli)			
(2) 8+			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Bocchi caught a break here when his sequence left the final decision to Madala. Gazzilli forced Bocchi to rebid 2♣, denying extras (at least 16+), and Madala, with no reason to know about the extra shape and decent controls facing him, passed 2♠. At the other table Balicki thought he needed to catch up — given the way things had been going at his table — and leapt to game with limited justification. A 3♥ game-try might have let Zmud'ski contribute his opinion.

Both tables led a club. Nunes' ten allowed Bocchi to build an extra club winner by force by covering with the queen. He ended up losing two spades, a club and two hearts, but was under no pressure.

In 4♠ Balicki received a low club lead and the king forced the ace. If clubs were 4-2, maybe it would be best to play to ruff the fourth club in dummy: win the lead, club to the queen, club towards the jack, then ruff the fourth club in dummy. This wins when the player with the short clubs has three spades, and never seems to cost.

With trumps being 4-1, though, Balicki's only route to a ninth trick was if Duboin discarded a heart on the second trump. He did, and now declarer was allowed to establish a home for his fourth-round club loser. 4 imps to Lavazza, up 126-123.

Bd: 61
Dlr: North
Vul: Both

North
♠ KQJ2
♥ KJ92
♦ A5
♣ 863

West
♠ A108643
♥ A4
♦ K73
♣ 109

East
♠ 9
♥ 853
♦ QJ109862
♣ A2

South
♠ 75
♥ Q1076
♦ 4
♣ KQJ754

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
	1NT	Pass	2NT(♣)
Pass	3♣	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1♣	3♦	Dbl
3♠(Fit)	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Everyone judged well to let E/W stop in a diamond partscore. Duboin did well to restrain himself facing Sementa's opening bid, not that hearts played so terribly for N/S. Both defenders led a top club against 4♦. Balicki established the spades, ruffing with high trumps at the appropriate moment and then knocking out the ♦A. Sementa did not cash his side's club trick so it got away on the long spades. Careless, but an imp to Zimmermann, down 126-124.

Bd: 62
Dlr: East
Vul: None

North
♠ 10653
♥ J42
♦ A2
♣ K853

West
♠ ---
♥ AKQ965
♦ J1043
♣ J106

East
♠ A984
♥ 103
♦ Q75
♣ A742

South
♠ KQJ72
♥ 87
♦ K986
♣ Q9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmud'ski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♥	3♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Lavazza bought the hand at both tables, in contracts that were not down in top tricks but were not exactly a spread either. Nunes might have opened either a weak notrump or 2♠ (5-6 spades and less than an opening bid).

The defense to 3♠ needed to be precise, and it was. Zmud'ski led three rounds of hearts, Balicki pitching a diamond on the third round. The 4-0 trump break prevented declarer from getting his two ruffs in dummy. Duboin played to ruff diamonds at once and was over-ruffed. Down one.

Against 4♥ the defenders did not find the diamond ruff; they led spades. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps in three rounds (pitching a spade from dummy), led a diamond to the queen and king, ruffed the spade return, then drove out the ♦A (according to the play record, Nunes followed low from his remaining ♦986). When Fantoni played a third spade declarer had to commit himself. To succeed he needed to play for diamonds to be 4-2 and South to have a doubleton club honor by winning the ♠A and discarding his diamond loser. Instead he settled for simplicity, pitching a club on the ♠A and eventually losing a third diamond trick. 3 hard-earned imps for Zimmermann, regaining the lead by 1 imp.

Bd: 63
Dlr: South
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 96
♥ Q3
♦ K107
♣ J75432

West
♠ K7
♥ KJ85
♦ QJ8432
♣ Q

East
♠ QJ532
♥ 10976
♦ 9
♣ K106

South
♠ A1084
♥ A42
♦ A65
♣ A98

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Fantoni	Bocchi	Nunes
1♦	Dbl	1♠	1♣
2♦	3♣	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmud'ski	Sementa	Balicki	Duboin
2♦(♦+M)	2NT(1eb)	3♥(p/c)	1NT
			All Pass

Madala could not find his way to hearts here. He passed 3♣ unhappily, and did well in a sense to lead a top spade. Declarer won, drew one trump, then went after spades. Bocchi won and shifted to a diamond. Nunes took this in dummy to play a second trump. Even if Bocchi had held a second diamond Nunes would have been able to win in hand and play a third spade and discard a diamond from dummy, to establish a home for the heart loser. Plus 110 gave Zimmermann some hope for a small pick-up.

But against 3♥ Duboin found the incisive trump lead. Balicki ducked in dummy and the defenders played three rounds of trumps. Duboin ducked the first spade, won the second, cashed the ♣A, and played a third spade. Declarer could now build a long spade but that was still only seven tricks: three spades, three trumps, and a club. If Balicki had discarded from dummy on the fourth spade Duboin would have underled his ♦A to prevent declarer from establishing an eighth winner. Still Zimmermann by 1 (and ½) imps.

Bd: 64
 Dlr: West
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ Q62
 ♥ 876
 ♦ J107
 ♣ A1092

West
 ♠ 83
 ♥ K109542
 ♦ 93
 ♣ J83

East
 ♠ K1094
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AQ8642
 ♣ K64

South
 ♠ AJ75
 ♥ AQJ3
 ♦ K5
 ♣ Q75



NEC Cup Winners: Lavazza

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Fantoni	Bocchi	Nunes
Zmud'ski	Sementa	Balicki	Duboin
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs attempted to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Who would depart further from par?

Nunes found the low club lead against 2♥. Fantoni took the ♣Q, returned the suit, and Madala forgot to unblock the king. He was put in dummy at trick three and led a low spade to the eight and jack. A diamond came through. Madala went up with the ace and played a second diamond. Fantoni cashed his spade and diamond winners, locking West in hand to ruff his own spade winner. In the five-card ending Madala exited with the ♥10. Nunes won his queen and played the fourth spade, which Madala ruffed with the ♥9. When that held he could exit with a low heart and score his ♥K at the death for down three. Not a triumph, but at least he had done the best he could.

Against 2♥ Sementa led a low spade. Duboin won the jack and, after much thought, found the incisive shift to the ♣Q, ducked to dummy's king. Zmud'ski tried the ♠K, losing to the ace. The defenders then cashed two clubs and shifted to diamonds. Declarer finessed, won the next diamond, ruffed a spade, and exited with the ♥10 to South, who played the fourth spade. When declarer ruffed low, playing North for ♥Q87, the defense had sneaked an extra trump trick. For Zmud'ski's play to be right Sementa would have had to stay silent as North over 1♥ with ♥Qxx and a nine-count. In the three-card ending Duboin endplayed Zmud'ski at trick 11 to lead into the ♥AQ. 3 imps and the match for Lavazza, 129-127.

Despite the somewhat random nature of some of the swings (on what was a distinctly wild set of deals) the total imps were only 4 per board, an indication of the generally sound nature of the bridge. Congratulations to both teams and thanks for an exciting, down-to-the-wire, match.



NEC Cup Runners-up: Zimmermann

16th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Tuesday (Feb. 8)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (1)	411, 412, 413, 414, 415 (14 boards/match)
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (2)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (3)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (4)	
Wednesday (Feb. 9)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (5)	411, 412, 413, 414, 415
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (6)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (7)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (8)	
Thursday (Feb. 10)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (9)	411, 412, 413, 414, 415
	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. 11)	10:00-12:15	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)	411, 412 (16-board segments) 411, 412 501, 502
	12:35-14:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)	
	14:50-16:00	Lunch Break	
	16:00-18:15	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	
	18:35-20:50	NEC Cup Semi-Final (2)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama SRR & Swiss	501, 502
Saturday (Feb. 12)	10:00-12:15	NEC Cup Final (1)	411, 412 (16-board segments) 501, 502
	12:35-14:50	NEC Cup Final (2)	
	14:50-16:00	Lunch Break	
	16:00-18:15	NEC Cup Final (3)	
	18:35-20:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Finals A, B & C	501, 502
Sunday (Feb. 13)	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	501, 502
	18:30-20:30	Closing Ceremony	503

NEC Cup Qualifying Swiss: 12 rounds of 14-board matches

Quarter- & Semi-finals: two 16-board segments

Final: four 16-board segments

