



NEC Bridge Festival

Sunday, February 13, 2011
Bulletin Number 7

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Chen Dawei – Takahiro Hirata Win Asuka Cup Akio Ijuin – Takako Ijuin Win JCBL Pairs



Winners: Asuka Cup



Runners-up: Asuka Cup



Third Place: Asuka Cup



Winners: JCBL Cup

Top Finishers in Asuka Cup And JCBL Pairs

Rank	Asuka Cup		JCBL Pairs	
	Pair	Score	Pair	Score
1	Chen Dawei – Takahiro Hirata	2460.00	Akio Ijuin – Takako Ijuin	98
2	Justin Hackett – Masaru Naniwada	2459.90	Ryohei Miyata – Machiko Sakai	84
3	Denny Sacul – Donald Tuerah	2434.60	Goro Nakasone – Lia Maria Nakasone	35
4	PO Sundelin – BG Olofsson	2419.90		
5	Gonzalo Goded – Jordi Sabate	2418.20		
6	Sidney Yang – Patrick Huang	2416.50		
7	Osamu Iiyama – Shunichi Haga	2330.10		
8	Tom Hanlon – Fiona Brown	2323.60		
9	Paul Hackett – Kyoko Shimamura	2310.90		
10	Kuniko Saito – Kei Nemoto	2304.40		

NEC Cup Bridge Festival 2011

Domo Arigato

On behalf of all the participants, we would like to thank our corporate sponsor **NEC** for once again joining with **JCBL** to produce a bridge event of the highest quality and competitiveness. The **NEC Bridge Festival** attracts some of the best players in the world, many of whom consider the NEC one of their best bridge experiences. Once again, congratulations to the sponsors and especially to the **JCBL** staff.

As always Yokohama, and especially the Pacifico, are wonderful places for this event. Each year we have marveled at the changes and development in the area, and this year has been no exception. The Convention Center, like the Exhibition Hall in recent years, is a terrific playing venue. The weather this year was generally pleasant and Japan is a welcome relief for those of us who will return home to bitter cold or winter snow. As always, everyone has been warm and friendly and it is our continuing great pleasure to return each year to reunite with our many good friends and to share the happy times, fun and excitement of this tournament. Your kindness and generosity warm our hearts. And since today is Valentine's Day, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a day of love and joy — not just for today, but for every day in the year to come.

The significant prizes and broad participation continue to make the **NEC Bridge Festival** an important event on the bridge calendar, and one which continues to grow in prestige. This year's field of 48 teams in the NEC Cup included many world-class teams as well as many improving Japanese teams. We were especially pleased at the increased attendance by Chinese teams, one of whom made it all the way to the NEC Cup final. We hope our role here has in some small way contributed to the tournament's and JCBL's continued success.

The Bulletin Editors are grateful to those who provided us with deals, stories and other material to help us keep you informed. Many thanks to *Yoshida-san* for his leadership and friendship. Thanks also to *Richard Grenside*, tormented Director, who as ever ran a smooth and pleasant tournament; to *Sue Grenside* for her friendship and good humor (and for keeping Richard in check); to *Omasa-san*, for his awesome technical, computer, and directing support; to *Watanabe-san (Yumi)* and *Tonosaki-san (Saori)* for their wonderful pictures (which as usual we subjected to our peculiar sense of humor); to *Nakamura-san* and *Suzuki-san* for their suffering with us well into the wee morning hours (they must surely be the unluckiest people in Japan to have drawn the short straw again this year) so that you would have daily bulletins fresh with your morning coffee, and to their help with many other things; to *Tashiro-san* for his hard work and help with many things, both technical and otherwise; to *Hayashi-san* for his work with BBO and to BBO itself; and to the many who brought us moral support during our long work sessions. Thanks also to the many volunteers who perform the myriad functions critical to making this tournament a success, while we remain oblivious to what is going on around us, absorbed in our work. As you know, we consider all of you part of our extended family here in Japan. And finally, many thanks to the players, who produced such a rich source of exciting bridge for us to write about.



Warmest regards, *Rich, Barry, and the Bulletin Staff*



The 7th Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress FUKUOKA 2012

August 25th - September 2nd, 2012



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

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

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

Japan Contract Bridge League
2012 APBF Congress Organizing Committee

➤ Venue: Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk

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



➤ Event Schedule

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

Accommodations (next page)

➤ Accommodation

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

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

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



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

*Special Room rates for APBF participants: TBA in 2011



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

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



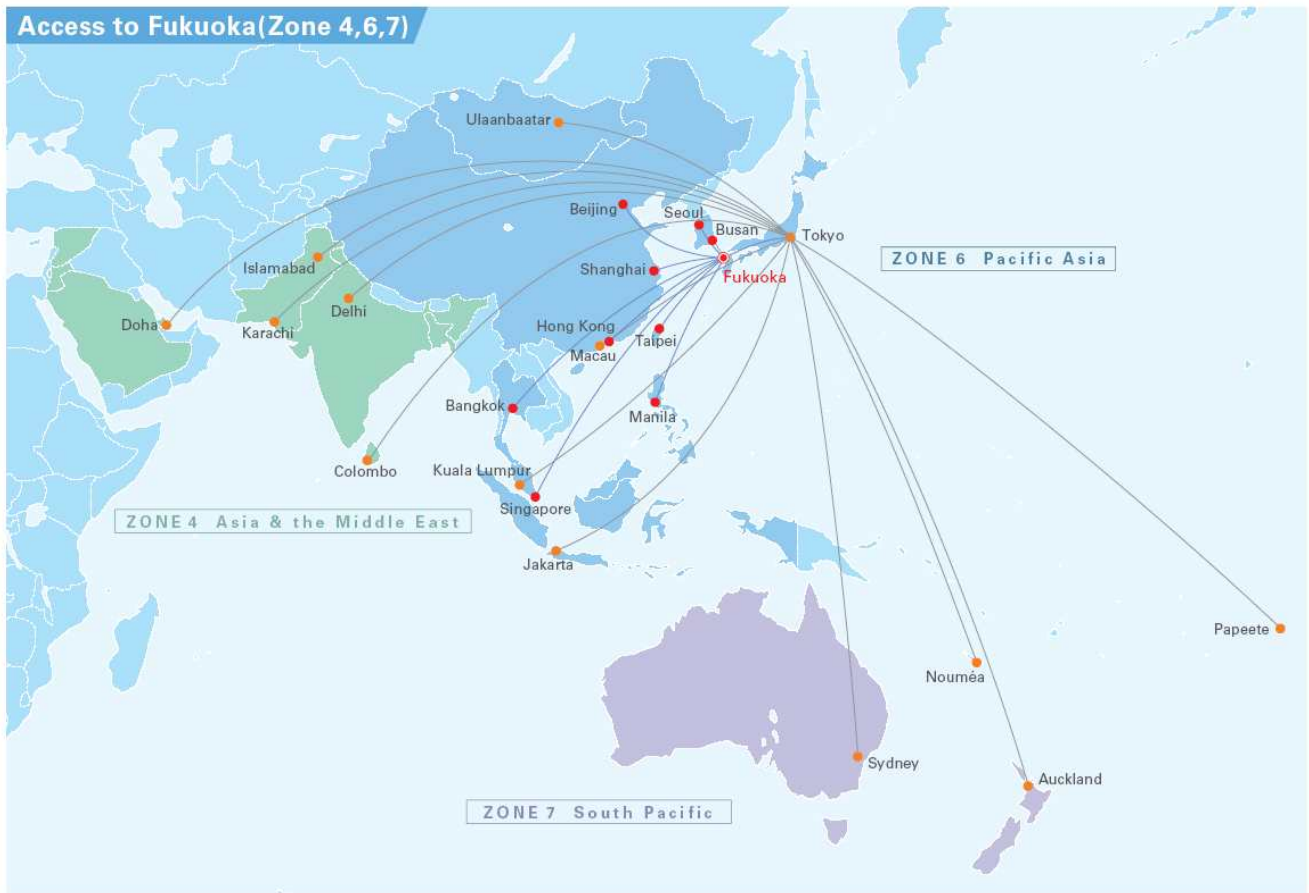
- ◆ **Hotel Twins Momochi** - *Practical type Hotel*
<http://www.twinsmomochi.jp/> *Sorry, No English site available.

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



CONTACT: Japan Contract Bridge League
Phone: 81-3-3357-3741 Fax: 81-3-3357-7444 E-mail: APBF2012@jcbl.or.jp

Access to Fukuoka (next page)



Narita Bus Schedule

From the Intercontinental
(120 minutes)
¥3,500

From the YCAT
(90 min)
¥3,500

06:40
07:40
08:40
11:40
12:40
14:10

Every 15-20 minutes from
05:15 to 19:30

Asuka Cup: Leading Questions

by Barry Rigal

The Asuka Cup is played over two sessions. With the final bulletin almost ready to go, the editors had time to pop in and admire the action from the last event of the week. Two deals in particular tested our analytical skills.

Bd 11
Dlr: South
Vul: None

North
♠ 9
♥ AJ107
♦ AJ108
♣ J953

West
♠ AQJ5
♥ 43
♦ K2
♣ AKQ107

East
♠ K843
♥ KQ8
♦ 964
♣ 862

South
♠ 10762
♥ 9652
♦ Q753
♣ 4

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Pass

BG Olofsson and PO Sundelin of Sweden have no doubt heard on many too many occasions from Anders Wirgren (the apostle of singleton leads) that the right attack on an auction like this is a club. Olofsson ignored that and led a 3rd/5th ♦5. Sundelin took the king with the ace and played three rounds of diamonds to shorten dummy. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps as Sundelin pitched a heart, crossed to the ♥K, went back to the ♣A, and played a second heart. Sundelin won and played a fourth diamond, and now declarer could do no better than ruff in dummy and play clubs from the top, giving up a trump for down one.

Let's say we follow Wirgren and lead a club. Declarer must run four trumps at once or he is dead. The position as the fourth trump is played is:

	♠ --- ♥ AJ10 ♦ AJ10 ♣ J95	
♠ 5 ♥ 43 ♦ K2 ♣ KQ107		♠ K ♥ KQ8 ♦ 964 ♣ 86
	South ♠ 10 ♥ 9652 ♦ Q753 ♣ ---	

What is North to pitch? A club is clearly fatal, so let's assume he discards a diamond. Declarer wins the trump in hand and ducks a club to North, who has only two diamonds left and thus can't set up a long-suit winner. Best is to play back a club. Declarer runs the clubs and forces North down to either 2-2 in the red-suits or 3-1. Meanwhile, he keeps three hearts and a club in hand. If North is 2-2 in the red suits declarer leads a heart to hand and ducks a heart, collecting the ♦K at trick 13. If North keeps three hearts and a diamond, declarer crosses to the ♥K and leads a diamond, endplaying North to give him his ♥Q at the death.

So let's go back to the diagram and have North pitch a heart on the fourth spade. Declarer now can't duck a club or North plays on diamonds and establishes a third-round winner. So declarer now leads a club to dummy, followed by a heart to his hand. (North must duck or declarer has four spades, two hearts, three clubs and the ♦K one way or another when he endplays North with that card.) When East wins his ♥Q he simply clears the clubs, endplaying North with the bare ♥A and ♦AJ10 to give the lead to dummy to revive the ♦K and the fifth club.

Take that, Anders!

For the record, when East declared 4♠ he went down 29 times and made it 14 times. West often reached game on a blind auction and was favored with a club lead, and now could not be prevented from making 11 tricks on careful play.

Bd: 24
Dlr: West
Vul: None

North
♠ KQ105
♥ AKJ987
♦ 108
♣ A

West
♠ 963
♥ 2
♦ J7643
♣ 10754

East
♠ J7
♥ Q1054
♦ K952
♣ J32

South
♠ A842
♥ 63
♦ AQ
♣ KQ986

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Sue Grenside (yes, *the* Sue Grenside) found a nice lead here. Following Garozzo's principle of putting

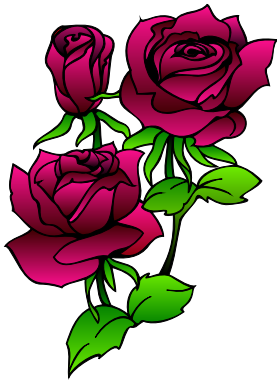
declarer to the guess before he knows what is going on, she kicked off with a diamond away from her king. One can hardly blame North for going up with the ace. As another commentator (Oink) was fond of saying: "Up went the ace, down went the contract."

Let's replay this deal, maybe in 7♠ from the South seat after North rebids a quiet 2♥ and South rebids 2♠. A diamond lead makes life easy; the singleton heart gives South the most options. Let's say he wins the ace and cashes the ♣A and ♠A. Now one could play trumps ending in hand, but that gives up on 4-1 trumps onside, not that small a percentage chance. Instead, we try drawing all the trumps and cashing the ♥K, ready to claim if the suit splits. When it doesn't, be careful to ruff a heart to hand to play the

♣KQ. If the jack and ten fall you have 13 tricks. If they don't we try to ruff out the clubs (we are proof against 4-3 splits, or 5-2 splits when East has a doubleton jack or ten). At the end we take the diamond finesse for the 13th winner, having explored all the other possibilities first.

PO Sundelin, North, got a club lead. He cashed the ♠AK, then the two top clubs. Now he drew trumps and tested hearts, falling back on the diamond finesse for his entry to ruff out and cash the clubs.

For the record, 14 pairs bid and made the grand slam, 26 went down one in various spots, and 14 went down two.



A Very Special Thank You

To the treasured patrons of the 2011 NEC Bridge Festival

NEC Corporation

Pacifico Yokohama

NYK Cruises

Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel



NEC Cup 2011 — A Brief Retrospective

With the abbreviated final this year, the Junior Editor of the Bulletin (call him JEB) found himself with too much idle time on his hands and filled it by putting together some interesting deals from this year's NEC Cup. We hope you enjoy this look back. (Board numbers have the form: Bd#-Match or KO segment.)

Bd: 1-8
 Dlr: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ QJ3
 ♥ J7
 ♦ A976
 ♣ J1073

West
 ♠ 8754
 ♥ AQ1092
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 852

East
 ♠ A1062
 ♥ 64
 ♦ QJ1052
 ♣ Q9

South
 ♠ K9
 ♥ K853
 ♦ K83
 ♣ AK64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kurokawa</i>	<i>Gu</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Senior B</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Shimamura</i>
2♥(MAJ)	Pass	2♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In 3NT Shimamura received a spade lead, ducked to her nine, which got her to eight tricks (two spades, two diamonds and four clubs). She cashed a top club, following low from dummy, then went to the ♦A to take the club finesse. When this was covered, she won, cashed a club, then set up her second spade. However, East could win and remove her diamond entry to hand while the heart winner had not been set up. East had the spade entry and diamond winners waiting to cash. After trick one it looks as though once declarer advances the ♣A she needs to play hearts out of her hand at once to come home. Even if she unblocks the ♣7 under the ace the entries back and forth are so tangled that she needs to lead hearts immediately against best defense. Otherwise, if you cross to dummy with the ♦A West can win an early heart and lead a third club, which cuts you off from your second spade winner.

Incidentally well over half the field made 3NT here. But on the spade lead (found at just nine tables) the only declarer to bring home nine tricks was Tony Nunn of Oz Two. He won in hand and led a low heart towards the jack.

Bd: 1-9
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 43
 ♥ K5
 ♦ Q103
 ♣ KQ6543

West
 ♠ 72
 ♥ A1084
 ♦ KJ862
 ♣ 82

East
 ♠ 865
 ♥ 72
 ♦ A975
 ♣ A1097

South
 ♠ AKQJ109
 ♥ QJ963
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Kurokawa</i>	<i>Gu</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Senior B</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Shimamura</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Shimamura took the slow route to 4♠. The defenders led a club to the ace and shifted to a low diamond. West won her king and returned a thoughtful low heart, trying to remove dummy's entry and needing her partner to have no more than the ♥9 to have a chance to set the game. No luck, but a nice play.

Had East played ace and another diamond declarer would have been able to ruff and use the ♥K after drawing trumps. East needed to cash the ♦A and shift to a heart (impossible except at double-dummy) with West covering declarer's card.

This board generated some fine back and forth in other matches. Heather Dhondy for the English Women received the defense of two rounds of diamonds. She ruffed, drew trumps, then played the ♣J. East, Yukiko Umezu, won and exited in diamonds. Dhondy ruffed and led a heart up, but Etsuko Naito riposted by winning the ♥A to leave the hearts blocked, then played a fourth diamond. Declarer ruffed with her last trump, but depending on whether she pitched dummy's ♥K or kept that card she had to concede a club or a heart at the end.

Vlad Isporski for the Bulgarian All Stars also received the defense of two rounds of diamonds. He pitched his club instead of ruffing, and when West made the

mistake of winning and leading a club instead of a trump, Isporski was home. He ruffed away the club ace, drew trumps, then led a heart to the king. Now whatever West did declarer had ten tricks.

Overall, the diamond lead was found against the spade game more often than not; but only defeated 4♠ on six occasions.

Bd: 3-5 North
 Dlr: North ♠ KJ974
 Vul: N/S ♥ K
 ♦ A92
 ♣ AK83

West
 ♠ AQ1032
 ♥ J76
 ♦ 83
 ♣ QJ9

East
 ♠ 5
 ♥ Q1085
 ♦ K1064
 ♣ 7652

South
 ♠ 86
 ♥ A9432
 ♦ QJ75
 ♣ 104

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Chung</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Kovachev played 3NT after a somewhat illogical re-evaluation by Isporski (perhaps he miscounted his points, it happens to us all). He won the top club lead in dummy, led a diamond to the queen, then passed the ♠6, which held — as I am sure he expected it to — then played a second spade up. What could West do? He chose to win and play a heart. Declarer won the ♥K, then paused for about ten minutes before playing the ace and another diamond to East. That player could exit with a club but Kovachev could endplay West to lead either to his hand or dummy for the rest of the tricks. A well-earned 10 imps.

Federico Goded appreciated for his opponents here, not just because of the coup they had achieved in the bidding and play but because of the confidence that they had exhibited in both phases.



"Wait, that's not my score, that's my *habitant* number!"

Bd: 4-21 North
 Dlr: North ♠ AK9432
 Vul: N/S ♥ AJ3
 ♦ 72
 ♣ 96

West
 ♠ 865
 ♥ 107
 ♦ A3
 ♣ AKJ853

East
 ♠ 10
 ♥ Q9864
 ♦ KJ865
 ♣ 107

South
 ♠ QJ7
 ♥ K52
 ♦ Q1094
 ♣ Q42

West	North	East	South
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>F. Goded</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>	<i>Goncalves</i>
	1♠	3♣ (♥+♦)	Dbl

All Pass

Matt Mullamphy sat East and had overcalled 3♣ to show the red suits. When Klinger passed 3♣ doubled Mullamphy let it go as if without a care in the world. Goncalves led a top spade and shifted to a low trump. Declarer ran this to his hand, crossed to the ♦A to ruff a spade, and now could not be prevented from taking six clubs, two diamonds and a ruff for +470. As we've remarked before, easy game, bridge.

Bd: 4-24 North
 Dlr: West ♠ AQ873
 Vul: None ♥ 84
 ♦ AJ73
 ♣ 62

West
 ♠ 105
 ♥ KQ7
 ♦ 64
 ♣ A108743

East
 ♠ K942
 ♥ J1053
 ♦ 92
 ♣ KJ5

South
 ♠ J6
 ♥ A962
 ♦ KQ1085
 ♣ Q9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Gosney</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Edgton</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	3♣	4♦
All Pass			

There seems to be little play for 4♦ here if the defenders get around to hearts early enough. Nunn won the ♣A and duly shifted to a heart, ducked all around. Now he needed to shift back to clubs, but that was certainly not obvious. When he played a second heart, declarer ruffed out the hearts and ran the trumps, knowing from West's passed-hand status that the black kings were on his left. In the three-card ending East was strip-squeezed down to two spades and one club, and then thrown in to lead spades. Shi

who must be obeyed duly recorded a scintillating +130 on his card.

Bd: 5-1
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ KJ983
 ♥ K75
 ♦ 104
 ♣ AJ4

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ A1098
 ♦ J8732
 ♣ Q732

South
 ♠ 752
 ♥ J4
 ♦ AKQ65
 ♣ K95

East
 ♠ AQ1064
 ♥ Q632
 ♦ 9
 ♣ 1086

Sartaj Hans was the only North to make a game; he played 3NT on an auction where East had shown the majors (1NT-(2♣)-3NT-All Pass). He was treated to a low spade lead, put in the seven, and led a low diamond from the board at once — as easy as shelling peas.

Bd: 5-7
 Dlr: South
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ KJ872
 ♥ 10975
 ♦ K
 ♣ AK8

West
 ♠ 9654
 ♥ A42
 ♦ 10973
 ♣ Q9

South
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ K63
 ♦ AQJ6
 ♣ 7632

East
 ♠ A10
 ♥ QJ8
 ♦ 8542
 ♣ J1054

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	<i>v Prooijen</i>	Huang	Verhees
Pass	2♣ (R)	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥ (R)	Pass	2♦(1)
Pass	3♥(♠)	Pass	2NT
All Pass			3NT

(1) minors or 12-14 balanced

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Chung	Gold	Liu
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣(R)	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
All Pass			3NT

Yang did well to lead the ♣Q against 3NT. Verhees riposted by winning, unblocking diamonds, then crossing to the ♠Q to run the diamonds, pitching a

club, a heart and a spade from the board. Next he led a spade to the jack and ace. Back came a club (a low heart might have given declarer a nasty guess) And Verhees won and played a spade and another spade, backing his judgment that the ♥A was wrong. Of course at this table there was a real chance that West had the bare ♣J left, in which case declarer would make regardless of the position of the ♥A. Well done. As the cards lay, West could take his spade winner but was then endplayed.

Bd: 5-10
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 10
 ♥ KJ853
 ♦ 987
 ♣ 10743

West
 ♠ AQ852
 ♥ 76
 ♦ 1063
 ♣ KQ5

East
 ♠ J9743
 ♥ A9
 ♦ KJ4
 ♣ AJ6

South
 ♠ K6
 ♥ Q1042
 ♦ AQ52
 ♣ 982

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	<i>v Prooijen</i>	Huang	Verhees
2♦(1)	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass	2♠	Pass

How would you play 4♠ on a heart lead? Huang followed a line that combined technical expertise with table presence. He won, advanced the ♠J, and went up with the ace when Verhees ducked smoothly. Now he stripped off the clubs and exited with a heart, confident that he would come home whenever the ♦Q was onside or he had an endplay. Alas, not tonight Josephine. With the diamond honors wrong he had found the only lie of the cards where this approach would fail.

In the other room, after the transfer break got East into the same position, Liu also led a heart, but when Gold advanced the ♠J, Liu covered. End of story. Another 12 imps for NEDUK and 65-15.

Only five declarers were able to duplicate the unsuccessful line found by Huang. But if you switch the ♦Q and ♠K it looks to be the only winning line.



"I think we should go here for dinner; their rice is better."

Bd: 7-10
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North	♠ 852
	♥ K7
	♦ K8
	♣ AK10843

West	♠ AK1094	East	♠ Q763
	♥ A1062		♥ QJ98
	♦ 1065		♦ Q
	♣ J		♣ Q952

South	♠ J
	♥ 543
	♦ AJ97432
	♣ 76

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Shi</i>		<i>Takahashi Ju</i>	
		Pass	2♦
2♠	3♣	3♦	Dbl
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
		Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The Chinese seem to have been a little unlucky here. Ju, who had a 2♦ opening available, elected to treat his hand as a weak two and let the opponents in cheaply. Takahashi guessed well to drive to game with his short diamonds apparently facing length, but Shi did well to lead a trump. Declarer, Takayama, won in hand to lead a diamond up. North won and returned a trump. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a diamond, then rejected the heart finesse, leading a heart to the ace and ruffing another diamond before getting out with a club. Now the defenders had no communication for their heart ruff and Takayama had certainly earned his +620.

In the other room N/S reached a hopeless game but in the process blew their opponents out of the water. Minus 100 when the spades got blocked may not have felt like a triumph, but Okay+ had 11 imps to lead 39-15.

Bd: 7-14
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North	♠ 1084
	♥ 65
	♦ KQ3
	♣ KQ862

West	♠ AQ632	East	♠ KJ975
	♥ Q10		♥ K82
	♦ 982		♦ A4
	♣ 975		♣ J43

South	♠ ---
	♥ AJ9743
	♦ J10765
	♣ A10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Takayama Shi</i>		<i>Takahashi Ju</i>	
		1♠	2♥
2♠	Dbl	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Ohno</i>
		1♠	2♥
2♠	All Pass		

In a positively spooky reversal of Board 13, Beijing Trinergy bought the hand in both rooms, declaring 2♠ for +110 while in the other room Yamada appears to have been asleep to have passed over 2♠, with Ohno positively comatose to let it go in the pass-out seat. 2♠ had eight winners, so Ju was playing with the house's money.

Ju declared 4♥ on the lead of ♠A, and looked to be able to draw trumps and claim. Not so fast. Under the ♥A Takayama dropped the ♥Q, a fine play that Ju swallowed, hook, line and sinker. He knocked out the ♦A, ruffed the spade return, cashed a second diamond, then ran clubs. When East followed three times declarer failed to count out the hand. East had shown five minor suit cards, and was thus (to put it mildly) relatively unlikely to be 5-4 in the majors. If the ♥Q was a true card West could not hold less than ♥KQ doubleton and a 5-2-3-3 pattern, surely too good for a 2♠ raise.

Whatever the merits and demerits of this argument, declarer did indeed play a fourth club. West ruffed and led a third diamond for Takahashi to ruff, with the ♥K being the fourth defensive trick. When your brilliancies hold the loss on a deal to 2 imps you may feel it's not your day, but Okay+ had won the match 39-22 anyway.

Bd: 8-20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North	♠ J53
	♥ J107643
	♦ AKJ10
	♣ ---

West	♠ Q986	East	♠ K10
	♥ A982		♥ K5
	♦ ---		♦ Q643
	♣ Q10976		♣ J8542

South	♠ A742
	♥ Q
	♦ 98752
	♣ AK3



"I can't believe they doubled."

Open Room

West	North	East	South
McGann	Isporski	Hanlon	Kovachev
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣(R)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠(R)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣(R)
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Iliev	Papa	Hristov	Justin
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Both tables reached 5♦, Justin on a club lead, Kovachev on a spade lead. The key to the defense is that when East gets in with the ♥K he must return a trump to kill the cross-ruff. Hristov missed this, but Justin drew a round of trumps himself, prematurely, on winning the ♠A, and that was fatal. In the ending, after declarer had ruffed two plain cards in dummy East could ruff a winning heart high and play back a trump to leave declarer with a losing spade at trick 13.

In the other room a spade lead forced declarer to rush to take his discards. After he gave up a heart to East, Hanlon played back a trump and McGann erred by discarding a spade (he could surely have afforded a club). Now when declarer ruffed two spades to dummy he had set up his long spade, and at trick 13 he would be left with a winner, not a loser. 12 imps to the All Stars; that made the score 25-6.

We can't tell from the results which Souths played it right and which defenders made the correct play; but we do know one-quarter of the field brought home 600 when East did not find the diamond shift. From my research I know that Paul Gosney was one of the defenders who found the diamond shift at the critical moment to beat 5♦ by force.

Bd: 10-30	North
Dlr: 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
Akama	Gupta	Maruyama	Carruthers
		Pass	Pass
1♣	2♥	Dbl	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

Akama used good judgment to opt for the nine-trick notrump game rather than the ten-trick spade game despite the nine-card 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. She drove out the ♠A and Carruthers tried for the set by switching to a diamond, hoping that Gupta held the magic ace-jack. But there was no magic today and declarer emerged with ten tricks for a neat +430.

Olofsson also received a heart lead in the Closed Room against his 4♠. 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.

Bd: 11-3	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

The spade slam looks playable until you see the lie of the major suits. 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 club honors, 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.

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

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

South
 ♠ 987
 ♥ QJ543
 ♦ 9
 ♣ AQ108

Game was bid and made seven times (eight if you count Hiroko Sentsui's 3♠x making +530). David Bakhshi as West brought home 3NT by a nice exercise in counting. He opened 1♥ in second seat and the auction proceeded (1♠)-2♦-(2♥)-3NT-All Pass. North led a high club spot 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 that South would either 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 to play for the drop.

Bd: 21-SF2 North
 Dlr: North ♠ J5
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKJ1076
 ♦ 642
 ♣ Q6

West	East
♠ KQ873	♠ 10642
♥ 3	♥ Q942
♦ J107	♦ K8
♣ J972	♣ A84

South
 ♠ A9
 ♥ 85
 ♦ AQ953
 ♣ K1053

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Liu</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♣ (Rel.)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT(Rel)
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥ (Rel)
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦(1)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both tables reached 4♥ on a spade lead. Isporski ducked the first spade, hoping for a useful switch. As Victor Silverstone pointed out on BBO commentary, normally if declarer ducks in such positions you want to continue the suit; if that weren't the right defense you might not have been on lead.

As it was, when Peng shifted to a club declarer had a home for his third-round loser, and the play became very simple. Declarer actually played hearts from the top but fell back on the diamond finesse in due course.

In the other room the defense also led spades. Declarer took the ace and led a club to the queen and ace. The defenders cashed a spade, then led a heart, at which point the position was:

♠ ---
 ♥ AKJ1076
 ♦ 642
 ♣ 6

West	East
♠ K87	♠ 106
♥ 3	♥ Q942
♦ J107	♦ K8
♣ J97	♣ 84

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ 85
 ♦ AQ953
 ♣ K105

When declarer finesses in hearts, as he did, and East wins the trick, he can shift to a club. But best play is to rise with the king, draw trumps, and run a few more hearts. You come down to two diamonds and two clubs on the board, and West must concede. A perfect trump squeeze.

Of course declarer has to find that play. He actually finessed in clubs and the ending was broken up. Does that mean declarer must succeed in the diagramed ending against best play? No. There is a beautiful resource. Believe it or not, to set the game East must duck the first trump. a play I know we'd all find, given time. Yeah, right. That was 12 imps to the All Stars, leading 49-27.

This was a lucky board for both N/S pairs. When Justin Hackett was South he rebid 2NT and Paul raised him to 3NT. David Bakhshi led a small spade. Oops. Now all Justin needed was one of the red suits to behave. Van Prooijen played 4♥ on a spade lead.

He won, took a heart finesse, and Hanlon won and underled his ♣A, after which the defense was dead. To be fair, the winning options are not so easy to spot. Playing West for ♦J10x is not so attractive, is it? 47-46 now for Hackett.

Bd: 10-F1 North
 Dlr: East ♠ K983
 Vul: Both ♥ K1096
 ♦ K103
 ♣ Q5

West
 ♠ A107
 ♥ J
 ♦ 976
 ♣ 1098642

East
 ♠ Q2
 ♥ 7542
 ♦ AJ52
 ♣ K73

South
 ♠ J654
 ♥ AQ83
 ♦ Q84
 ♣ AJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Liu</i>
Pass	2♦ (Stay)	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
All Pass		Pass	4♥

Both tables reached 4♥. Van Prooijen from the North seat received a heart lead and took an early club finesse on which West's ten suggested the original 6-3 split. He then took the spade finesse, drew a second trump and exited in spades. He won the trump return, played off his ♣A and exited in spades again, leaving West on play in this five-card ending:

♠ 9		
♥ 10		
♦ K103		
♣ ---		
♠ ---		♠ ---
♥ ---		♥ 7
♦ 976		♦ AJ5
♣ 98		♣ K
	♠ J	
	♥ A	
	♦ Q84	
	♣ ---	

West could lead a diamond and give up his side's second trick in that suit thanks to declarer's ♦8, or he could lead a club and let declarer get a ruff and discard for his tenth trick. Of course all this requires the clubs to be 6-3 and the ♦A to be with the short

clubs; otherwise the defenders can get a force going. Maybe declarer should not have gone for the endplay at all and just played on diamonds, albeit that line fails, whereas this line works. Anyway, who could argue with success except the Editors?

Liu played 4♥ as South on the lead of a top club and transposed into the same position to flatten the board. He had even more reason to go wrong since there was absolutely no indication that clubs were 6-3. Perhaps the likely successful defense of the ruff and discard in this ending is not so obvious to declarer at first glance. 37-13 for NEDUK still.

Bd: 12-F1 North
 Dlr: West ♠ AK
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKJ108742
 ♦ 96
 ♣ 7

West
 ♠ QJ8764
 ♥ 3
 ♦ Q
 ♣ KQ1092

East
 ♠ 32
 ♥ 965
 ♦ 1087542
 ♣ J6

South
 ♠ 1095
 ♥ Q
 ♦ AKJ3
 ♣ A8543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Liu</i>
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Peng</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

An excellently bid hand by N/S in the Closed Room saw a well-deserved 13 imps flow to NEDUK. Yes, one could argue that the bare ♥Q was a key card that North was lucky to buy. One can't deny that; how else can N/S have sensible exchange of information? The auction started well enough in the other room, but maybe South could never raise 6♥ to 7♥ despite his key-cards since his partner might well be playing him for a lot more heart support. He shouldn't be, but that's another issue. 53-13 now for NEDUK.



"Jeepers, man, just wipe that silly grin off your face!"

Bd: 46-F1 North
 Dir: East ♠ KQ1095
 Vul: None ♥ 3
 ♦ Q10975
 ♣ 102

West
 ♠ 643
 ♥ QJ874
 ♦ AJ86
 ♣ 7

East
 ♠ AJ72
 ♥ AK102
 ♦ K
 ♣ A986

South
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 965
 ♦ 432
 ♣ KQJ543

Van Prooijen showed how to do it. He won the spade lead in hand, played one top trump, led the ♦K, and crossed to a trump in dummy as North pitched a spade to ruff a diamond high. Now he played the ♣A and ruffed a club, then ruffed another diamond high. This was the ending:

♠ K109		♠ J72
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ Q10		♦ ---
♣ ---		♣ 98
♠ ---		♠ ---
♥ 9		♥ ---
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ KQJ5		♣ ---

When declarer ruffed a club in dummy North had either to let go a spade (in which case declarer would draw the trump and play on spades) or follow his actual choice and pitch a diamond. Now van Prooijen drew the last trump, cashed the ♦A and led a spade towards his jack at trick 12 with North down to ♠Q10. Very nicely done. 14 imps for a 138-82 lead.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Li	v Prooijen	Liu
3♦(♥)	3♠	1♣	3♣
4♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Peng	Gold	Wang	Bakhshi
2♥	2♠	3♥	2♣
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Both tables reached 6♥ here on a spade lead, but in one case with West declarer and in the other case with East. Peng won the spade lead, cashed the ♦K, and drew three rounds of trumps. Then he led a spade up. Gold hopped up with the queen and returned the suit to ensure he would not be subject to any pressure in the endgame. Down one. Once declarer cashed ♥AK he could no longer make the hand.



"This could be the start of a great new partnership, my friend."



"You have much to learn, grasshopper."



Balancing light?



"Th-th-th-that's all, folks!"