



# NEC Bridge Festival

Friday, February 11, 2011  
Bulletin Number 4

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## Oz Two Tops Qualifiers for the 2011 NEC Cup

At the end of Day 3 OzTwo (Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Paul Gosney, Nabil Edgtton) qualified first for the KO stage with 233 VPs and NEDUK (David Bakhshi, David Gold, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen) came in second with 231 VPs. Hackett (Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann) finished third with 217 VPs, while Beijing Trinergy (Lu Dong, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Zhengjun, Wang Yanhong, Li Rui) finished fourth with 216 VPs. Fifth through eighth were the Bulgarian All Stars (Valio Kovachev, Vladi Isporski, Manol Iliev, Hristo Hristov), Heng Sha Ke Ji (Wang Kui, Liu Haitao, Li Xiaoyi, Zhao Yonghui, Liu Huazong, Peng Jianfeng), China Women (Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Gu Ling, Sun Yanhui, Feng Xuefeng, Lu Yan, Fan Guansheng (NPC)) and Taipei Weide (Patrick Huang, Jonky Chung, Herstein Liu, Sidney Yang, Grace Lin, Sophia Kuo). For their quarter-final opponents Oz Two chose Heng Sha Ke Ji, NEDUK chose Taipei Weide, Hackett chose Beijing Trinergy, and so the Bulgarian All Stars play China Women. The winners of 1 vs 6 and 5 vs 7 play in one semi-final while the winners of 2 vs 8 and 3 vs 4 play in the other. Good luck to the eight survivors. The complete final Swiss standings are below; individual results for Matches 9-12 are on page 5.

## NEC Cup: Final Swiss Standings (Twelve Matches)

Rank	Team(#)	VPs	Rank	Team(#)	VPs	Rank	Team(#)	VPs
1	Oz Two	233	17-20	Jiuzhaigou	185	32-33	Korea	169
2	NEDUK	231	17-20	Hemant Jalan	185	34-36	NANIWADA	168
3	Hackett	217	17-20	Oz Players	185	34-36	SKOTII	168
4	Beijing	216	17-20	JAPAN YOUTH	185	34-36	Fairy Tale	168
5	Bulgarian All Stars	205	21	Manado-Indonesia	184	37	Friends	167
6	Heng Sha Ke Ji	203	22	Spain	183	38	MammoM	165
7	China Women	202	23	Zhe Jiang	180	39	Venus	163
8	Taipei Weide	200	24	River side	178	40	ESPERANZA	161
9-10	NARITA	197	25-27	Okay+	176	41	SYNH <sub>2</sub> O	159
9-10	NAITO	192	25-27	HANA	176	42	Pretty Cats	156
11	KISS	193	25-27	Summer Wine	176	43	KATSUMATA	156
12-13	Good Oxygen	192	28	TimTam	175	44	LAS FLORES	153
12-13	SARA	192	29	Lion	174	45	Kisaragi	143
14	Shenzhen	191	30	Rosewood	172	46	Yukinata	137
15	England Ladies	188	31	Iza Yokohama II	171	47	MY-Bridge	130
16	AKAMA	187	32-33	KinKi	169	48	NAGUMO	68

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Match will feature Oz Two (1<sup>st</sup>) vs Heng Sha Ke Ji (6<sup>th</sup>)

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> group. The team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> will then have their choice of the remaining teams. In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

**Security:** No player may leave the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of the Conference Center.) Automatic penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director as follows: Qualifying Swiss — 1 VP for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense, 3 VPs for all subsequent offenses; KO — 3imps for the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Team Rosters: 16<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup

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

### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 16<sup>th</sup> NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

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

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

# Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

*(An explanation for foreign players)*

Unlike the NEC Cup, which is an international event, and the Yokohama Swiss Teams, in which all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the Asuka Cup is rated as a Japanese national event, 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.

The Asuka Cup is 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 (Asuka Cup)

### Opening Bids

- 1♣ or 1♦ may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g.: Precision 1♣ and 1♦; Polish 1♣, etc.)
- 2♣ artificial opening bid indicating one of:
  - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- 2♦ artificial opening bid showing one of:
  - at least 5-4 distribution in the majors with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Flannery, anti-Flannery etc.)
  - a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced
  - a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP (e.g., Roman 3-suiter, etc.)
- Opening suit bid at the two level or higher indicating the bid suit, another known suit, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
- Opening notrump bid at the two level or higher indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors, 10 or more HCP.
- Opening 3NT bid indicating:
  - any solid suit or
  - a broken minor suit.
- Opening four-level bid transferring to a known suit (e.g., Namyats, etc.).
- Strong opening at the two level or higher, asking Ace, King, Queen, singleton, void, trump quality.

### Responses and Rebids

- 1♦ as a forcing, artificial response to 1♣.
- 1NT response to a major-suit opening bid, forcing for one round; may not guarantee game invitational or better values.
- Conventional responses which guarantee game forcing or better values. May not be part of a relay system.
- 2♣ or 2♦ response to 3<sup>rd</sup>- or 4<sup>th</sup>-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
- Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
- All responses to;
  - artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
  - opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

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

### Competitive Bids

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

### Carding

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

## LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

## Wednesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 9				Match 10				Match 11				Match 12			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	6	61	25	165	9	27	9	174	15	6	7	181	3	34	21	202
2	15	13	9	143	23	54	25	168	9	15	11	179	36	36	21	200
3	17	35	16	142	31	17	15	157	11	31	18	175	1	8	9	184
4	18	26	19	160	16	33	14	174	7	30	18	192	14	66	25	217
5	16	19	11	178	15	35	19	197	18	29	17	214	20	20	17	231
6	1	7	3	159	14	31	20	179	16	21	10	189	18	38	16	205
7	23	36	17	145	24	36	16	161	4	19	12	173	32	38	20	193
8	32	18	16	136	28	41	15	151	23	23	9	160	21	75	25	185
9	19	48	25	181	1	52	21	202	2	30	19	221	31	36	12	233
10	36	32	17	143	11	33	16	159	32	24	13	172	40	26	16	188
11	12	46	21	143	10	27	14	157	3	17	12	169	25	36	16	185
12	11	22	9	132	30	43	21	153	40	25	17	170	17	28	13	183
13	39	40	19	117	37	45	19	136	35	38	15	151	38	14	18	169
14	20	37	19	147	6	11	10	157	19	33	22	179	4	1	1	180
15	2	36	21	159	5	19	11	170	1	40	23	193	16	5	10	203
16	5	36	19	160	4	38	16	176	6	41	20	196	15	24	20	216
17	3	40	14	139	26	47	24	163	20	21	11	174	12	38	17	191
18	4	14	12	145	19	34	20	165	5	20	13	178	6	32	14	192
19	9	0	4	144	18	14	10	154	14	5	8	162	43	21	14	176
20	14	22	11	139	21	46	21	160	17	37	19	179	5	12	13	192
21	26	25	13	138	20	22	9	147	43	23	10	157	8	7	0	157
22	34	26	16	121	41	25	10	131	44	7	10	141	48	55	20	161
23	7	28	13	143	2	14	5	148	8	47	21	169	26	4	5	174
24	31	22	16	144	7	33	14	158	36	27	9	167	41	37	20	187
25	41	38	22	140	36	21	14	154	31	13	8	162	11	29	14	176
26	21	34	17	141	17	11	6	147	28	58	25	172	23	44	25	197
27	37	35	14	118	35	18	16	134	33	22	16	150	29	68	25	175
28	33	63	25	136	8	43	15	151	26	0	2	153	45	26	15	168
29	47	38	21	107	38	42	16	123	34	36	15	138	27	26	5	143
30	38	49	23	131	12	17	9	140	41	33	15	155	42	47	16	171
31	24	18	14	142	3	19	15	157	25	41	22	179	9	47	18	197
32	8	11	14	133	45	45	25	158	10	32	17	175	7	19	10	185
33	28	11	3	114	39	45	24	138	27	19	14	152	44	28	16	168
34	22	21	14	119	43	10	10	129	29	35	15	144	46	36	19	163
35	42	47	20	117	27	12	14	131	13	39	15	146	47	10	7	153
36	10	24	13	139	25	25	16	155	24	52	21	176	2	10	9	185
37	27	39	16	115	13	28	11	126	48	29	21	147	39	51	25	172
38	30	16	7	114	29	35	14	128	47	34	16	144	13	3	12	156
39	13	24	11	106	33	8	6	112	46	48	21	133	37	5	4	137
40	45	29	13	126	44	53	25	151	12	15	13	164	10	19	14	178
41	25	9	8	123	22	45	20	143	30	33	15	158	24	17	10	168
42	35	28	10	113	48	81	25	138	45	36	15	153	30	40	14	167
43	44	25	11	120	34	30	20	140	21	44	20	160	19	28	16	176
44	43	40	19	126	40	11	5	131	22	27	20	151	33	22	14	165
45	40	38	17	134	32	6	5	139	42	36	15	154	28	24	15	169
46	48	42	18	104	47	24	6	110	39	23	9	119	34	21	11	130
47	29	12	9	98	46	60	24	122	38	28	14	136	35	41	23	159
48	46	28	12	49	42	1	0	49	37	6	9	58	22	34	10	68

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

# Notice from the JCBL

The 2011 NEC Bridge Festival proudly announces  
A MIND SPORTS event: Open to the Public

**When? Friday and Saturday, February 11-12 from 11:00 to 16:00**

**Where? Room 503**

**Come and play your favorite Mind Sport: GO, CHESS, DRAUGHTS and XIANGQI  
Special Games for Beginners — Everyone is Welcome!**

## 1. Play MIND SPORTS

Open to public: Mini lessons for the five mind sports that were played at the 2008 World Mind Sports Games (The NEC Bridge Festival provides an excellent chance for players of all five Mind Sports organizations to get together in one place, once a year. Thank you, NEC.)

Program:

- 1) BRIDGE: Mini Bridge lessons will be offered. Open for everyone.
- 2) GO: Featuring a professional GO player: Mr. Masato Yamashita\*
- 3) CHESS
- 4) DRAUGHTS/CHECKERS
- 5) XIANGQI (Chinese Chess)



- \* Anyone who plays a game against Mr. Yamashita will receive a gift from each participating organization.
- \* Anyone who tries all of the above games will be entered in a lottery for a chance at more souvenirs.

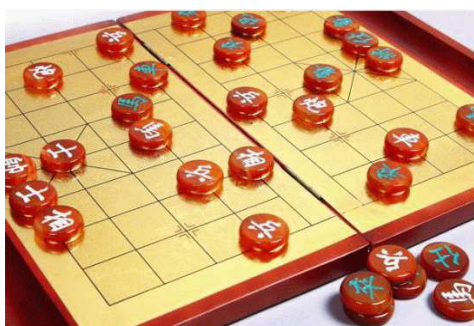
## 2. SPECIAL GAMES FOR CONTRACT BRIDGE BEGINNERS

Sponsored by the JCBL Public Relations Department, these games are aimed at letting prospective bridge players experience the fun and excitement of this great game. This program has received praise from beginners and bridge teachers alike. This year, one pair from each of the nine divisions of Japan have been invited by lottery.

February 11-12 from 13:00 to 16:00 in Room 503

Three one-session games for beginners will be held each day:

- 1) Debutante Cup: for those with no previous bridge experience
- 2) Beginners Cup: for those with under 5 MasterPoints
- 3) Beginners Cup: for those with under 20 MasterPoints







# The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress FUKUOKA 2012



*August 25<sup>th</sup> - September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012*

Japan Contract Bridge League would like to welcome all member countries of Zones 4, 6 and 7 to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> 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<br>Open, Women, Senior, Youth Teams<br>Open Pairs                 | August 27- September 2, 2012<br>September 1-2, 2012 |
| ◆ JCBL Events ( * details to be announced in 2011 )<br>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.

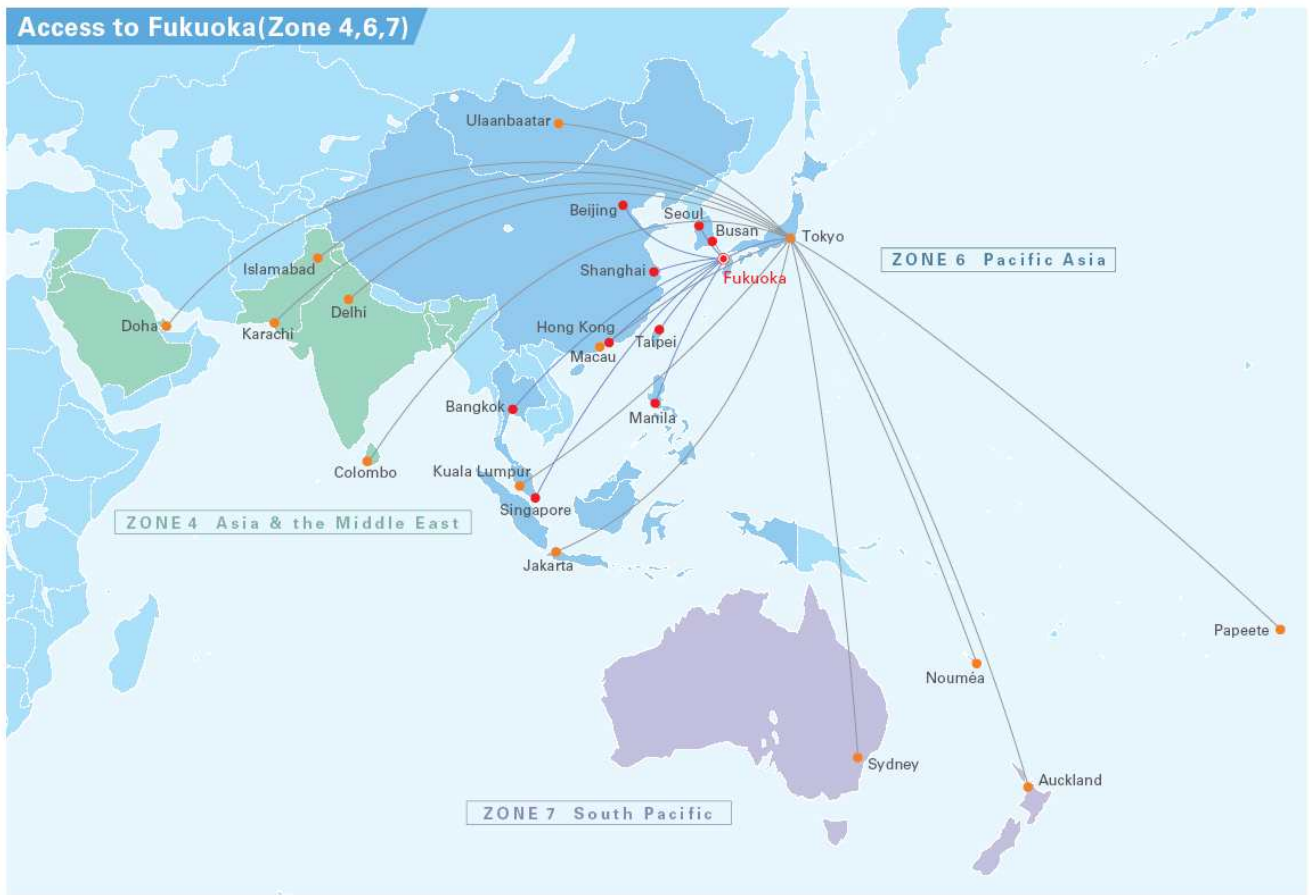
- Air conditioned rooms with varying room configurations (4 persons-room available)
- Free internet service in all rooms, etc.
- Pay laundry/dryer machine corner on the ground floor
- Room charge: approx.US\$63\*\* (as of 2010)



CONTACT: Japan Contract Bridge League  
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Access to Fukuoka (next page)






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## Yokohama SRR & Swiss

For those who have never played in this event, or who have played in it but have repressed the memory of how it is run, here are the gruesome details.

### **DAY 1 — Friday, February 11:**

Entering teams are divided into sections of 9 or 10 teams each. They play 8 six-board matches, with the top 3 or 4 teams from each section advancing to Flight A in Saturday's Swiss.

The next 3 or 4 teams in each section play in Flight B in Saturday's Swiss.

The remaining 3 or 4 teams in each section play in Flight C in Saturday's Swiss.

### **DAY 2 — Saturday, February 12:**

Swiss Teams with three flights (A, B and C) as described above. Teams play 8 seven-board matches.

Teams eliminated from the KO stages of the NEC Cup may drop-in to Flight A.

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# Match Nine: Taipei Weide vs Heng Sha Ke Ji

by Barry Rigal

Round nine featured two of the teams in contention for qualifying. One false move and it could be the early flight home.

Bd: 1  
Dir: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ J8  
♥ 1072  
♦ AKJ96  
♣ K52

West  
♠ 652  
♥ QJ94  
♦ 1083  
♣ J63

East  
♠ A1074  
♥ AK65  
♦ 5  
♣ AQ74

South  
♠ KQ93  
♥ 83  
♦ Q742  
♣ 1098

## Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Haitao Liu</i>
	1♦	DbI	1♠
Pass	1NT	DbI	2♦
2♥	3♦	3♥	All Pass

## Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Chung</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Herstein Liu</i>
	1NT	DbI	Pass
Pass	2♦	DbI	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

On the first deal E/W faced the problem of reaching hearts after their opponents had opened the bidding. Both pairs met the challenge competently. In one case Wang could double the 2♦ rescue for take-out and then take a rather pushy invitation (I would have accepted as West on the auction shown but then that's just me). In the other case Huang competed to 3♥ on what sounded like a non-invitational sequence, but West could have bid on with a real maximum.

Both defenses led a top diamond, but it was far easier for Li to shift to a spade than for Chung. Curiously, Chung found the spade play and Li did not. On Li's diamond continuation Yang ruffed, advanced a thoughtful ♣Q, and ended up scoring four black tricks and six trump tricks for +170. After the spade shift at trick two found by Chung, nine tricks were the limit. 1-0 for Taipei Weide.

4♥ was attempted three times and failed on each occasion. It appears as if the defense should prevail after a top diamond lead so long as they don't force

the East hand to ruff diamonds twice.

Bd: 2  
Dir: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ Q108754  
♥ KJ5  
♦ J2  
♣ 93

West  
♠ AJ632  
♥ A7  
♦ A103  
♣ J102

East  
♠ K  
♥ Q1083  
♦ K9876  
♣ A84

South  
♠ 9  
♥ 9642  
♦ Q54  
♣ KQ765

## Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Haitao Liu</i>
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Chung</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Herstein Liu</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦(GF)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass		

In Round Nine we've finally reached what might be our first contender for "flat board around the room." 3NT made 400 or 430, and the most interesting thing you can say about this deal is that the first uninteresting deal of the tournament must be...interesting for that reason alone. Taipei Weide took an overtrick imp to lead 2-0.

(As if to disprove my cavalier statement, NEDUK played 5♦ down two here while at another table the Nishimura combination set 3NT — or maybe declarer set himself).

Bd: 3  
Dir: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ AK103  
♥ Q43  
♦ AQ85  
♣ J2

West  
♠ 52  
♥ K975  
♦ J4  
♣ AQ853

East  
♠ 987  
♥ A102  
♦ 1076  
♣ 10974

South  
♠ QJ64  
♥ J86  
♦ K932  
♣ K6

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Yang	Li	Huang	Haitao Liu
Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣ ( R)	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Peng	Chung	Wang	Herstein Liu
Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	2♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	2NT
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Both tables led hearts against 4♠ and both declarers eventually collected nine tricks, the par result. Game down one or two tricks was accomplished almost everywhere. However, six tables played 3NT here, one South making nine tricks on a club lead, one North bringing home the bacon when on the lead of the ♣10, ducked in dummy, West guessed to duck (playing declarer for Jxx maybe).

Say you played 4♠ on a passive trump lead, as happened in the Closed Room. Can you see any chance to make the game? With West marked for his double with a maximum hand and not both top hearts, the ♣A must be wrong. Maybe what you should do is lead a low club from hand at trick two. West will surely duck, assuming his partner has the king, and now you win the ♣J, draw trumps, strip off the diamonds, and exit with a club. Game over.

Not surprisingly, that did not happen anywhere. The editor will set aside his opium pipe and return to the real world.

Bd: 4	North		East
Dlr: West	♠ A10964		♠ KQJ32
Vul: Both	♥ KJ		♥ 8
	♦ J1095		♦ K72
	♣ KJ		♣ Q874
West		South	
♠ ---		♠ 875	
♥ Q107642		♥ A953	
♦ A83		♦ Q64	
♣ A652		♣ 1093	

Open Room and Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Yang	Li	Huang	Haitao Liu
Peng	Chung	Wang	Herstein Liu
1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Both Easts were delighted to try for penalties, and West obliged them, albeit no doubt with some misgivings. The defenders led hearts. Chung won and passed the ♦10 to West, who led back a low club instead of giving his partner the ruff. Declarer rose with the ♣K and played a second diamond. Now, although East could put West in for the ruff with the ♣A there was nothing the defenders could do; on a third diamond declarer could ruff a club and reduce to the following ending:

	♠ A10964	
	♥ ---	
	♦ J	
	♣ ---	
♠ ---		♠ KQJ3
♥ Q1076		♥ ---
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ 6		♣ 8
	♠ 875	
	♥ A9	
	♦ ---	
	♣ ---	

When declarer leads a diamond from hand East can ruff high and exit with a club, but he is thrown in with a trump to be endplayed at trick 12.

By contrast, in the other room Yang won the first diamond, played back a heart, then won the ♣A to play another heart, so the endplay no longer worked. East had his two low ruffs and declarer was one down off the top. 8 imps for Taipei Weide, leading 10-0.

Not surprisingly, results here were many and varied. N/S took six or seven tricks in spades on many occasions, but in one match Hanlon-McGann had the pleasure of defending 3♠x for 800, covering their teammates' -500 in 2♠x. At the opposite end of the spectrum Hiromu Nishida brought home 670 in 2♠x. We'd give you the precise play details, but as Doctor Watson commented about the Giant Rat of Sumatra, the world may not yet be ready for that story.

Bd: 5	North		East
Dlr: North	♠ 43		♠ AQJ6
Vul: N/S	♥ 43		♥ J1092
	♦ AJ10652		♦ Q84
	♣ A43		♣ Q6
West		South	
♠ K1052		♠ 987	
♥ K76		♥ AQ85	
♦ K3		♦ 97	
♣ K985		♣ J1072	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Li	Huang	Haitao Liu
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Peng	Chung	Wang	Herstein Liu
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables found the 4-4 fit but Peng opted to offer 3NT and Wang was happy to accept that offer. Chung found an interesting low club lead (assuming that his partner rated to have a singleton diamond, I suppose, but even so still a bold choice). The defenders set up their club, but declarer's ♣9 guarded the fourth round of the suit and the fortunate lie of the hearts was sufficient to let him come to 400.

4♠ is a very poor spot; on a heart lead the defense threatens a ruff. So declarer needs to draw trump at once and set up a second club trick (you have a choice as to whether to play South for ♣Jxx/10xx or North for ♣Axx). If the defenders don't force you to draw trumps the hand comes down to the location of the ♥Q. The defenders duly recorded -420 with more or less equanimity. 1 imp to Taipei Weide, up 11-0.

Just under half the field bid and made game here; the datum was E/W +180.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ A4
Vul: E/W	♥ AJ965
	♦ 105
	♣ QJ102

West  
♠ QJ10862  
♥ 82  
♦ A32  
♣ 98

East  
♠ K753  
♥ K7  
♦ Q876  
♣ A43

South  
♠ 9  
♥ Q1043  
♦ KJ94  
♣ K765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Li	Huang	Haitao Liu
	Dbf	2♠	1♦
1♠			3♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Peng	Chung	Wang	Herstein Liu
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♠
4♠	5♥	Dbf	All Pass

In the Open Room Yang might have competed to 3♠ but that might have pushed his opponents to 4♥. So, well judged in a sense. The same cannot be said about North's actions in the Closed Room. Reluctant as we are to find an adjective to describe the 5♥ bid, we searched around and selected "sectionable." For those of you not familiar with the UK Mental Health Act of 1983 we refer you to its provisions, and the right of a doctor to confine you to an asylum. Hugh McGann will give you further and better particulars. The bid cost 300 when 4♠x was going to generate +500 and 8 imps in, instead of 10 away. Worth every penny, no doubt, for the right to declare the hand.

Enough ranting. Back to the action. 11-10 for Taipei Weide.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ K653
Vul: Both	♥ K74
	♦ 2
	♣ KQJ72

West  
♠ AJ108  
♥ 5  
♦ J97643  
♣ A8

East  
♠ 92  
♥ A96  
♦ AKQ5  
♣ 9543

South  
♠ Q74  
♥ QJ10832  
♦ 108  
♣ 106

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Li	Huang	Haitao Liu
			Pass
1♦	Dbf	Rdbl	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Peng	Chung	Wang	Herstein Liu
			Pass
1♦	Dbf	2♠(♦)	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dbf	Pass
4♦	All Pass		

Both Wests deemed their hand worthy of an opening bid; both Easts showed values and diamond support for what might be a relatively short suit. I think Peng had a clear 3♠ over Huang's double and when he did not make that bid, Huang was unprepared to commit him to game. By contrast, Yang as West was never going to bid less than 5♦ after finding an opener opposite. I like his sequence to 5♦ and it earned him 10 imps. 20-11 for Hang Ka She Ji. Game was bid



and made at rather fewer than half the tables.

Bd: 8 North  
 Dir: West ♠ 1052  
 Vul: None ♥ 9872  
 ♦ AKJ54  
 ♣ 5

West  
 ♠ KQJ74  
 ♥ A543  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ Q94

East  
 ♠ 86  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ 9872  
 ♣ K87632

South  
 ♠ A93  
 ♥ KQ106  
 ♦ 1063  
 ♣ AJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Haitao Liu</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣(!)	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Chung</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Herstein Liu</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbf
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Patrick (Danger is my middle name) Huang launched a psychic 2♣ response on an unsuspecting world. The bid was natural but his 2♠ bid was not forcing. It worked perfectly, as his side reached 4♠. On a top diamond lead and club shift to West's queen eight tricks were made via the cross-ruff. No one said anything and the cards were put away quietly.

In the other room no one did anything silly, with 4♥ no better than finding both red-suit minor honors. With both critical cards singleton and onside nothing could prevent ten tricks; 2 imps to Taipei Weide, down 13-20 now.

Only two pairs found their way to the game on the N/S cards: Fugimoto-Sugino and Kimura-Kobayashi. Meanwhile, Kaho for Pretty Cats played 3♣x as East and racked up 470 in the other direction.



A head-to-head match

Bd: 9 North  
 Dir: North ♠ 432  
 Vul: E/W ♥ A96  
 ♦ 32  
 ♣ 108763

West  
 ♠ Q975  
 ♥ 1073  
 ♦ J986  
 ♣ KQ

East  
 ♠ K86  
 ♥ KQ85  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ A542

South  
 ♠ AJ10  
 ♥ J42  
 ♦ AKQ74  
 ♣ J9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Haitao Liu</i>
	Pass	1♦	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Chung</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Herstein Liu</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Both Souths showed a strong notrump equivalent; both Wests led a spade against 1NT. Both declarers ran their top diamonds and East pitched two clubs. That let West win the diamond and play a heart to his partner, but the spade return established South's seventh trick. To set the partscore the defenders needed to take three clubs, one diamond, two hearts and a spade (or an extra heart instead of a club). So East had to play a club, not a spade, when in with his ♥Q. Since declarer has shown 15-17 and the ♠A, ♥J, and ♦AKQ, the question is whether South was more likely to have the ♠J10 than the ♣K. I'm sure that some experts would tell you that West's decision to follow up the line in diamonds all the way means something — we all agree it means *something* — but the question is precisely what. How much of a call for clubs (or a request not to play spades) is it? I'd say if you trust partner you should play them for the ♣K; that's all you need to set the contract. Two clubs, three hearts and one trick in each of the other suits.

When Verhees played 1NT on the same spade lead, he won and advanced the ♣J. West took this and played a diamond to the ten. Verhees ducked, and now the spade shift set up his seventh winner, as he expected.

Quick pop quiz: Ten pairs played 1NT as South. How many pairs found the defense to beat it? That's right, none.

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ KQJ752  
 ♥ Q76  
 ♦ 54  
 ♣ K5

West  
 ♠ 9643  
 ♥ A53  
 ♦ A8  
 ♣ A1063

East  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ 102  
 ♦ KQJ9732  
 ♣ Q84

South  
 ♠ A10  
 ♥ KJ984  
 ♦ 106  
 ♣ J972

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Haitao Liu</i>
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Chung</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Herstein Liu</i>
3NT	All Pass	3♦	Pass

Real men don't play partscores. Facing a vulnerable 3♦ opening the 3NT response not only brought home a vulnerable game swing, it would have been a double game swing had the ♥4 and ♦4 been switched. Yes, had North led fourth-highest the result might have been less satisfactory, but as the old proverb goes about the constituent elements of omelets, one needs a broken egg or two.

Over half the field bid and made 3NT here, and not surprisingly nobody set it. At only one table was 4♠ allowed to come home, when the defenders played for heart ruffs against Hoshi and let a minor-suit winner get away.

Both tables stayed out of a very skinny non-vulnerable game that made when trumps were 3-2 with the queen right. Then Hang Sha Ke Ji finished with a bang.

Bd: 12  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ A95  
 ♦ Q63  
 ♣ AK853

West  
 ♠ A976  
 ♥ KJ1076  
 ♦ J5  
 ♣ 72

East  
 ♠ 1052  
 ♥ Q82  
 ♦ AK9874  
 ♣ Q

South  
 ♠ KQ43  
 ♥ 43  
 ♦ 102  
 ♣ J10964

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Haitao Liu</i>
2♦(MAJs)	Dbl	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Chung</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Herstein Liu</i>
Pass	1♣	2♦	All Pass

I guess the reason you'd expect N/S from the Closed Room to lose out here is that the nebulous nature of the 1♣ opening prevented South from raising his partner's suit. Strike one for artificiality. Both 2♦ and 3♣ handled like a dream (note that in 3♣ on the defense of three rounds of diamonds South has the perfect loser-on-loser play of discarding a heart to prevent a trump promotion with the ♣Q). That was 6imps to Hang Sha Ke Ji, who led 27-13.

Bd: 13  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ QJ10985  
 ♦ K105  
 ♣ Q42

West  
 ♠ 42  
 ♥ A64  
 ♦ A7  
 ♣ KJ8765

East  
 ♠ AQ1065  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ QJ862  
 ♣ 93

South  
 ♠ KJ873  
 ♥ K73  
 ♦ 943  
 ♣ A10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Haitao Liu</i>
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Chung</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Herstein Liu</i>
3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Herstein Liu doubtless passed 3♠ in the expectation that his opponents might bid on, and that if not he had them where he wanted them. So he did in a sense, but the defenders could do far less well than they might have hoped. On a heart lead declarer took a heart ruff and lost the diamond finesse. When a trump came back South sacrificed his trump trick to stop a ruff in dummy, but declarer ended up scoring four trumps, two diamonds and one trick in each of the other suits.

By contrast Huang's daring entry into the auction on the first round propelled his side into telephone number territory. 4♦ was mercifully undoubled (and by the way, which of North or South was at fault there?). However, the defenders took spade ruffs when declarer finessed at an early stage and Huang emerged with six tricks. Another 7 imps for Hang Sha Ke Ji , leading 34-13.

As you might expect, penalties were the order of the day here. While Kuniko Miyauchi as East brought back +670 in 2♠x, other E/W pairs racked up -1100 in 4♠x and 3NTx, pleasing their opponents (Odaira-Saito and Hiroko and Shintaro Sensui, respectively). In one of the other matches we were following, the Chinese Women (who had been beating up on the Bulgarian All Stars) rubbed it in by playing 3♥x from the South seat, making a spade lead from West hard to avoid. That was declarer's ninth trick, whereas 3♥ by North in the other room attracted a top diamond lead and now the defenders had five tricks before declarer had nine.

The datum was N/S +250, a surprisingly low number, I'd say.

An additional 2 imps in overtricks on the last deal left Hang Sha Ke Ji the winners, 36-13.



"Here's looking at you, kid."

## Match Ten: KISS vs AKAMA

by Rich Colker

Our tenth-round match features two teams making their stretch run to qualify: KISS, the Canadian, Indian, Swedish amalgamation, and AKAMA, the hometown favorite. There's the starter's pistol.

Bd: 17            North  
 Dlr: North      ♠ Q8762  
 Vul: None        ♥ J2  
                       ♦ 10872  
                       ♣ KJ

West  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ Q853  
 ♦ QJ3  
 ♣ Q9764

East  
 ♠ KJ9  
 ♥ A10964  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ A1083

South  
 ♠ A1054  
 ♥ K7  
 ♦ AK965  
 ♣ 52

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
	Pass	1♥	Dbl
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
	Pass	1♥	2♦
3♥	Dbl(1)	4♥	4♠
All Pass			
(1) Responsive			

Gupta-Carruthers in the Open Room doubled 1♥ and reached the optimistic spade game. With at least one loser in every suit there was no real way the defense could let the contract through. Carruthers (JC) won the low diamond lead in hand and led a club up, guessing correctly to put in the jack. Maruyama won the ace, cashed the ♥A, and got out with a low heart to declarer's king. The damages could have been held to down one at this point if JC had worked out the trump position and led a low spade to dummy's queen, later using the club entry to finesse East's jack. Instead, he played for West to hold the stiff ♠J, crossed to the ♣K, and called for the ♠Q. East covered and now declarer had no way back to dummy to lead spades toward his hand again without allowing East to ruff a diamond for a second trump trick. Down two, -100.

The auction in the Closed Room was similar except that 4♠ was played from the South seat. Olofsson led

a low heart to the ace and PO Sundelin (PO) returned a heart to declarer's king. Katsube chose to play trumps in a more straightforward manner (though it was no more successful than the line chosen in the Open Room) by cashing the ace and leading toward the queen. PO won the second trump and could have avoided being endplayed by cashing his remaining trump and exiting with a diamond. Instead, he led his diamond before cashing the trump and was thrown back in with the third trump to remove the club guess (either by cashing the ♣A or leading a heart, allowing declarer to ruff in hand and pitch one of dummy's clubs, then knock out West's diamond stopper). Down two for a push.

One table found a way to make 4♠ on the lead of the ♥A. If you both allow declarer to lead a spade to the ten and ruff a diamond loser you might do it; or you could revoke. On balance, the latter seems more likely. Two E/W pairs (Nagumo-Fuji for Friends and Kaho-Sato for Pretty Cats) collected 500 defending 5♦x and 4♠x respectively.

Bd: 18            North  
 Dir: East        ♠ Q532  
 Vul: N/S        ♥ 95  
                    ♦ K10863  
                    ♣ QJ

West  
 ♠ K10986  
 ♥ Q32  
 ♦ QJ  
 ♣ 432

East  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥ K84  
 ♦ 742  
 ♣ AK1085

South  
 ♠ AJ  
 ♥ AJ1076  
 ♦ A95  
 ♣ 976

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass
		Pass	1♥

E/W can make eight tricks in spades while N/S are cold for nine tricks in diamonds, so Subhash Gupta did well to buy the hand in 2♦. Maruyama led the ♠7 to the jack and king, and Akama switched to the ♣2. Maruyama cashed the ♣AK and led a third round as Gupta ruffed. The straightforward line now seems to be to lead a spade to the ace, cash the ace-king of

trumps (in that order), and whether trumps split or not simply ruff the losing spade and claim nine tricks when the ♦QJ fall doubleton. Instead, declarer played a heart to the jack and queen, won the spade return, crossed to hand with a diamond, and repeated the heart finesse, the nine holding. He then took a restricted-choice play in trumps by leading a diamond to the nine, losing to the queen, and eventually came home with eight tricks; +90.

In the Closed Room PO did not open the East hand but eventually bought the hand for 1NT. With no reason to lead a diamond Katsube led the normal-looking but unlucky ♥J. PO won his king, discovered the good news in clubs, cashed the rest of the suit, and eventually came to seven tricks (although BBO has him claiming at trick five — impossible, since as long as North saves all five of his diamonds the hand can always be beaten). Nevertheless, E/W scored up +90 and KISS was off to a 5-0 lead.

AKAMA struck back on the very next deal.

Bd: 19            North  
 Dir: South       ♠ KQJ6  
 Vul: E/W        ♥ 642  
                    ♦ 976  
                    ♣ AK9

West  
 ♠ 42  
 ♥ AKQ  
 ♦ QJ10  
 ♣ J10763

East  
 ♠ 109873  
 ♥ 109  
 ♦ A843  
 ♣ 82

South  
 ♠ A5  
 ♥ J8753  
 ♦ K52  
 ♣ Q54

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
1♣	All Pass		Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

In this day of forcing, artificial and semi-artificial 1♣ openings it is rare, indeed, to run across the auction in the Open Room. Nevertheless, seeing is believing — at least until one sees the East hand, which is one that most experts would normally respond (1♠) with. In this case, though, as Shakespeare might have



said, "Vulnerability doth make cowards of us all." (Well, maybe not "all.")

Gupta led the ♠K. JC overtook to shift to a trump. Gupta won the ten with the king, cashed the ♠J, and led a low spade, ruffed with the ♣5 and over-ruffed. Akama next cashed the ♥AKQ, then played the ♦Q. JC won the king and tabled a fourth heart, ruffed by Akama with the ♣3 and over-ruffed by Gupta with the ♣9. The best defense now was for Gupta to lead his last spade for JC to ruff, allowing the defense to score its two high trumps separately. But Gupta fell from grace and cashed the ♣A (dummy pitching the ♦A), dropping his partner's queen, so declarer emerged with seven tricks; +70.

In the Closed Room Miyakuni received the ♠10 lead against his 1NT contract. He won the jack in hand, led a heart to the nine, jack and queen, won the club return with the ace, and played a second heart to Olofsson's king. He won the next club in dummy, unblocked the ♠A, played a club to his hand, cashed his last two spades, and led a diamond to the king. When East ducked he had eight tricks for +120; 5 imps to AKAMA, tying the match at 5-5.

Bd: 20 North  
 Dir: West ♠ 832  
 Vul: Both ♥ A72  
 ♦ K7632  
 ♣ K5

West  
 ♠ A10964  
 ♥ K864  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ Q6

East  
 ♠ Q75  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ A9  
 ♣ J1098743

South  
 ♠ KJ  
 ♥ QJ953  
 ♦ QJ84  
 ♣ A2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
2♥(1)	Pass	2♠	All Pass

(1) Both majors, weak

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣(1)	Pass	4♥

All Pass

(1) Drury

N/S are cold for 4♥ here but Akama's 2♥ opening blew them entirely out of the water. Maruyama then converted to spades, ending the proceedings, and

while 2♠ was no proverbial "walk in the park" (Maruyama losing the obvious seven tricks; one heart was ruffed in hand) -200 was still better than -620.

In the Closed Room Miyakuni-Katsube had no difficulty reaching the cold 4♥ game via Drury, and Olofsson's choice of the ♠A for his opening lead did nothing to challenge declarer. Katsube won the spade continuation, played a heart to the ace and a heart to the queen, Olofsson ducking. Katsube next erred by playing a diamond to the king and ace (to avoid being tapped twice in spades declarer must continue hearts before knocking out the ♦A), won the diamond return (a spade now by PO would have beaten the hand), knocked out the ♥K, and claimed +620. 9 imps to AKAMA, leading now 14-5.

Just for the record, only two declarers managed to go down in 4♥. Normal play in the trump suit (two finesses) leaves declarer in control without potentially exposing himself to the force.

Bd: 21 North  
 Dir: North ♠ 1074  
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ95  
 ♦ J65  
 ♣ K64

West  
 ♠ 632  
 ♥ 732  
 ♦ Q10843  
 ♣ 73

East  
 ♠ KQ85  
 ♥ AQ104  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ J10852

South  
 ♠ AJ9  
 ♥ 86  
 ♦ AK972  
 ♣ AQ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT turned out to be a quite difficult contract due to the poor breaks in the red suits, which were only slightly ameliorated by the spade position. In the Open Room Akama led a club to the ten and queen. JC laid down the ♦A, getting the bad news, then continued with a low diamond to the queen (East

pitching clubs on both diamonds). Akama switched accurately to a low heart to the ten. JC won the club return in hand, crossed to the  $\diamond J$  (East pitching a spade), and led a spade to the queen and ace. He then cashed the  $\diamond K$  as East pitched the  $\clubsuit J$ , crossed to the  $\clubsuit K$ , and led a spade. Maruyama won the king and exited with a spade, leaving declarer with no more winners. Down one, -100.

In the other room Oloffson led a spade. Katsube won the queen with the ace and played diamonds as in the Open Room. Oloffson won the queen and switched accurately to a low heart. PO won the ten and played  $\spadesuit K$ , spade. Katsube won in hand and tried a heart to the nine. PO won and cashed his good spade and the  $\heartsuit A$  for down two, -200; 3 imps to KISS; now trailing 14-8.

The majority of declarers who made 3NT were aided by a diamond lead on a blind auction, or one where a nebulous club had not indicated to West that his partner had a real suit. Another strike against the nebulous club?

We've already seen one good result for the Friends team. Here is another. Hagiwara-Kichise had the pleasure of holding a doubled notrump contract to eight tricks — even better they were defending 6NTx!

Bd: 22	North		
Dlr: East	$\spadesuit$ J83		
Vul: E/W	$\heartsuit$ K9632		
	$\diamond$ K74		
	$\clubsuit$ J4		
West		East	
$\spadesuit$ A106		$\spadesuit$ KQ754	
$\heartsuit$ J4		$\heartsuit$ Q5	
$\diamond$ A96		$\diamond$ J83	
$\clubsuit$ 109632		$\clubsuit$ KQ8	
	South		
	$\spadesuit$ 92		
	$\heartsuit$ A1087		
	$\diamond$ Q1052		
	$\clubsuit$ A75		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Akama	Gupta	Maruyama	Carruthers
		1 $\spadesuit$	Pass
3 $\diamond$ (1)	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$	All Pass

(1) Bergen-type (constructive) spade raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Olofsson	Miyakuni	Sundelin	Katsube
		1 $\spadesuit$	Dbl
2 $\heartsuit$ (1)	3 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	

(1) ART constructive spade raise

In the Open Room E/W's 3 $\spadesuit$  appears to have five losers, but JC's trump lead gave up an important

tempo. Maruyama won in hand, then led a spade to the ace and a club to the king and ace. JC now found the diamond shift but too late. Declarer ducked the diamond to Gupta's king (as the cards lie two losers could have been pitched on the clubs, but of course declarer did not know that) and Gupta switched to a heart, the defense cashing two hearts before Gupta exited with a trump. When the  $\clubsuit J$  fell under the queen declarer was home; +140.

In contrast to the contract in the Open Room, in the Closed Room 3 $\heartsuit$  was cold. PO led a spade and the defense cashed two rounds of that suit before Oloffson switched to a club. Declarer ducked the first club to the queen and PO now tried the deceptive  $\heartsuit Q$  — you'll never fly if you never try. Unfortunately for PO, declarer was having none of that. He won the ace in dummy, played  $\clubsuit A$ , ruff a club, ruff a spade, heart to the jack and king. A diamond to the ten applied the *coup de grace*. Plus 140; 7 more imps to AKAMA, leading 21-8.

Game made in each direction on one occasion here (not, you'll be pleased to know, in the same strain). At one table Hiromu Nishida made 4 $\heartsuit$  when the defenders never played clubs, and the club loser went on the diamonds. Meanwhile, Sun Yanhui for China Women came home with ten tricks in 4 $\spadesuit$  on a trump lead when declarer could set up clubs to dispose of the diamond losers.

Bd: 23	North		
Dlr: South	$\spadesuit$ Q108		
Vul: Both	$\heartsuit$ K932		
	$\diamond$ AKJ7		
	$\clubsuit$ 96		
West		East	
$\spadesuit$ K954		$\spadesuit$ A3	
$\heartsuit$ Q8654		$\heartsuit$ 107	
$\diamond$ Q4		$\diamond$ 852	
$\clubsuit$ J8		$\clubsuit$ KQ7432	
	South		
	$\spadesuit$ J762		
	$\heartsuit$ AJ		
	$\diamond$ 10963		
	$\clubsuit$ A105		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Akama	Gupta	Maruyama	Carruthers
			Pass
Pass	1 $\diamond$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Olofsson	Miyakuni	Sundelin	Katsube
			Pass
Pass	1 $\diamond$	2 $\clubsuit$	Dbl
Pass	2 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\diamond$
All Pass			

In the Closed Room N/S found their 4-4 diamond fit and managed to take nine tricks even though the defense found its spade ruff; +110.

Bidding can be dangerous, especially vulnerable, but passing can be just as costly over the long run. In the Open Room Maruyama's pass of 1♦, especially as a passed-hand, looks a bit timid. The goal is often to use up as much of the opponents' bidding room as possible. Passing may keep you from going for a big number on any given deal, but you will incur small to moderate sized losses whenever partner could have competed successfully for the partscore, or when you would have pushed the opponents too high, or when your bid would have prevented the opponents from finding their best contract. The 4-3 spade fit played just fine and N/S scored up +140. The 1-imp loss for AKAMA reduced their lead to 21-9. A bunch of little losses can start to add up quickly.

Bd: 24 North  
 Dir: West ♠ 10872  
 Vul: None ♥ Q106  
 ♦ A92  
 ♣ 1092

West  
 ♠ AK  
 ♥ A5  
 ♦ K7653  
 ♣ KQ64

East  
 ♠ QJ96  
 ♥ K9832  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ AJ3

South  
 ♠ 543  
 ♥ J74  
 ♦ QJ84  
 ♣ 875

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣(1)	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠(2)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

(1) Checkback

(2) Four spades, five or more hearts

In the Open Room declarer received a spade lead and started cashing her winners, claiming +430 before play had ended. Sloppy, because...

In the Closed Room, on the same lead, declarer unblocked the spades, crossed to a club, finished the

spades, cashed dummy's remaining clubs, then played ace, king, and a third heart to North, who had to concede a trick to the ♦K at the end. Plus 460 was worth another imp to KISS, trailing now 21-10. Many a mickle makes a muckle, as the Senior Editor's Scottish grandmother was fond of telling her infants.

There were possibly more lucrative contracts to consider here — not necessarily good ones, mind you. For example, the China Women played 6♣ after a strong club auction in which East showed a positive with five hearts and four spades, then introduced her club fragment to show extras and three-plus clubs. West now drove to 6♣ and with trumps and clubs splitting slam is a pianola — but only if you can see all four hands. Sartaj Hans led a heart, a good start, and declarer was reluctant to pin all her hopes on the heart break. She tried a diamond to the king and ace, and back came a trump. Declarer's best chance now is to play for both rounded suits to split, but she went after a cross-ruff and the defenders' trump spots were just too good. Hideo Togawa for Esperanza bid and made 6♣ on a spade lead (you might even survive 4-2 hearts with North having the length, and trumps 3-3).

Bd: 25 North  
 Dir: North ♠ ---  
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q85  
 ♦ AQ86  
 ♣ AKQ742

West  
 ♠ QJ4  
 ♥ 109  
 ♦ 9532  
 ♣ 10853

East  
 ♠ K9876  
 ♥ A62  
 ♦ K1074  
 ♣ 6

South  
 ♠ A10532  
 ♥ KJ743  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ J9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
	1♣	1♠	2♥
2♠	5NT(1)	Pass	6♥
	(1) Grand Slam Force (♥)		
	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
	1♣	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♠(1)	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
	(1) Splinter (shortness)		

Gupta's GSF in the Open Room may have been a bit

aggressive for some tastes (do you really want to be in 7♥ opposite even a good hand like ♠KJx ♥AKJxx ♦Jxx ♣xx?), but it did the job nicely here. JC ruffed the opening spade lead, drew trumps, and claimed twelve tricks when they split 3-2; +980.

In the Closed Room Miyakuni's 3♠ bid should have elicited some positive move from Katsube — and maybe it did (if 3NT was a slam move, such as a "non-serious" slam try, then North should have done more than sign off in 4♥). But in the absence of an agreement about 3NT, the bid seems to us to be too regressive. We'd much prefer a slam move of 4♦ over a natural 3NT or 4♥. On the other hand, given Gupta's action in the Open Room perhaps Miyakuni owed Katsube one more try, unless, of course, 3NT showed spade wastage. Finally, as long as Katsube was going to play the hand by taking the diamond finesse at trick one, as actually happened at the table, it's just as well that N/S stayed as low as they did (-50 doesn't look so good in the comparison). Plus 450 wasn't much to write home about either; 11 imps to KISS, tied at 21.

One-third of the field bid slam and made it, while three slam ventures were less successful. 6♦ was a quiet three down, and two pairs attempted 7♥; curiously, though, only one of them was doubled. We're not sure whether East or N/S should have been more embarrassed at that table.

Bd: 26 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ Q109854  
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ  
 ♦ 97  
 ♣ 653

West  
 ♠ K3  
 ♥ 75  
 ♦ QJ1064  
 ♣ Q872

East  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ 108632  
 ♦ AK8  
 ♣ AKJ9

South  
 ♠ AJ62  
 ♥ KJ94  
 ♦ 532  
 ♣ 104

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	2♠	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	All Pass		
(1) 5 hearts+4 clubs			

Akama's 1♠ in the Open Room showed a forcing notrump, and the 2♣ reply virtually guaranteed four, so West's decision not to compete to the three-level looks very cowardly. The defense cashed their four minor-suit winners on the go and later collected the ♠K. But that was still +110 for N/S. In the Closed Room Olofsson lost the obvious four tricks for +130 and 6 more imps to KISS, leading now 27-21. Again, South's failure to do more looks questionable.

Quite a few pairs obviously need to do work on their doubling: take-out or penalties? In the sequence from the Open Room would a double by East at their third turn show shortage or a 4-5-1-3 type? At least three tables were weighed in the balance and found wanting. Meanwhile, three E/W pairs knew the value of their cards, bid smoothly to 3NT, and dared the opponents to beat them. Not surprisingly, no one managed to.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ A987  
 Vul: None ♥ 5  
 ♦ AJ9542  
 ♣ 96

West  
 ♠ 102  
 ♥ J10432  
 ♦ Q103  
 ♣ J43

East  
 ♠ K4  
 ♥ AQ876  
 ♦ 87  
 ♣ AQ52

South  
 ♠ QJ653  
 ♥ K9  
 ♦ K6  
 ♣ K1087

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
Pass	4♥(1)	Pass	1♠
All Pass			4♠

(1) Splinter

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
Pass	2♦	2♥	1♠
4♥	4♠	All Pass	Pass

Both tables played 4♠ on a heart lead, East winning and cashing the ♣A at trick two. When the spade finesse lost they pushed with 420s. Still 27-21 KISS.

How many pairs played in the 4♥ splinter here, do you think? Place your bets, *mesdames et messieurs*. Answer: none. Our players must have been reading the bulletin. (Well, a man can dream...)



Bd: 28 North  
 Dir: West ♠ AJ84  
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ753  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ A85

West  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ J108  
 ♦ KQJ1085  
 ♣ KJ42

East  
 ♠ K73  
 ♥ 9642  
 ♦ A9  
 ♣ Q963

South  
 ♠ Q109652  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ 7432  
 ♣ 107

Bd: 30 North  
 Dir: East ♠ J  
 Vul: None ♥ K109875  
 ♦ A96  
 ♣ J108

West  
 ♠ KQ87  
 ♥ AJ6  
 ♦ J85  
 ♣ Q63

East  
 ♠ 109643  
 ♥ Q32  
 ♦ Q32  
 ♣ AK

South  
 ♠ A52  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ K1074  
 ♣ 97542

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
1♦	Dbf	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
1♦	1♥	Dbf(1)	Pass

2♦ All Pass

(1) Negative; normally 3-4 spades

The North hand presents the classic dilemma of whether to overcall or double RHO's minor-suit opening holding 4-5 in the majors. Gupta, in the Open Room, doubled and struck gold when partner leaped to 4♠. Akama led the ♦K and switched to a heart. JC won, perforce, lost the spade finesse, and soon had eleven tricks; +650.

Miyakuni, in the Closed Room, overcalled 1♥ and PO doubled, which neither promised nor denied spades (usually shows three or four spades; partner bids spades with four of them) threw a monkey-wrench into the N/S proceedings (isn't the South hand a 1♠ bid regardless?) and allowed Olofsson to buy the hand for 2♦. Miyakuni underled his ♣A. Olofsson won, drew trumps, then knocked out the ♣A. Miyakuni tried to cash the ♠A, ruffed by declarer, and with his carefully preserved ♣2 Olofsson was able to enter dummy and cash the good ♠K for a second overtrick; +130. 13 imps to KISS, ahead now 40-21.

Three pairs competed to 5♠ over 5♦ and were doubled there, all of them collecting 850 for their pains. At about a third of the tables the diamond sacrifice was relatively cheap, typically gaining E/W 8 imps against the 650 from the other room.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Akama</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Maruyama</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
1♣	2♥	Dbf	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass

3NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Olofsson</i>	<i>Miyakuni</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>	<i>Katsube</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Akama used excellent judgment to opt for the nine-trick notrump game rather than the ten-trick spade game (despite the nine-card spade fit). Akama won the heart lead with the jack, crossed to dummy with a club, led a spade to the king, and when the jack came down there were nine tricks. He drove out the ♠A and JC tried for a set by switching to a diamond, hoping that Gupta held the magic ace-jack. But there was no joy in Mudville on this day and declarer emerged with ten tricks for a neat +430.

Olofsson also received a heart lead against his 4♠ in the Closed Room. He won in hand, unblocked the ♣AK, led a spade to the king, and when the jack fell played a second spade to the ace. Katsube led the ♦7 to partner's ace, ruffed the heart return, and cashed his ♦K for down one.; -50 for E/W. That was 10 imps back to AKAMA, who lost the match 40-31, 17-13 in VPs.

Kudos to the ten pairs who eschewed (bless you, Ed) the 5-4 spade fit to play 3NT. Very nicely done the lot of you.

# Match Eleven: SARA vs Shenzhen Nangang Power

by Barry Rigal

It was about time for the editors to de-mothball their cliches about "All to play for," "Sydney or the bush," and "Win or go home." The pedal was meeting the metal, the corn was as high as an elephant's eye, and no prisoners were going to be taken. Up guards and at them!

Both teams were about 5 VPs off the pace, needing a big win and some help. Time for that cliché about a draw being like "kissing your sister"? Nah, we'll save that for Match Twelve.

Bd: 1  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A10  
 ♥ AQ10752  
 ♦ K7  
 ♣ K94

West  
 ♠ KQJ975  
 ♥ K94  
 ♦ A8  
 ♣ A8

East  
 ♠ 642  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ QJ5432  
 ♣ 105

South  
 ♠ 83  
 ♥ J6  
 ♦ 1096  
 ♣ QJ7632

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	1♥	Pass	1NT
Dbl	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
	1♣(STR)	2♣(♦)	Pass
2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

To my mind Tanaka's pass of 3♣ was a clear bridge error. When partner says he wants to play spades on this auction, he is announcing a good hand. You might not raise spades at once but you owe him a bid at some point. Against the Closed Room 3♠ contract the lead of the ♦K did not paralyze declarer. When North won his ♠A and tried to put partner in with the ♣A for a heart through, declarer claimed +230. North's reassurance to his partner that his opponents might have missed a slam did not entirely ring true.

Since 3♣ made a comfortable +130, Shenzhen were off to a comfortable 8-0 lead.

Because a club lead beats 2♠ you might think that there would be some penalties around the place for over-bidders with the E/W cards. Up to a point, Lord Copper. Nobody collected more than +100 against a spade contract, but even after the lead of the ♥A some pairs managed to let 4♠ through. It seems you can either go for the trump promotion or shift to clubs and still set the game, but eight pairs racked up +420 or better.

At another table South psyched a 2♣ response to 1♥ and his partner did not let him out below 4♥. Try and beat that. You want us to name names? It was a 'valiant' Bulgarian. Say no more, say no more.

Bd: 2  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ 1065  
 ♥ J985  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ KQJ62

West  
 ♠ AK43  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ AJ98  
 ♣ A853

East  
 ♠ J7  
 ♥ A104  
 ♦ Q65432  
 ♣ 94

South  
 ♠ Q982  
 ♥ KQ632  
 ♦ K7  
 ♣ 107

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦	Dbl(MAJs)
Rdbl	1♥	2♦	2♥
5♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
		2♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Two different approaches, but a similar result. With 5♦ having only a possible club and trump loser it looked like E/W were right to stop in game. After all, you'd expect a few accidents along the way on this hand, wouldn't you? The overtrick imp for playing trumps correctly went to Sara; 8-1 now.

About a quarter of the field played in a partscore or

went down in 3NT (presumably on a heart lead, by misguessing diamonds). But two Easts were doubled for +650; I wonder which defender thought they had a trick?

Bd: 3 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ AQ7  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 42  
 ♦ AQ64  
 ♣ J983

West  
 ♠ K832  
 ♥ K105  
 ♦ 73  
 ♣ 10654

East  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ J987  
 ♦ J10852  
 ♣ Q72

South  
 ♠ J10954  
 ♥ AQ63  
 ♦ K9  
 ♣ AK

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♦(R)

in 4♠ Teramoto took the minimum, playing two rounds of trumps after losing the heart finesse, then ruffing a heart and trying for a discard on the master diamond. That meant he emerged with +420; no disgrace, but no triumph either.

In 3NT East led a low heart: the seven. When declarer played low from dummy West indicated his mastery of the Rule of 11 by ducking. Nicely done and style points, if nothing else. Declarer finessed on the next heart and eventually gave up a trick to the ♠K for +430. No swing.

The spade slam looks playable until you see the lie of the majors. Is there anything that can be done? Yes, against any defense. Yoshiyuki Nakamura and Masayuki Nakamura were South and North, respectively. Nakamura reached slam on the auction: 1♠ - 2♣; 2♥ - 2♠; 3♣ - 3♦; 4NT - 5♠; 6♠. Klinger led a diamond. Declarer won in hand, passed the ♠J successfully, unblocked both top honors in clubs, played a spade to the queen, ruffed a club, then took

the ♦A, ♠A, ♣J, and led the ♦Q. In the four-card ending West had reduced to the ♠K and ♥K105. If he ruffed he would be endplayed to lead a heart into the tenace, so he discarded a heart and South ruffed his last diamond in hand. Now West had no choice but to ruff or the ♥A would be declarer's twelfth trick, but he had to concede the last two tricks.

I'm sure both Toshiro Nose and Teruko Nishimura would have found this play in the slam had West not led a club and facilitated the play when East let go his ♣Q prematurely.

Bd: 4 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ 753  
 Vul: Both ♥ A862  
 ♦ KQ5  
 ♣ K83

West  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ K10  
 ♦ A842  
 ♣ AQ10742

East  
 ♠ J86  
 ♥ 9753  
 ♦ J7  
 ♣ J965

South  
 ♠ AKQ1094  
 ♥ QJ4  
 ♦ 10963  
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
1♣	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Dbl	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
1♣	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both pairs did competently to bid to their game, Shenzhen getting the award for the shortest possible route to goal. Did you know that the late Edgar Kaplan proposed semi-seriously that teams be fined a minuscule fraction of an imp for every call they took? So on an auction of this sort Shenzhen would pick up, let's say, 2/10 of an IMP for making two fewer calls.

Niekawa for Sara led the ♥K, again the lead of an unsupported king giving the Vugraph audience a frisson but not doing much for his side's chances of taking tricks. Surely the underlead of the ♦A has much more going for it. An overtrick imp back to Shenzhen.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dir: North ♠ J4  
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q84  
 ♦ K9643  
 ♣ 842

West  
 ♠ Q853  
 ♥ J10  
 ♦ AQJ7  
 ♣ AK7

East  
 ♠ K10  
 ♥ A76532  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ Q96

South  
 ♠ A9762  
 ♥ K9  
 ♦ 102  
 ♣ J1053

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣(♥)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

With the long hearts in dummy the defenders rated to have no problem in scoring their two trump tricks and duly did so, declarer's only legitimate chance being to find the ♥98 over the ace. An alternative way to make would be to receive a diamond or the ♠J lead. North led a club — well done, Fu.

In the Open Room after the club lead, Tanaka won in dummy and finessed in trumps, hoping for a spade switch. But South worked out that his partner must have the ♦K and East the ♠K or declarer would probably be taking discards before playing trumps. He shifted to the ♦10 and Tanaka lost the diamond finesse. North now had two possible pitfalls to avoid. He had to return a black suit now, a spade being best, and he had to cover the ♥10 or he would be a Chinese victim of a Chinese finesse. When he fell for the first of the two traps it allowed Tanaka to cash the ♥A, then take the two diamond winners in dummy and discard his spade losers. Ten tricks made; 11-9 for SARA.

This game is in fact far harder to defeat than one might think at first glance. It succeeded 75% of the 12 times it was attempted by West, and two thirds of the time when attempted by East.

Bd: 6 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 753  
 Vul: E/W ♥ AQ105  
 ♦ J94  
 ♣ KJ8

West  
 ♠ K1086  
 ♥ K98732  
 ♦ 65  
 ♣ 2

East  
 ♠ J4  
 ♥ J64  
 ♦ AK1082  
 ♣ Q65

South  
 ♠ AQ92  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ Q73  
 ♣ A109743

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		1♦	2♣
2♥	Pass	3♥	3♠
4♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	2♦	Pass	4♠

It would be hard to argue that the disasters that happened to Shenzhen on this deal were undeserved. The combination of the Closed Room auction and subsequent bidding, coupled with West's two bids in the Open Room, meant that as Bobby Wolff famously said, "Last bidder gets the zero." You could argue that Zhan's -150 was not a tragedy, since even nine tricks would be a struggle in clubs. But in the other room the decision of West to bid on over 3♠ looks strange. And of course if 2♥ was non-forcing, East's 3♥ bid is downright bizarre.

You'd certainly expect the results here to be all over the place, and you would not be disappointed. Pride of place for N/S go to those racking up a big number in 3NT (Keisuke Akama played 3NTxx on a diamond lead and guessed clubs for +800 while Osami Kimura made +650 in the more prosaic 3NTx on a heart lead). Meanwhile for E/W, Kimuras's teammates Setsuko Kimura and Yasuyoshi Toriumi were racking up +870 in 2♥x for a mere 17-imp pick-up. There were a couple of +730s and a +670 too from doubled heart partscores.

It was 23-9 now for SARA and after a quiet game (with a choice of notrump or hearts Shenzhen opted for what might have been the safer game, but it cost them an overtrick) we move on, with the score 24-9 for SARA.

Bd: 8  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ A103  
 ♥ K9762  
 ♦ K87  
 ♣ 72

West  
 ♠ KQ72  
 ♥ 105  
 ♦ A53  
 ♣ KQJ3

East  
 ♠ J4  
 ♥ A3  
 ♦ QJ96  
 ♣ A9654

South  
 ♠ 9865  
 ♥ QJ84  
 ♦ 1042  
 ♣ 108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
1NT	Pass	2♠( R)	Pass
3♣(Max)	Pass	3NT	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

All roads led to the doomed 3NT, with both defenders having a natural heart lead. I suppose 5♣ has more genuine play by comparison. As it was both defenders wrapped up +100. Well done to the two E/W pairs who brought home +400 in 5♣ on a non-heart lead, though one would have thought that any auction that led to E/W avoiding 3NT would have pinpointed the killing lead.

Bd: 9  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AK10752  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ K2  
 ♣ J984

West  
 ♠ QJ  
 ♥ 10764  
 ♦ Q10953  
 ♣ 72

East  
 ♠ 83  
 ♥ Q8  
 ♦ AJ874  
 ♣ Q1063

South  
 ♠ 964  
 ♥ AKJ532  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ AK5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♦(SPL)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

I can't say I like the second-round splinter on the South hand unless it promises a club control. Even then, the bad spades mean that you might have identified the only strain that slam (or game) goes down in, while slam in hearts could be on. Fu was turned off by the effort, of course, and 4♠ made a quiet 12 tricks.

Anyway, why bid slam if your opponents are going minus? Eric Kokish would blame the disaster on using Blackwood, but some of us are more broad-minded. It's OK to use Blackwood so long as you both agree that's what it means. The Editors both believe 4NT is passable; whether we'd pass on the North cards is not so clear.

On a diamond lead against 4NT maybe South could count himself a little unlucky that the ♦A was wrong. But there again, he still would not have had ten tricks unless spades were splitting. It was 35-9 after three self-inflicted disasters by the Shenzhen team.

On this deal fully one-quarter of the field couldn't or didn't identify the missing trump queen and ace, and played slam with the trump suit lying in a way that never happens to me when I need it in a slam.

Bd: 10  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 965432  
 ♥ 65  
 ♦ 10752  
 ♣ 10

West  
 ♠ K7  
 ♥ 97  
 ♦ J986  
 ♣ KQJ75

East  
 ♠ J10  
 ♥ AKQ432  
 ♦ AK  
 ♣ A82

South  
 ♠ AQ8  
 ♥ J108  
 ♦ Q43  
 ♣ 9643

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
2♠( R)	Pass	3♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		
(1) Kokish (ART, forces 2♠)			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
		2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
2♠(R)	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	All Pass

(1) Kokish (ART; forces 2♠)

Another inelegant auction from the Open Room, this time reaching the wrong slam the wrong way up. Anyone who can reach clubs from the West side is not someone I'd want to be playing against on a regular basis — or even an irregular one. For what it's worth, I'd take the Closed Room auction any day of the week; lose 2imps or no, it's still a dashed fine effort. Zhan led the ♠A and declarer claimed +1370 a moment later. 35-11 now for SARA.

There were four outlying results worthy of comment here. (Only three you say? Well, that's not such a small percentage.) K. R. Venkatamaran was not too proud to lead his ♠A against a grand slam and risk insulting his opponents. But Kenichi Asaoki obviously has a reputation for sound bidding; South at his table did not lead the ♠A and the club grand slam came home. That rather put the +1880 (Ryoichi Yasuhara's 6NTx making with an overtrick) into the shade.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ AQJ2
Vul: None	♥ 8
	♦ Q106
	♣ 97653

West	East
♠ K1065	♠ 43
♥ AK1062	♥ 97
♦ K2	♦ AJ87543
♣ K4	♣ J2

South
♠ 987
♥ QJ543
♦ 9
♣ AQ108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		Pass	2♠
1♥	1♠	3♦	All Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
			Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	3♦	All Pass

3♦ was not a taxing contract. Both declarers misguessed diamonds but brought home +110. No swing; still 35-11 for SARA.

Game was bid and made seven times (eight if you count the result of 3♠x making +530 by Hiroko Sentsui). David Bakhshi as West brought home 3NT by a nice exercise in counting. As West he opened 1♥ in second seat and the auction proceeded (1♠) - 2♦ - (2♥) - 3NT - All Pass. North led a high club to the ace for the ♠9 shift, covered by the ten and won by the jack. North went back to clubs, persuading declarer that the spades were 4-3 and that North also had five clubs or South would have continued the suit at trick two or put in the queen at trick one. So he cashed the ♥AK and when North showed out he knew to take the diamond finesse against North rather than play for the drop.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ K1076
Vul: N/S	♥ J8
	♦ 8643
	♣ KQ7

West	East
♠ AJ84	♠ Q95
♥ A6	♥ K5432
♦ J2	♦ AQ7
♣ A10952	♣ 63

South
♠ 32
♥ Q1097
♦ K1095
♣ J84

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣(1)	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

(1) Puppet to 2♦ to play or to invite

Another miserable 25-point 3NT. I wonder if we'd really gain imps if we stayed out of such contracts, or is the secret of winning bridge to be in them and make them? Yang, who knows a bad set when he sees one, was prepared to take a shot at 3NT to prevent his partner from leading a diamond. The spade lead let Tanaka set up that suit for three tricks



but the defenders went after diamonds and limited him to two hearts, two diamonds and a club; -100 and 2imps since 3NT went down one after declarer played on hearts and the defenders played on diamonds at every opportunity. 35-13 now for SARA.

Four declarers were permitted to bring home nine tricks in ways that doubtless left them happier than their errant opponents. A grand total of eight pairs stayed out of game here. It was an honorable push in NEDUK-Good Oxygen in 1NT making +90.

Bd: 13 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ 2  
 Vul: Both ♥ AQ53  
 ♦ 1065  
 ♣ 98632

West  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥ J874  
 ♦ AKJ  
 ♣ AQJ10

East  
 ♠ QJ965  
 ♥ 92  
 ♦ Q943  
 ♣ 74

South  
 ♠ AK1083  
 ♥ K106  
 ♦ 872  
 ♣ K5

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠

Dbl All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠

Dbl Pass 2♦ All Pass

Shi's decision to pass out 1♠x is worth a further look. At this vulnerability it is possible it might be your side's smallest minus, but you might also be able to make a diamond contract, or declarer might be in good shape for overtricks. Having said that, I like the choice and against a strong-club pair I think it is the percentage action.

Gui resisted the temptation to lead trumps, as in all the textbooks. Three rounds of diamonds left East on lead for a club through, and three rounds of that suit let South ruff as East pitched a heart. Teramoto led a heart to dummy, a spade to the jack and king, and exited with a heart, ruffed by East. That player could not avoid letting declarer ruff and shorten his trumps, so he could escape for down one after the trump endplay.

2♦ was no bed of roses in the Closed Room. The defense led a top spade and shifted to trumps. Declarer did not feel inclined to overtake the ♦J and instead led clubs from the board. South won, shifted to hearts, and North cashed the ♥AQ, then played a third club. That let South ruff in to cash a spade for down one and 7imps; 35-20 now for SARA.

Four other pairs duplicated the penalty pass, three collecting +200, one conceding +160. But four Easts got lucky when they responded 1NT and were over-trustingly raised to game. Three defenders led spades, and declarer ran for home with a spade trick and four tricks in each minor. It is truly better to be lucky than good.

Bd: 14 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ Q10  
 Vul: None ♥ 975  
 ♦ KJ105  
 ♣ Q1054

West  
 ♠ A5432  
 ♥ KJ106  
 ♦ 82  
 ♣ 87

East  
 ♠ K876  
 ♥ 84  
 ♦ AQ43  
 ♣ J32

South  
 ♠ J9  
 ♥ AQ32  
 ♦ 976  
 ♣ AK96

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
		Pass	1♣

Pass 1NT All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Niekawa</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Tanaka</i>	<i>Zhan</i>
		Pass	1NT
2♣(MAJs)	Dbl	2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♣	3♠	All Pass

Against 1NT Shi decided to lead the ♥8 — a very interesting choice. Seeing the writing on the wall Fu decided to cash out. He took the ♥A, his four clubs, and then played a diamond, leaving the defense the last eight tricks with something to spare.

That was just fine. 3♠ on a top club lead took the two clubs, the ♥A, and nothing else; another good game missed. Plus 170 for SARA was worth 2imps and a 37-20 win.

# Match Twelve: The Bulgarian All Stars vs Good Oxygen

By Barry Rigal

With 12 deals to go, the Bulgarians knew they could survive a loss by up to 30 imps or so and still be a virtual lock to qualify. Good Oxygen needed a big win even to be in the mix for the eighth place. At this point there were six certainties or near-certainties (Oz Two, NEDUK, Beijing Trinergy, Hang Sha Ke Ji, Hackett and All Stars). 8 VPs behind and separated by only two VPs were China Women, NAITO, Zhe Jiang Hua Men, SARA, and Taipei Weide. Good Oxygen were one behind, and another five teams had a technical chance to make it with a blitz.

We would also be focusing on the China Women taking on Indonesia, the second of whom would need a decent win and some breaks to advance. As it turned out China Women needed a win by about 10 imps to make eighth place. Taipei were about to get a blitz and take the seventh position.

Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy ride.

Bd: 17            North  
 Dir: North      ♠ KQ76  
 Vul: None       ♡ J105  
                     ♦ KQJ63  
                     ♣ 2

West  
 ♠ J5  
 ♡ 43  
 ♦ A109872  
 ♣ Q98

East  
 ♠ A  
 ♡ 9762  
 ♦ 54  
 ♣ AJ10653

South  
 ♠ 1098432  
 ♡ AKQ8  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ K74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♦	2♣	Dbl
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
	1♦	2♣	Dbl
3♣	4♠	All Pass	

You pays your money and you takes your choice. Which do you think was more likely: that Imakura, by passing the jump to 4♠, would miss a slam or that Kovachev, by moving over his partner's sign-off,

would go down in 5♠? I can't say I'm exactly enamored of either auction but since no imps were spilled I'll keep my disapprobation to you, gentle reader.

Four pairs played 6♠, which could be regarded as unfortunate, while one played the grand slam, which looks very much like carelessness.

Bd: 18            North  
 Dir: East       ♠ AJ1085  
 Vul: N/S       ♡ 3

♦ AQ4  
 ♣ 10875

West  
 ♠ 94  
 ♡ AJ  
 ♦ KJ952  
 ♣ AKJ2

East  
 ♠ KQ2  
 ♡ KQ752  
 ♦ 873  
 ♣ Q6

South  
 ♠ 763  
 ♡ 109864  
 ♦ 106  
 ♣ 943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
		1♡	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
		1♡	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs here seemed to take very reasonable views. Chen, who knows Furuta's active style only too well, could be sure that slam would not be better than a finesse if his partner had decent spades, as the auction implied. Maybe Iliev owed his partner a diamond intermediate such as the ten, but no harm was done when the fact that the ♠A was onside made up for the bad heart break. No swing again.

Seven E/W pairs went minus, three in the diamond game, three in slams, one in 4♡.

Bd: 19  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ K32  
 ♥ A10632  
 ♦ K4  
 ♣ KJ10

West  
 ♠ Q4  
 ♥ K9  
 ♦ AQ10982  
 ♣ 986

East  
 ♠ J10765  
 ♥ Q754  
 ♦ 65  
 ♣ A7

South  
 ♠ A98  
 ♥ J8  
 ♦ J73  
 ♣ Q5432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♦	1♥	Dbl(4+♠)	1♠(♥)
2♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♦	All Pass		Pass

The defenders can seriously threaten 2♦ on the lead of the ♣J since if declarer ducks, South overtakes to play trumps while if declarer finesses, a trump back leaves N/S a tempo ahead of any attempt to build a discard on the spades. Declarer can rise with the ♦A and play a spade, but the defenders play a second diamond and revert to clubs. Not surprisingly, nobody found this; indeed, the overtake is such an unlikely play at trick one that you would not expect any table to find it, would you? In fact, 2♦ went down four times, twice on low spade leads, once on the lead of the ♣J, and once on a small heart lead. 2♦ generated an overtrick imp for Good Oxygen in our featured match, but China Women gained 6 imps by setting 3♦ in one room and 3♣ in the other. They led 8-0 now.

Bd: 20  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ A654  
 ♥ J8  
 ♦ 10765  
 ♣ Q32

West  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ A976  
 ♦ AJ3  
 ♣ KJ954

East  
 ♠ 1098732  
 ♥ Q2  
 ♦ Q92  
 ♣ 76

South  
 ♠ KQ  
 ♥ K10543  
 ♦ K84  
 ♣ A108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♣	Pass	2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

A quirk of systems worked out very well for Good Oxygen. Imakura had an easy balance with 2♥, Kovachev a very tough choice over 2♠. It is not clear that he would have set 2♠ had he passed; when he bid, he put his partner into an ugly spot that ran into a vicious cross-ruff. Down 300. Meanwhile, 2♥ may not have looked a lot better but Iliev led a spade and declarer could do little but play back the suit, Iliev ruffing as Hristov carelessly followed with his two smallest spades. Now Hristov studiously exited with the ♣J and when declarer put up the queen and advanced the ♥J Hristov completed a notable double by not covering. Of course Iliev tried to give his partner a club ruff now, and declarer had a miraculous +110; 9 imps for Good Oxygen, leading 11-0.

China Women set partscores in both rooms for the second deal in a row (2♥ by South and 3♣ after a three-suited 2♦ opening by West) and moved ahead 13-0.

Bd: 21  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ J98  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ K109872  
 ♣ K63

West  
 ♠ Q76542  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ 109874

East  
 ♠ K  
 ♥ J985  
 ♦ AQJ  
 ♣ AQJ52

South  
 ♠ A103  
 ♥ AKQ7642  
 ♦ 654  
 ♣ ---

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
4♠	Pass	1♣	4♥
All Pass	Pass	Pass	Dbl

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
4♠	Pass	1♣	4♥
All Pass	All Pass		

The time had come to check who was a man and who was a mouse. Imakura demonstrated his softer side, Kovachev flashed his chest hair and exhibited cave man grunts, doubling 4♠ as if to say "They can't do that to me."

Both tables led a heart and took a heart and five trump tricks, but the double netted the All Stars 8 imps; they trailed 8-10.

In China Women-Indonesia both Easts opened an artificial club. Wang and Sun defended 4♥ down 200, while Yan and Ling defended 5♣ down 50. For the third successive deal they had gone plus in both rooms on defense, and led 19-0 now.

Elsewhere we saw 4♠x down 1100 and down 800, while doubled diamond and heart contracts on the N/S cards cost 500 or 800 with depressing regularity. Well done, Ju for making 1♥, and Sumita for bringing home 3♣, the only two making contracts on the deal.

Bd: 22            North  
 Dlr: East        ♠ 765  
 Vul: E/W        ♥ A4  
                    ♦ 10  
                    ♣ J1097652

West  
 ♠ J943  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ Q97653  
 ♣ K8

East  
 ♠ A82  
 ♥ Q10753  
 ♦ J84  
 ♣ A4

South  
 ♠ KQ10  
 ♥ KJ986  
 ♦ AK2  
 ♣ Q3

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>

Pass	3♦	Pass	2♣
All Pass		Pass	3NT

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>

Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Guesses are solicited as to the likelihood that a hand could both be a strong notrump and a strong 2♣ opening. The 2♣ bid was Mexican, 18-20 or so, while Imakura picked a better moment than the previous deal to go quietly. Best guesses as to the meaning of 3♦ are: "An Irish transfer to the suit below" or "a self-agreeing splinter" in an unknown suit. Kovachev tried

3NT and went quietly down 150 when very little worked for him. Had he taken the diamond lead in nonchalant fashion and laid down the ♣Q, East might have had a tough decision as to what to shift to. Whatever the case, Oxygen had 7 imps, leading 17-8 now; a qualifying place was still in the picture.

Both tables in our other featured match played a club partscore for +130. Six tables bid and made 3NT — but only one of them received a diamond lead.

Bd: 23            North  
 Dlr: South      ♠ J  
 Vul: Both        ♥ QJ94  
                    ♦ Q652  
                    ♣ Q932

West  
 ♠ AQ3  
 ♥ 82  
 ♦ A94  
 ♣ AKJ65

East  
 ♠ 10762  
 ♥ K7  
 ♦ KJ73  
 ♣ 1087

South  
 ♠ K9854  
 ♥ A10653  
 ♦ 108  
 ♣ 4

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>

1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>

1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦(NEG)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The routes to 3NT were different but just as unsuccessful. Again notice Imakura's remarkable passivity in the auction. After a top heart lead the only issue was how to escape for down two. Both tables managed that. (In fact, if you guess the ending you might even manage down one on a minor-suit squeeze.) Still 17-8 for Good Oxygen.

Both Souths in China Women-Indonesia came in at their second turn, to show the majors. Indonesia bought the hand in 4♣ in one room and in 3♥ in the other, and managed to bring both contracts home for 7 imps, their first of the set. They trailed 19-7 now.

Bd: 24 North  
 Dir: West ♠ AKQ97  
 Vul: None ♥ Q10  
 ♦ KQ432  
 ♣ 9

West  
 ♠ 532  
 ♥ 862  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ KQ10763

East  
 ♠ 1086  
 ♥ A93  
 ♦ 965  
 ♣ A854

South  
 ♠ J4  
 ♥ KJ754  
 ♦ AJ107  
 ♣ J2

Bd: 30 North  
 Dir: East ♠ A1085  
 Vul: None ♥ QJ8643  
 ♦ 63  
 ♣ 3

West  
 ♠ K2  
 ♥ K9  
 ♦ 10742  
 ♣ Q9742

East  
 ♠ QJ94  
 ♥ A2  
 ♦ KQJ9  
 ♣ KJ8

South  
 ♠ 763  
 ♥ 1075  
 ♦ A85  
 ♣ A1065

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
3♣	4♦(♦+Maj)	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	2♥	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Imakura</i>
Pass	2♣(MAJs)	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass(!)	Pass	2♥

Given how fine and well-established a pair N/S in the Closed Room are, I'm shocked, shocked, that South either would not drive to game over 1♠, or did not have a fit-jump or the like available over the 2♦ response. North does not escape blame either, though I understand that he may not have been able to bid 3♦ over 2NT. I just hate the auction so much that I'm going to move on to the Open Room sequence and speculate if South really did justice to his hand. After all, North might so easily have had an ace in addition to his actual assets or instead of his ♠Q. But why look for slam when your teammates are collecting 150? 11 imps meant it was 19-18 All Stars.

Both N/S pairs bid to 5♦ in our other featured match after strong-club sequences made the auction far easier to handle. Still 19-7 China Women.

In total, five pairs went down in 3NT, one pair in 6♦, and one in 4♥ on two diamond ruffs. Unlucky.

After all four tables had stayed out of a delicate but makeable game, the boards went very quiet. The only swing registered by either team was on a deal in which a hand that was passed out at one table produced a contract of 3♥ at the other.

On the last deal of the set China Women cemented their qualifying spot:

You and I might not need to discuss whether we play 2♠ as natural or artificial when North has shown the majors and West has passed over 1NT, but apparently the E/W pair in the Closed Room were not on all fours here. Mind you, as 4-2 fits go this one played like a dream. Declarer managed to set up both minors and all N/S got were two aces and three trump tricks. Admittedly 3♦ played for +130 but the 1-imp loss was cheap at the price. The All Stars had won 24-20 and advanced to the next stage.

Meanwhile the Indonesians played 3NT, which would have been fine had they declared it from the East seat and South had not led hearts, but was less promising when declared by West. After a heart lead they went down three, a 7-imp pick up for China Women when they played 3♦ in the other room. That all added up to a 34-8 win and eighth place. Never in doubt.

Slightly fewer than half the field bid and made 3NT on a strong notrump auction; step forward those stalwart Souths who led a blind heart (eight of you is rather too many to mention by name but I know who I want as my partner on opening lead now).

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

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Friday (Feb. 11)	10:00-12:15	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)	411, 412
	12:35-14:50	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (2)	
	14:50-16:00	Lunch Break	(16-board segments)
	16:00-18:15	NEC Cup Semi-Final (1)	411, 412
	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
	12:35-14:50	NEC Cup Final (2)	
	14:50-16:00	Lunch Break	(16-board segments)
	16:00-18:15	NEC Cup Final (3)	
	18:35-20:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Finals A, B & C	501, 502
Sunday (Feb. 13)	10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	501, 502
	18:00-20:00*	Closing Ceremony	503

\* Note: new time

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

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

Final: four 16-board segments

