



NEC Bridge Festival

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Bulletin Number 2

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Day One of the 2012 NEC Cup is Ladies Day

At the end of Day 1, three of the five all-women teams hold the top three places with China Women 2 (Wang Wenfei, Wang Ping, Wang Liping, Wu Shaohong) first, England Ladies (Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown, Susan Stockdale) second, and Syabas Indonesia Ladies (Lusje Olha Bojoh, Julita Grace Tueje, Kristina Wahyu Murniati, Suci Amita Dewi) third, all sporting scores of 80+ VP. In fourth place with 77 VPs is Yeh Bros (Chen Yeh, JuiYiu Shih, ChiMou Lin, Herstein Liu, Patrick Huang, Grace Lin) who hold a narrow 1-imp lead over Oz Players (Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson) and last year's champions NEDUK (David Bakhshi, David Gold, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen), tied at 76 VPs. The top ranked Japanese team, NANIWADA (Masaru Naniwada, Hideo Togawa, Hisami Kataoka, Toshiro Nose, Hikoe Enomoto), is in seventh place with 74 VPs and tied for the eighth and final qualifying spot are Hackett and Down Under with 73 VPs each. Stamatov and Bulgarian All Stars are in 10th and 12th places, respectively, and China Women 1 are in 14-16 place. The complete Day One rankings are shown below; individual match results for Matches 1-4 may be found on page 5.

NEC Cup: Standings After Day One (Four Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	China Women 2	83	17-18	Con Brio	64	32-34	Pretty Cats	53
2	England Ladies	81	17-18	YOKOI	64	32-34	Blue Hawaii	53
3	Syabas Indonesia	80	19-20	Papa & the Rabbits	63	32-34	SKOTII	53
4	Yeh Bros	77	19-20	Kachofugetsu	63	35	Korea-Hammer	52
5-6	Oz Players	76	21-23	ONI-TAKA	62	36	ashley6	51
5-6	NEDUK	76	21-23	Strawberry Fields	62	37	TANAKA	47
7	NANIWADA	74	21-23	SHIROGANE	62	38	Iza Yokohama III	45
8-9	Hackett	73	24-25	Oriental Angels	59	39-40	PYON	44
8-9	Down Under	73	24-25	Yukihinata	59	39-40	KATSUMATA	44
10	Stamatov	72	26	Beijing Trinergy	58	41-42	KANDM	43
11	TAJIMA	71	27	Korea-Alpha	56	41-42	Setsugekka	43
12	Bulgarian All Stars	70	28-29	Jiuzhaigou	55	43	Friends	42
13	ESPERANZA	66	28-29	Aka Maru	55	44	Goisagi	37
14-16	China Women 1	65	30-31	China Geely Auto	54	45	LAS FLORES	33
14-16	Fairy Tale	65	30-31	Abe Chan	54	46	JAPAN Youth	28
14-16	JAPAN Senior	65						

NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 17th NEC Cup Bridge Festival by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/tabid/662/Default.aspx>

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

NEC Cup 2012: 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: Bridgmate scoring terminals will be used. Match results should be verified against the official result sheet (posted at the end of each match); score corrections and notifications of appeals will be permitted up until the start of the next session.

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

Security: No player may leave the playing area during play without permission, due to security concerns arising from the Bridge Base Online Broadcast.

Smoking: Once play in a qualifying-round match or a KO-round session starts, smoking is prohibited at ALL times (including when a player leaves the playing room to go to the bathroom), until the player completes the play of all boards in the match or session. (For those wishing to smoke at other times, smoking rooms are located on the 3rd and 5th floors of the Conference Center.) Automatic penalties for violations will be assessed by the Director as follows: Qualifying Swiss — 1 VP for the 1st offense, 3 VPs for all subsequent offenses; KO — 3imps for the 1st offense, 10imps for all subsequent offenses.

Screen Hesitations: When a delay in the return of the tray is suspected, a player on the opposite side of the screen must be the first to call attention to it (by summoning the Director). In case of dispute the call from the wrong side will be ignored, but in situations where the wrong side calls or a late call is made and there is no dispute the Director may accept the faulty call.

Electronic Equipment: Any and all electronic equipment capable of receiving or transmitting information to/from outside the playing room (e.g., cell phones, personal computers) must be turned off at all times from the beginning of a match/session until the player has completed all boards in the match/session and left the playing area. The Director may authorize exceptions in emergency situations. Penalties for violations are the same as for smoking violations.

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

Team Rosters: 17th NEC Cup

#	Team Name	Members
1	NEDUK:	David Bakhshi, David Gold, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen
2	Hackett:	Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann
3	Bulgarian All Stars:	Valio Kovachev, Vladi Isporski, Manol Iliev, Hristo Hristov
4	Stamatov:	Julian Stefanov, Vladimir Mihov, Jerry Stamatov, Diyan Danailov
5	Oz Players:	Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson
6	Down Under:	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Martin Reid, Peter Newell
7	England Ladies:	Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown, Susan Stockdale
8	Syabas Indonesia Ladies:	Lusje Olha Bojoh, Julita Grace Tueje, Kristina Wahyu Murniati, Suci Amita Dewi
9	Yeh Bros:	Chen Yeh, JuiYiu Shih, ChiMou Lin, Herstein Liu, Patrick Huang, Grace Lin
10	China Women 1:	Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Gu Ling, Lu Yan
11	China Women 2:	Wang Wenfei, Wang Ping, Wang Liping, Wu Shaohong
12	China Geely Auto:	Gui Shengyue, Zhang Banxiang, Yang Lixin, Dai Jianming, Zhuang Zejun
13	Beijing Trinergy:	Lu Dong, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Zhengjun, Li Rui, Wang Yanhong, Shi Miao
14	Korea-Alpha:	Yu Ina, Park Jungyoon, Kim Yoonkyung, Park Myungkee
15	Korea-Hammer:	Sung Kyunghae, Hwang Iynryung, Chung Isub, Cho Taeho
16	ONI-TAKA:	Masayuki Ino, Takahiko Hirata, Masaaki Takayama, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takeshi Niekawa, Tadashi Teramoto
17	TAJIMA:	Kazuo Furuta, Mitsue Tajima, Chen Dawei, Robert Parasian Tobing, Taufik Gautama Asbi
18	JAPAN Senior:	Kyoko Ohno, Yoshiyuki Nakamura, Akihiko Yamada, Makoto Hirata
19	ESPERANZA:	Haruko Koshi, Hideyuki Sango, Nobuko Matsubara, Misuzu Ichihashi, Fumiko Kimura, Terumi Kubo
20	YOKOI:	Hiroki Yokoi, Fumi Tanaka, Shugo Tanaka, Hideki Takano, Minoru Mizuta, Yumiko Mizuta
21	ashley6:	Michiko Ono, Yoko Oosako, Yayoi Sakamoto, Michiko Iwashashi, Sumie Nakagawa, Sachiko Yamamura
22	Pretty Cats:	Yoko Nenohi, Kyoko Toyofuku, Yoshiko Sakaguchi, Kumiko Matsuo, Toshiko Kaho, Makiko Sato
23	PYON:	Yuki Fukuyoshi, Takeshi Hanayama, Yoshiko Endo, Katsumi Takahashi, Masaru Yoshida
24	Jiuzhaigou:	Shunsuke Morimura, Tadashi Imakura, Zhao Jinlong, Jiang Yi
25	Abe Chan:	Robert Geller, Setsuko Ogihara, Hiroya Abe, Chieko Yamazaki, Nobuko Tanai
26	Fairy Tale:	Kazunori Sasaki, Ryo Okuno, Akira Ohara, Zhang Shudi, Fu Zhong, Makoto Kono
27	TANAKA:	Ryoga Tanaka, Sakiko Naito, Yukiko Tokunaga, Kenji Miyakuni
28	KATSUMATA:	Atsuko Katsumata, Yasuyo Iida, Misae Kato, Kimiko Kamakari, Harue Iemori, Takako Nakatani
29	Kachofugetsu:	Akiko Miwa, Kunio Kodaira, Teruo Miyazaki, Makoto Nomura, Masako Otsuka, Takako Fujimoto
30	Setugekka:	Akiko Miyata, Junko Tsubaki, Kazuko Okamoto, Miyako Miyazaki, Kazuko Kawashima, Aiko Mizuuchi
31	Blue Hawaii:	Chieko Ichikawa, Kuniko Saito, Atsuko Kurita, Junko Den, Yoshiko Murata, Kei Nemoto
32	LAS FLORES:	Teruko Nishimura, Junko Nishimura, Michiko Shida, Kotomi Asakoshi, Yoko Komuro, Shimako Yaji
33	Aka Maru:	Keisuke Akama, Yoko Maruyama, Hiroko Ota, Ayako Miyakuni
34	NANIWADA:	Masaru Naniwada, Hideo Togawa, Hisami Kataoka, Toshiro Nose, Hikoe Enomoto
35	Oriental Angels:	Hiroko Tanaka, Masakatsu Sugino, Ryoichi Yasuhara, Sumiko Sugino, Kazuko Takahashi
36	Goisagi:	Akiko Kawabata, Misako Fukazawa, Hideko Kobayashi, Soyoko Yamamoto, Noriko Akira, Yumiko Kawakami
37	Iza Yokohama III:	Osami Kimura, Takahiro Kamiyo, Yoshiaki Aida, Setsuko Kimura, Chisato Kiriya, Yoko Shimominami
38	Papa & the Rabbits:	Tadashi Jomura, Takashi Maeda, Nobuyuki Hayashi, Hiroaki Iwata, Koji Ito
39	SAKURAI:	Tsuneo Sakurai, Atsushi Kikuchi, Kenichi Asaoka, Motoharu Ushio
40	Friends:	Yoko Saito, Mamiko Odaira, Koichi Onishi, Taiko Bando, Keiko Yoshino, Hisayo Goto
41	Yukihinata:	Yukiko Hoshi, Etsuko Naito, Yukiko Umezu, Megumi Takasaka, Hiroko Yanagisawa, Yuko Kimura
42	Con Brio:	Yoko Fukuyama, Takashi Sumita, Masayuki Ohashi, Makoto Wakabayashi
43	StrawberryFields:	Shintaro Sentsui, Hiroko Sentsui, Kenichi Ito, Yumi Yanagida
44	KANDM:	Michiko Hatoyama, Katsuro Hatoyama, Miyoko Yonezawa, Mariko Sakamoto, Kiyoko Oki, Makiyo Takikawa
45	SHIROGANE:	Motomi Shirogane, Satoki Takizawa, Toshiro Yamaguchi, Yasuko Sugiyama, Etsuko Takano
46	JAPAN Youth:	Takashi Sugimoto, Kazuki Iizuka, Kosuke Ito, Kengo Nakasuka, Hisaki Takeda, Sosuke Yagi

**Today's 1st VuGraph Matches will feature China Women 2 vs Syabas Indonesia Ladies
and TAJIMA vs Bulgarian All Stars**

Convention Regulations for Side (Pair) Games

(An explanation for foreign players)

Unlike the NEC Cup, which is an international event, and the Yokohama Swiss Teams, in which all non-brown-sticker conventions are permitted, the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup are rated as Japanese regional or national events, for which JCBL regulations for domestic events apply strictly. We ask for your compliance with the regulations explained below. If you have any questions about what is allowed, please ask the JCBL staff. Please note that use of unauthorized conventions may be penalized. We thank you for your cooperation.

All side games at the NEC Bridge Festival (the Yokohama IMP Pairs and Asuka Cup) are restricted to "List C" conventions as described below. The use of the Multi-2♦ is strictly prohibited and will be subject to penalty.

LIST C (Yokohama IMP Pairs/Asuka Cup)

Opening Bids

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

Responses and Rebids

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

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

Competitive Bids

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

Carding

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

LIST D (NEC Cup/Yokohama Swiss Teams)

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

Tuesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 1				Match 2				Match 3				Match 4			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP												
1	33	42	21	21	35	47	25	46	11	16	9	55	20	43	21	76
2	44	62	25	25	4	31	17	42	9	40	18	60	8	29	13	73
3	34	40	17	17	20	43	21	38	6	34	14	52	43	28	18	70
4	27	55	25	25	2	22	13	38	13	34	20	58	5	27	14	72
5	28	26	15	15	39	36	24	39	22	41	21	60	4	32	16	76
6	25	16	11	11	31	39	25	36	3	37	16	52	16	35	21	73
7	30	30	19	19	25	48	25	44	43	47	23	67	11	31	14	81
8	38	50	22	22	16	34	19	41	10	39	22	63	2	39	17	80
9	31	45	17	17	26	51	25	42	2	26	12	54	45	65	23	77
10	40	53	25	25	13	23	16	41	8	9	8	49	29	24	16	65
11	46	71	25	25	19	44	21	46	1	39	21	67	7	38	16	83
12	43	15	6	6	37	41	23	29	17	9	0	29	32	59	25	54
13	32	44	24	24	10	17	14	38	4	14	10	48	19	20	10	58
14	42	35	16	16	15	21	13	29	33	49	17	46	26	29	10	56
15	24	24	16	16	14	30	17	33	20	21	7	40	35	22	12	52
16	36	53	23	23	8	19	11	34	38	48	19	53	6	12	9	62
17	26	18	11	11	30	24	17	28	12	78	25	53	18	39	18	71
18	37	50	24	24	43	18	11	35	19	47	18	53	17	26	12	65
19	41	79	25	25	11	19	9	34	18	34	12	46	13	42	20	66
20	29	47	23	23	3	18	9	32	15	54	23	55	1	17	9	64
21	35	27	10	10	33	10	8	18	28	36	19	37	25	35	14	51
22	45	29	15	15	28	73	25	40	5	18	9	49	34	18	4	53
23	39	20	15	15	45	27	13	28	29	21	7	35	41	22	9	44
24	15	19	14	14	42	32	19	33	45	19	7	40	31	35	15	55
25	6	32	19	19	7	0	4	23	41	12	15	38	21	41	16	54
26	17	36	19	19	9	2	3	22	44	43	23	45	14	48	20	65
27	4	10	4	4	44	14	10	14	37	18	9	23	46	60	24	47
28	5	24	15	15	22	2	0	15	21	18	11	26	36	30	18	44
29	20	13	7	7	34	35	19	26	23	52	23	49	10	20	14	63
30	7	12	11	11	17	14	13	24	34	17	3	27	44	29	16	43
31	9	37	13	13	6	0	5	18	32	47	20	38	24	35	15	53
32	13	8	6	6	40	14	14	20	31	25	10	30	12	7	3	33
33	1	17	9	9	21	38	22	31	14	39	13	44	38	15	11	55
34	3	31	13	13	29	19	11	24	30	68	25	49	22	64	25	74
35	21	47	20	20	1	6	5	25	42	35	16	41	15	34	18	59
36	16	21	7	7	38	6	3	10	46	29	15	25	28	18	12	37
37	18	13	6	6	12	8	7	13	27	42	21	34	39	27	11	45
38	8	20	8	8	36	60	25	33	16	32	11	44	33	32	19	63
39	23	22	15	15	5	0	6	21	40	40	13	34	37	45	19	53
40	10	11	5	5	32	21	16	21	39	49	17	38	42	8	4	42
41	19	1	0	0	46	36	23	23	25	12	15	38	23	46	21	59
42	14	28	14	14	24	15	11	25	35	32	14	39	40	54	25	64
43	12	51	24	24	18	34	19	43	7	13	7	50	3	17	12	62
44	2	5	2	2	27	35	20	22	26	10	7	29	30	24	14	43
45	22	27	15	15	23	36	17	32	24	52	23	55	9	34	7	62
46	11	1	0	0	41	3	7	7	36	31	15	22	27	22	6	28

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

The 7th Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress FUKUOKA, JAPAN, 2012



August 25th - September 2nd, 2012



APBF Team Championships (Open / Women / Senior / Youth)
APBF Open Pairs

The Japan Contract Bridge League would like to welcome our bridge friends from all over the world to participate in the 7th APBF Congress, now an OPEN event similar to the European Open Championships, which will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from August 25th to September 2nd, 2012.

Fukuoka, a historical city located in the Kyushu island, has developed as the Asian Gateway, connected with direct flights from/to various Asian cities and with ferries from/to Busan, Korea. The venue of the 2012 Congress will be the Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk, the hotel well known as the largest convention and resort hotel in West Japan. We believe that all our friend players, coaches, and officials would love the relaxing atmosphere of the venue and the warmest welcome from the people of Fukuoka.

We look forward to seeing you all and share wonderful moments of bridge and friendship at the 2012 APBF Congress!

Japan Contract Bridge League
2012 APBF Congress Organizing Committee

Venue : Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk

The Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk is located in the city of Fukuoka, on Hakata bay, just 20 minutes drive from Fukuoka International Airport or downtown Fukuoka.

"2012 APBF" website
<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/apbf2012/>



Accommodation ... Reserve at **SPECIAL ROOM RATES** via 2012 APBF website !

- ◆ **Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk** - *Stay at the APBF venue!* <http://www.fukuokaseahawk.hilton.com/>
- ◆ **Hyatt Residential Suites Fukuoka** - *With kitchen and laundry/dryer machine!* <http://www.hyatt-rsf.co.jp/>

* All Youth team players participating in the APBF Championships, will be subsidized 2,000 yen per player per night (excluding NPC/coach) by the JCBL.

CONTACT: Japan Contract Bridge League, 2012 APBF Congress Organizing Committee
Phone: 81-3-3357-3741 Fax: 81-3-3357-7444 E-mail: apbf2012@jcbl.or.jp

Provisional Program

*The precise time schedule will be determined based on the final number of participating teams in each series.

APBF Congress Championships			Side-Games	
DATE	TIME	EVENT	TIME	EVENT
8/24 (Fri)	19:00-20:00	APBF Delegates' Meeting (1)		
8/25 (Sat)	10:00-11:00	Captains' Meeting		
	11:00-12:00	APBF Delegates' Meeting (2)		
	12:30-14:00	Opening Ceremony & Welcome Reception		
	14:30-22:00	APBF Open Pairs (Q1/Q2)		
8/26 (Sun)	10:00-17:30	APBF Open Pairs (F1/F2)		
	10:00-17:30	Open Pairs (Consolation)		
8/27 (Mon)	10:00-19:50	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)		To be announced
8/28 (Tue)	10:00-19:50	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)		To be announced
8/29 (Wed)	10:00-19:50	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)		To be announced
8/30 (Thu)	10:00-19:50	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)	10:00-17:30	Open Teams (Q1/Q2)
			10:00-17:30	△1000MP Teams (Q1/Q2)
8/31 (Fri)	10:00-19:50	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR)	10:00-17:30	Open Teams (F1/F2)
			10:00-17:30	△1000MP Teams (F1/F2)
			10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs
9/ 1 (Sat)	10:00-19:50	APBF Teams Semi-Finals (KO)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Mayor's Cup (Q1/Q2) [Open Teams]
9/ 2 (Sun)	10:00-17:30	APBF Teams Final (KO)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Mayor's Cup (F1/F2) [Open Teams]
	18:30-21:30	Victory Banquet & Awards Ceremony	10:00-17:30	TV Nishinippon Cup [Open Pairs]



Match One: Indonesia Syabas vs Papa & the Rabbits

by Barry Rigal

We shall focus on the above match while keeping an eye on the defenders: NEDUK vs Aka Maru.

Bd: 1
Dlr: North
Vul: None

North
♠ 10973
♥ 10962
♦ 104
♣ J32

West
♠ J4
♥ J743
♦ AQ86
♣ Q65

East
♠ A5
♥ AKQ5
♦ K953
♣ K104

South
♠ KQ862
♥ 8
♦ J72
♣ A987

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
	Pass	1♦	1♠
Dbl	3♠	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
	Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass
1♠(Bal)	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠(♥)	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Puppet

Both tables avoided problems here with two decent fits and enough high-cards to be thinking of slam. On a spade lead they won, tested trumps, then set up a club trick before drawing all the trumps. With the ♣J onside and diamonds splitting they made 11 tricks.

Only two tables got overboard in 6♥ here, Lu-Gu and Fu-Zhang being the lucky recipients of double-figure swings.

Bd: 2
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

North
♠ 98
♥ J9865
♦ K932
♣ 107

West
♠ 73
♥ K1043
♦ 1054
♣ KQ52

East
♠ AK10
♥ AQ7
♦ J876
♣ A63

South
♠ QJ6542
♥ 2
♦ AQ
♣ J984

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
		1♣(STR)	Pass
1♠(Bal)	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣(1)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠(♥)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Almost identical starts to the auctions as in the first deal (note Iwata's pass over the strong club) but a much shakier game reached. Both Souths led a low spade, however, so that was the ninth trick painlessly enough. On a top spade lead declarer might have gone to dummy with a club to lead a low diamond. To give himself a chance to set the game North must rise with the ♦K to play a second spade. Declarer wins, runs the hearts, and South is caught in a triple-squeeze.

Not every E/W pair found this deal so easy. Two E/W pairs went down in game and one stopped in 2NT (Laurence Peter would refer to this as an example of bidding to the level of your own incompetence since the result here was +120). But pride of place for N/S goes to Sumiko Sugino and Masakatsu Sugino who played 2♠x from the South seat and brought home an impressive +670 on the lead of the ♣K.

Bd: 3
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

North
♠ J62
♥ 9863
♦ 10632
♣ 98

West
♠ A87
♥ AJ52
♦ J97
♣ KJ6

East
♠ 53
♥ K104
♦ Q8
♣ AQ10543

South
♠ KQ1094
♥ Q7
♦ AK54
♣ 72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
			1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
			1♠
Dbl	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Lusje Bojoh's extremely light raise to 2♠ kept her opponents from jumping in clubs to show extras. In the other room, though, it was very hard for West to gamble 3NT over 3♣ and bidding 3♠ would not have done the trick either. Short of overcalling 1NT it is hard to see how to reach 3NT using standard methods. An overtrick imp here gave Indonesia Syabas the lead before something more substantial came along.

The first major swing of our alternate VuGraph match went to Aka Maru (alas for them it was the *only* big swing they recorded). While Verhees-van Prooijen recorded +130, in the other room Ayako Miyakuni as West passed over David Bakhshi's 1♠ opening. This jiu-jitsu like approach worked extremely well when Hiroko Ota could bid 2♣ voluntarily over David Gold's semi-psychic 1NT response. Now E/W drove to 3NT and wrapped up +630 to lead 11-0.

Slightly more than half the field did get to 3NT here. Well done, them.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ J
Vul: Both	♥ 93
	♦ KQ105432
	♣ J53

West	East
♠ AQ752	♠ K10983
♥ 752	♥ KJ104
♦ 96	♦ ---
♣ Q42	♣ K986

South
♠ 64
♥ AQ86
♦ AJ87
♣ A107

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
Pass	3♦	Dbl	3NT
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
Pass	2♦	Dbl	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Dbl	Pass	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

As appeared predictable in this match the Indonesian N/S chose the more aggressive initial action but both tables reached 5♦, a contract that looks hard to bring home with the club honors split. But in fact the favorable heart spots allow the contract to be made. Best play, I think, on the defense of two rounds of spades, has declarer drawing trumps and leading a club to the eight, ten and queen. West returns a club to break the communications but the ♥8 is too big a spot card. East gets caught in a simple heart-club squeeze. Indeed, Keisuke Akama followed this precise line of play to bring the contract home against NEDUK to flatten the board, since Gold had received a less testing defense in the same contract.

Note that if declarer leads the ♣J early, East need only cover and the timing is disrupted.

At the table in our featured match both Souths received the defense of two rounds of spades. They ruffed and drew trumps, then played three rounds of hearts early before their paths diverged. Bojoh ran the ♣J, East failing to cover, while Jomura led a club to the ten and Dewi's return of a club killed any chances of a squeeze. 13 imps to Indonesia Syabas, leading 14-0.

Ten tables either judged the play correctly in 5♦ or were allowed to make the game here. Hiroki Yokoi and Fumi Tanaka scored up +910 from 4♦x for the best individual result. But what about E/W? Could they bring home 4♠x if allowed to buy the hand? three pairs did collect ten tricks in spades — if you can get there from the East side to avoid the heart ruff the game is hard to beat. On a diamond lead you ruff and draw trumps, eliminating diamonds en route, then lead a heart to the ten. To defeat you South must win cheaply and return a low heart — far from easy. The three pairs who brought home +620 or +790 were Kurito-Ichikawa, Ito-Yanagida and Hanlon-McGann.

Bd: 5	North
Dlr: North	♠ A
Vul: N/S	♥ QJ632
	♦ A742
	♣ AQ9

West	East
♠ KQ862	♠ J97
♥ 54	♥ AK
♦ J8	♦ KQ1093
♣ K743	♣ 862

South
♠ 10543
♥ 10987
♦ 65
♣ J105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
	1♥	Pass	3♥(PRE)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
	1♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Tueje's preemptive 3♥ bid satisfies the two main requirements (weak and hearts) and two out of three (the third precondition being some semblance of shape or tricks) ain't bad. The defense led a top diamond, ducked, then shifted to trumps. Bojoh won the next diamond to ruff a diamond, take the club finesse and claim.

In the other room the passive approach with the South cards did not pay off. Dewi played 3♠ on a heart lead and correctly went after diamonds. The defense ducked the first round, won the second, and returned a diamond. Declarer followed the straightforward approach of leading a trump to the king and ace. A third heart gave her a ruff and discard and she chose to ruff in dummy and pitch a club from hand. So far so good. But now, although she could lead diamonds to neutralize the ♠10, she had to lose three clubs in the ending. Down one, but 11 imps and a 25-0 lead. Only 11 tables bid to 4♥ here, many tables playing spades on the E/W cards with varying degrees of success. Pride of place went to Zhao-Jiang for collecting 11 tricks and +200 in 3♠.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ QJ10
Vul: E/W	♥ A963
	♦ Q82
	♣ A85

West	East
♠ 97532	♠ A64
♥ 54	♥ KQJ1087
♦ A95	♦ J103
♣ 632	♣ 10
	South
	♠ K8
	♥ 2
	♦ K764
	♣ KQJ974

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
		1♥	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables reached the hopeless 3NT. All it needed, though, was the bare ♥10 in dummy rather than the deuce so no one did anything too silly. Of course you can't make 5♣ either so it is really hard to go plus with the N/S cards. Still 25-0 for Indonesia.

Precisely one pair went plus as N/S here. Step forward Masayuki Ohashi and Makoto Wakabayashi to receive your grand prize...we'll let you know what it is in due course. They played 3♣ for +130.

On Board 7 a quiet 3NT produced an overtrick for Indonesia Syabas (seven pairs did play a hopeless slam here but we wont embarrass them by showing the full hand) to make it 26-0 to them. Then on Board 8 Papa had his first big chance...

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ 102
Vul: None	♥ QJ8
	♦ Q10743
	♣ J92

West	East
♠ K9873	♠ AJ6
♥ 2	♥ A754
♦ K9	♦ AJ862
♣ AQ1075	♣ 6

South
♠ Q54
♥ K10963
♦ 5
♣ K843

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT(1)	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass
(1) Non-serious			

Both tables received the ♥Q lead. Dewi won in dummy, led a diamond to her hand, and then took a losing trump finesse. She ruffed the heart return and now needed a miracle in diamonds plus the club finesse, which was not forthcoming. Nobuyuki Hayashi took a different tack. He took an immediate club finesse and when it held he ruffed a club, crossed to the ♦K, ruffed a second club, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a heart to hand and played the ♠K. With the clubs and spades splitting he could claim 12 tricks. Nicely done. 26-14 now for Indonesia.

While Gold-Bakhshi were defeating 6♠ by three tricks (declarer played for a cross-ruff but delayed cashing the ♦AK until she had taken two ruffs in her hand and Bakhshi could now ruff in and play a trump), Louk Verhees played slam on a 3/5th ♦3 lead to his nine. Knowing the suit was 3-3 or 5-1 and that he did not have entries anymore to set up clubs he played back the ♦K at trick 2. South ruffed and returned the ♥K. Verhees won, took a club finesse, then ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club and cashed the ♠A. He could return to hand with a second heart ruff, draw trumps, and cash his two remaining clubs. Contract made and a nice recovery; 15 imps to NEDUK.

Nine tables bid and made slam here (it is certainly no bargain) while 14 pairs went down.

Bd: 9 North
 Dlr: North ♠ AJ62
 Vul: E/W ♥ 9832
 ♦ 1065
 ♣ 106

West
 ♠ 1084
 ♥ K76
 ♦ KJ743
 ♣ K3

East
 ♠ Q975
 ♥ AJ4
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 87542

South
 ♠ K3
 ♥ Q105
 ♦ A982
 ♣ AQJ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hayashi	Bojoh	Maeda	Tueje
	Pass	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dewi	Jomura	Murniati	Iwata
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Both tables played 1NT by South on a diamond lead. Hiroaki Iwata won and returned a diamond; Dewi won, cashed both winners, then returned a fourth diamond (trying to prove the adage that if both sides play the same suit one of them is crazy?). Declarer crossed to the ♠A to take a club finesse and the defenders cashed the fifth diamond, squeezing South (how embarrassing). When he pitched a heart instead of a club the defenders ran three hearts to defeat him by one trick. Had he discarded a club he would have done no better since he would have been endplayed in a black suit to lead hearts from hand.

Julita Tueje won the diamond lead and played the ♣Q — who needs to take finesses if they are going to lose? West won and shifted to hearts and the defenders played two more rounds of the suit. Declarer had eight top tricks now and 5 imps to lead 31-14.

Bd: 10 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 852
 Vul: Both ♥ A54
 ♦ A53
 ♣ K943

West
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ 1076
 ♦ KQ82
 ♣ 10652

East
 ♠ AKJ97
 ♥ K3
 ♦ 94
 ♣ AQJ7

South
 ♠ 1064
 ♥ QJ982
 ♦ J1076
 ♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hayashi	Bojoh	Maeda	Tueje
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dewi	Jomura	Murniati	Iwata
		1♣(STR)	Pass
1♦(WK)	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦(1)	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) Wk in ♥ or a constructive doubleton ♠ raise

Each table reached 3NT in it's own way, but the Open Room auction had shown Bojoh that a club lead was a bad idea. After the low heart lead declarer needed both the heart and club finesses to

work. Even +600 simply held the loss to 2 imps since after Tadashi Jomura's club lead declarer has 11 tricks. 33-14 now for Indonesia.

4♠ looks as if it should be easy but if South can keep his hands off a club lead declarer has work to do. When Bakshi led the ♥Q against 4♠ Gold won and returned the suit. Declarer greedily led a trump to the board, ran the ♣10, then repeated the finesse. Bakhshi ruffed and led a diamond to his partner's ace to get a second ruff; down one. Declarer could have succeeded by playing the ♠A and a spade to the queen since South would only have been able to take one ruff now. But maybe a diamond up first is an equally good alternative. When it loses to the ace and a heart comes back you ruff, then lead a diamond to dummy and run the ♣10. Even if you repeat the finesse and run into a ruff you still survive by playing king and a second spade to the queen since South is now out of trumps.

In any event that was 13 imps to NEDUK, who led 34-13 now. (Only six E/W pairs went minus here, a couple in unusual contracts, but nobody else in 4♠ failed to make their game.)

Bd: 11 North
 Dir: South ♠ 10862
 Vul: None ♥ KQ2
 ♦ QJ87
 ♣ K9

West
 ♠ K4
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K105
 ♣ A876542

East
 ♠ Q95
 ♥ A109876
 ♦ A
 ♣ QJ3

South
 ♠ AJ73
 ♥ J43
 ♦ 96432
 ♣ 10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Another 2 imps went Indonesia's way in overtricks

after a different opening lead. Tueje led a diamond against 3NT and Bojoh later won the ♣K to play a heart, leaving declarer with nine tricks. Jomura led a spade from the North seat. Declarer played low from the board and when South put in the jack won in hand, gave up a club, and won the diamond continuation to run clubs. Friendly discarding gave her the chance to play a spade to the nine safely and come to a second overtrick. 35-14 now for Indonesia.

Bd: 12 North
 Dir: West ♠ J82
 Vul: N/S ♥ K98543
 ♦ 976
 ♣ 8

West
 ♠ Q975
 ♥ A76
 ♦ A108
 ♣ 1093

East
 ♠ K10
 ♥ 2
 ♦ J52
 ♣ AQJ7542

South
 ♠ A643
 ♥ QJ10
 ♦ KQ43
 ♣ K6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
Dbl	Rdbl	2♣	Pass
3♣	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦(R)	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The two auctions here do not appear to have much in common, do they? Bojoh's redouble followed by 3♥ may have led to some confusion; obviously she was just trying to show hearts but maybe the auction suggested both majors. 4♥ on a diamond lead to the king and ace and a spade shift escaped for down one when declarer set up clubs for a discard. Since 3NT on a heart lead was doomed on careful defense (Iwata won the ♥10 and ♥Q, then made the necessary shift to the ♦K to set up the fifth winner) Papa had 4 imps to trail 35-18.

Why do fast horses run but fast colors don't?

Bd: 13
 Dir: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AQ1052
 ♥ J109
 ♦ K1085
 ♣ 3

West
 ♠ J763
 ♥ KQ8
 ♦ 974
 ♣ K52

East
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 432
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ QJ109864

South
 ♠ K98
 ♥ A765
 ♦ A632
 ♣ A7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT(STR)
Pass	2♦(GF)	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠		
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
Pass	Pass	3♣	Dbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both tables played 4♠ on a top club lead. Jomura won and played ♠K, ♠A, then took a heart finesse. He ruffed the next club, repeated the heart finesse and Dewi played a third club to give a ruff and discard. Declarer ruffed in dummy pitching a diamond from hand, crossed to the ♥9 and now had a trump coup if he cashed the ♦K, then the ♦A. But when he went to dummy with the ♦A and cashed the fourth heart Dewi pitched her diamond and had a trump trick to come.

in the other room Bojoh cashed the ♠A and ♠K at tricks two and three, then drew trumps via the finesse and led diamonds from the top to ensure ten tricks. In fact this line produced 11 tricks when the honors fell.

If you are going to play slam here, as team Yukinihata discovered, you'd better play 6♦ and not 6♠. While it is not a good spot, the fall of the ♦QJ means it can't be beaten if you guess well.

If you came here on a non-stop flight, how did you get off?

Bd: 14
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 1042
 ♥ K
 ♦ AKQ98
 ♣ J642

West
 ♠ A97
 ♥ J108743
 ♦ 64
 ♣ A5

East
 ♠ KQ65
 ♥ 652
 ♦ 72
 ♣ KQ107

South
 ♠ J83
 ♥ AQ9
 ♦ J1053
 ♣ 983

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hayashi</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Maeda</i>	<i>Tueje</i>
1♥	Dbl.	2♦(♥)	Dbl
2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
All Pass			
Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Dewi</i>	<i>Jomura</i>	<i>Murniati</i>	<i>Iwata</i>
2♥	Dbl	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Whereas 2NT undoubled on a heart lead took the first eight tricks, things were far more interesting in the other room where Murniati's double of 3NT was positively inspired. Dewi led a low spade and the defenders cashed the first four tricks in that suit. Declarer discarded a club from dummy and Murniati shifted to the ♣Q, letting her partner overtake and return the suit for a scintillating +800 and a win by 50-20, 22-8 in VPs. Not surprisingly this result was far and away the most interesting on this deal, as no one else scored more than +140 either way.

NEDUK had a 42-17 win for a 21-9 victory.



"Please tell me that isn't the hand you held during the auction."

Match Two: China Women 2 vs ESPERANZA

by Rich Colker

As there are three Wangs playing in this match we shall, for the purpose of clarity, refer to them by their given names. We will use the surnames for the other players.

Bd: 17 North
 Dlr: North ♠ 9
 Vul: None ♥ 98
 ♦ AQ973
 ♣ Q6543

West
 ♠ 1065
 ♥ A432
 ♦ K42
 ♣ A109

East
 ♠ AKJ8432
 ♥ K65
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 82

South
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ QJ107
 ♦ J865
 ♣ KJ7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♦	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
	2NT(1)	3♠	4♦
4♠	All Pass		
(1) Minors			

At both tables E/W reached their cold spade game, though they arrived there via different routes. In the Open Room Wenfei was able to show the power of her seven-card suit and controls over Sango's non-obstructive 2♦ bid by jumping on the second round, her hand being limited by her failure to open a strong club. Liping chose not to make a slam try (presumably downgrading her ♦K) and N/S allowed the women to rest in game.

In the Closed Room Wu challenged Ichihashi-Kimura, making them start their search at the three level with her 2NT opening (showing the minors). But the Japanese pair was up to the task, Ping's 4♦ bid not withstanding, and again the auction ended in 4♠. The play and results were identical in both rooms (diamond lead to the king and ace, ♦Q ruffed, declarer eventually losing one trick in each off-suit) for matching 420s. The field had no problem here. Only one pair went overboard: Toyofoku-Matsuo defeated 5♠ by a trick.

Bd: 18 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 107
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q10752
 ♦ J
 ♣ J7642

West
 ♠ QJ62
 ♥ A96
 ♦ K853
 ♣ 105

East
 ♠ A85
 ♥ J
 ♦ AQ762
 ♣ AK98

South
 ♠ K943
 ♥ K843
 ♦ 1094
 ♣ Q3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
		1♣(STR)	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♥(1)	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
(1) Short hearts, three suited.			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

In the Open Room Liping's 1NT response to the strong club presumably showed a balanced hand in-range of her 10 hcp and Wenfei's 3♥ looks like it shows shortness in a three (or two-and-a-half) suited hand. 3♠ then began the search for a suitable trump fit and 4♦ denied four spades and showed a five-card suit. 4♥ was either a cue-bid or a mark-time bid and 4♠ was either a cue-bid or three-card support. Liping now did well to place the contract after what appears to your editors to be quite a nice auction. Wenfei won the trump lead, drew trumps in two more rounds (Sango pitching hearts) ending in hand, and played a low spade toward dummy. Matsubara rose with the king, the spades now providing a pitch for a club, and Wenfei claimed twelve tricks; +920.

In the Closed Room Ichihashi-Kimura had a natural auction and judged well to bid the slam. However, as Shakespeare once said, "the play's the thing." Ping led the ♥4 against 6♦. Kimura won the ace in dummy and played the ♣10 to the ace. He next cashed the

♦A, led a diamond to the king (Wu pitching a heart), then led a second club to the king and tried to ruff a club. But Ping ruffed high in front of dummy. Declarer still had a spade to lose and finished down one, -50; 14 imps to China Women 2.

Only four other pairs went minus as E/W here. Two in 3NT, one in 7♦ and one in 6♠ — don't ask.

Bd: 19 North
 Dir: South ♠ AJ5
 Vul: E/W ♥ 10832
 ♦ K1094
 ♣ 95

West
 ♠ Q9
 ♥ A9
 ♦ A75
 ♣ KQ10862

East
 ♠ 743
 ♥ K654
 ♦ QJ82
 ♣ J7

South
 ♠ K10862
 ♥ QJ7
 ♦ 63
 ♣ A43

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
1♣(STR)	Dbl	1♦(1)	2♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass

(1) Likely 5-8 hcp

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
1NT	All Pass		Pass

Liping opened the West hand with a strong club and Sango doubled. We're still trying to work out what that showed in N/S's system, and South's 2♠ bid certainly didn't help our efforts (although his 3♠ rebid seems to suggest that he had reason to expect some spade support from North). E/W would have done well to defend 3♠ (it goes down one on any lead but a trump) but Wenfei competed to 4♣ and it turned out there were four tricks to be lost; -100.

Ichihashi's decision to open the West hand 1NT kept his side low, though 1NT can be beaten on a spade lead (specifically the ace or the jack). But Wu understandably failed to find either and placed the ♦10 on the table. Ichihashi won dummy's queen and played on clubs, Ping winning the third round and switching to a low spade. On the run of the spades declarer pitched down to his two red-suit aces and good clubs for +90. That was 5 imps back to

ESPERANZA, who now trailed 14-5.

Bd: 20 North
 Dir: West ♠ K2
 Vul: Both ♥ KQ732
 ♦ K952
 ♣ K5

West
 ♠ AQ9
 ♥ A9
 ♦ A873
 ♣ Q1084

East
 ♠ J854
 ♥ 1065
 ♦ QJ10
 ♣ J96

South
 ♠ 10763
 ♥ J84
 ♦ 64
 ♣ A732

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
1NT	2♥	All Pass	

Both West's opened their hand with a strong-ish notrump. With the high-cards split 21-19 in favor of E/W the question was whether North should risk an overcall with a hand with sound values but two only so-so suits. Sango answered "no," Wu "yes." Against 1NT Sango led a low heart, striking gold when Matsubara produced the jack. Liping won the ace and led a low club. Sango stepped up with the king and cashed his hearts, dummy pitching two spades, Matsubara a low diamond then a spade, and declarer a spade and two diamonds. At this point Sango had the option of being endplayed now or later. An exit in either pointed suit would present declarer with her sixth trick immediately, while a club to the ace followed by a switch to a spade or a diamond would allow declarer to play the ace, cash the clubs, and exit in the switched suit to endplay North in the other suit at trick 12. (Of course if declarer finesses when South shifts the defense will gain an extra trick.) With no good information to guide him Sango exited with the ♠K and now declarer had only to knock out the ♣A to score two clubs, two spades and two red-suit aces for down one; -100.

Wu received the ♦Q lead against her 2♥, Ichihashi winning the ace and returning the suit. Wu won the king, ruffed a diamond and came off dummy with a spade. Ichihashi stepped up with the ace and continued with a second spade to Wu's king. Wu now led her last diamond as Kimura tried for an uppercut by ruffing with the ♥10. Declarer over-ruffed

and came off dummy with a heart. Ichihashi rose with the ace and declarer was now home free, losing only the three missing aces for +170. That was 2imps back to China Women 2, ahead now 16-5.

Only two E/W pairs brought home 1NT here. Hugh McGann was allowed to score the ♠9 at the first trick, which didn't hurt. Patrick Huang was the other declarer to manufacture some impressive bricks from fairly limited straw.

Bd: 21 North
 Dlr: North ♠ KQ
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ9765
 ♦ 72
 ♣ A96

West	East
♠ A73	♠ 10
♥ A43	♥ 10
♦ J103	♦ AK9854
♣ Q1087	♣ KJ542

South
 ♠ J986542
 ♥ Q82
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
	1♥	2NT	3♠
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dbf	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
	1♥	2NT	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

The auctions at both tables started out the same, with North opening 1♥ and East overcalling with a favorable-vulnerability unusual notrump. But that was where the resemblance ended. Nobuko Matsubara, no shrinking violet he, stepped in (vulnerable versus not) with 3♠, simultaneously unbuttoning and spreading his shirt to show the big "S" emblazoned on his undergarment. Liping must have thought it was her partner who was "stretching" at the given vulnerability and settled for (only) 5♣ when six was there for the taking (with good guesswork in the diamond suit). But the auction was not over and Sango mistakenly backed his partner with 5♠. When that came back to Liping she doubled, perhaps with some uncertainty (could partner really have zero defense?). Not to worry. Liping led the ♦J. Wenfei won the king, then cashed the ace before shifting to the ♥10 (wouldn't winning with the ace first, then cashing the king, have indicated a singleton heart?).

Liping won the ♥A and gave her partner her ruff, later collecting the ♠A for a nifty down three; +800.

In the other room Ping was more circumspect with the South cards and passed both 2NT and 3♣. That seems a bit conservative to us, with a direct 3♥ over 2NT and a delayed 3♥ or 3♠ balance all reasonable actions (perhaps the delayed 3♠ a bit less so). But it was certainly the right thing to do today. Anyhow, Ichihashi managed to play the diamonds to best effect and emerged with a somewhat embarrassing twelve tricks (according to BBO) for +170 — or eleven tricks for +150 (according to JCBL). In either case that was 12imps to China Women 2, who led now 28-5. Had Ichihashi bid game (+420) he would have saved 3imps while had he bid slam he would have changed a 12-imp loss into a 3-imp gain.

A total of three pairs bid slam as E/W. They were Stockdale-Brown (doubled, to boot, for +1090), Murniati-Dewi and Yanagisawa-Kimura.

Bd: 22 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 632
 Vul: E/W ♥ K98
 ♦ AK5
 ♣ Q1084

West	East
♠ KJ5	♠ A87
♥ J74	♥ Q63
♦ Q102	♦ 983
♣ 7653	♣ AKJ2

South
 ♠ Q1094
 ♥ A1052
 ♦ J764
 ♣ 9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
		1NT(1)	All Pass

(1) 14-16 hcp

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

All roads led to Rome here, with seven tricks available via both black suit finesses plus a trick in whichever red suit presents itself. In both rooms South led a spade to dummy's jack. In the Open Room declarer eventually attacked diamonds for her seventh trick. In the Closed Room declarer threw North in with the fourth club after cashing three rounds of spades and the defense eventually had to give declarer his seventh trick in a red suit. A pair of

+90s for no swing. Still China Women 2 ahead 28-5.

Bd: 23 North
 Dlr: South ♠ QJ1085
 Vul: Both ♥ 4
 ♦ K542
 ♣ 762

West
 ♠ A3
 ♥ 10975
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ 109843

East
 ♠ 964
 ♥ A86
 ♦ AJ76
 ♣ QJ5

South
 ♠ K72
 ♥ KQJ32
 ♦ 1098
 ♣ AK

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>

Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
------	----	------	----

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
			1♣(STR)

Pass	1♦(NEG)	Pass	1NT
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Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	2♠
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Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
------	----	------	----

Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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In the Open Room where South opened 1♥ North chose not to look for magic with the anticipated heart wastage opposite. Still, even 3♠ was no bargain. Wenfei led the ♣Q to the king and Sango went after some quick discards by playing the ♥K. Wenfei won her ace and switched to a trump, Liping winning with the ace and shifting accurately to the ♦Q, after which E/W found their diamond ruff for down one; +100.

In the Closed Room where the auction started with a strong 1♣ and negative 1♦, the continuation became more familiar. Ping's 1NT rebid showed 17-19 and the subsequent transfer and game try look standard. But for whatever reason, even after Ping declined the invitation and signed off in 3♠, Wu pressed on to game. Ichihashi also led a club against the spade contract. Declarer won the ace, played a spade to the queen as Ichihashi ducked (forever giving up on a diamond ruff) and led a heart toward his hand. Kimura rose with the ace and reverted to clubs. Ping won and played a second spade toward dummy. Ichihashi won the ace perforce and tried a third club. Ping ruffed, cashed her two top hearts pitching diamonds, and led toward the ♦K (better than trying to cash another heart). She ended up losing two

diamonds for -100 and a push. Still 28-5 Women.

Bd: 24 North
 Dlr: West ♠ J94
 Vul: None ♥ 754
 ♦ K987
 ♣ 652

West
 ♠ KQ852
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ AKQ43

East
 ♠ 1063
 ♥ A10632
 ♦ 106532
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ A7
 ♥ KQJ98
 ♦ Q
 ♣ J10987

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>

1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦(NEG)	1♥
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2♥(1)	Pass	3♠	Pass
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4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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(1) Looks like a Michaels Cue-bid (♠+m)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>

1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT
----	------	----	-----

4♠	All Pass		
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Both tables reached 4♠ and at some point each declarer managed to pitch a diamond on the ♥A and ruff a club. But when trumps were led toward the king-queen South rose with the ace and returned a trump and both declarers had to lose one spade, one diamond and one club for push 420s. Still 28-5. (JCBL has the result listed as +450 in the Closed Room for a 1-imp gain for ESPERANZA. That would make the running score 28-6, Women. From now on we'll list both scores for ESPERANZA recognizing that this 1 imp may not affect the final VP totals.)

Four pairs went down in 4♠ here, while five pairs bid the E/W cards to 6♠ and did not find a way home. It was actually a flat board in slam down two in China Women I vs Beijing Trinerigy.



"Oh no. Down two again in slam."

Bd: 25
 Dlr: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ K108
 ♥ 952
 ♦ QJ104
 ♣ 843

West
 ♠ J74
 ♥ J3
 ♦ K765
 ♣ K1062

East
 ♠ 9653
 ♥ A10864
 ♦ A83
 ♣ 5

South
 ♠ AQ2
 ♥ KQ7
 ♦ 92
 ♣ AQJ97

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦		Dbl	2NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)
1♦(NEG)		Pass	1NT
2♣		Pass	2♦
2NT		Pass	3NT

All Pass

Matsubara received a spade lead in 2NT. He won the king in dummy and tried a club to the jack. Liping won the king and shifted to the ♥J, ducked to the king. Declarer now cashed the top two clubs and played a third club to Liping's ten as Wenfei pitched two spades and a diamond. Liping got out with a heart but declarer now had eight tricks (three clubs, three spades and two hearts) for +120. Had the defense cashed their two diamonds and exited with a spade after winning the fourth club declarer would have been endplayed to lead from the ♥Q7 at trick 12 for down one.

Against her 3NT Ping received the ♥J lead to the ace and a heart return. She won her king and tried the ♣A followed by the ♣Q, noting Kimura's pitch of a spade. Ichihashi won the king and switched to a low spade, declarer winning the ace in hand and passing the ♦9 to the ace. Kimura switched back to hearts, Ping winning the queen as Ichihashi pitched a diamond. When Ping knocked out the ♦K she had nine tricks (three spades, two hearts and two tricks in each minor, losing just one heart, one club and two diamonds) for +400 and 7 more imps to the Women, leading now 35-5/6.

No fewer than 14 pairs were allowed to make 3NT on

the E/W cards. We suspect it is not a coincidence that the further down the table you look, the more tricks South was allowed to take.

Bd: 26
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J10742
 ♥ J1076
 ♦ A8
 ♣ J5

West
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ A43
 ♦ KQ954
 ♣ Q97

East
 ♠ 85
 ♥ 982
 ♦ J72
 ♣ AK864

South
 ♠ AK96
 ♥ KQ5
 ♦ 1063
 ♣ 1032

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
1♦	Dbl	Pass	1♣
3♦	All Pass	2♦	2♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦(1)
1♠		Pass	2♠

All Pass
 (1) Precision (could be short)

With nine tricks in spades available to N/S from either side it was wrong for Sango-Matsubara to sell out to 3♦ undoubled. Nevertheless, +100 against 3♦ after a spade lead and heart shift at trick three held the losses to 1 imp after Wu-Ping managed to buy the contract for 2♠ (+140), when Ichihashi-Kimura failed to get into the auction. Another imp to the Women, 36-5/6.

Bd: 27
 Dlr: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ Q65
 ♥ 1082
 ♦ J87432
 ♣ A

West
 ♠ K9
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ A106
 ♣ Q108753

East
 ♠ 872
 ♥ 9653
 ♦ 95
 ♣ J962

South
 ♠ AJ1043
 ♥ KQ74
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ K4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
2♣	2♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	3♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
2♣	Dbl	Pass	1♣(STR)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

It is difficult to justify South stopping short of game in the Open Room once North raised spades. After all, opposite as little as ♠KQxx ♥xx ♦xxxx ♣xxx 4♠ simply requires the ♣A onside. And as if to rub dirt into the wound for missing the game, Matsubara made five (+200) when the defense failed to cash their ♥A and declarer was able to pitch all four of his hearts on dummy's diamonds using the ♠Q as a late dummy entry.

In the Closed Room Wu-Ping had no trouble bouncing into game and scoring up +420 when the defense took their two red-suit aces to go with their ♠K. That was 6 imps to the Women, 42-5/6.

Only two pairs missed game here, though four tables did manage to find a way to go down in 4♠ — which looks like quite hard work.

Bd: 28	North
Dlr: West	♠ K106
Vul: N/S	♥ Q98532
	♦ J6
	♣ Q5

West	East
♠ AQJ	♠ 952
♥ K76	♥ J10
♦ A103	♦ K975
♣ K1063	♣ 9874

South
♠ 8743
♥ A4
♦ Q842
♣ AJ2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦(NEG)	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
1NT	All Pass		

Both Wests played 1NT. In the Open Room Liping received a heart lead to the ace. She ducked the heart return and won the third round as both dummy and South pitched spades. Next the ♦10 was covered by the jack and king, followed by a club to the king. Liping exited with a second club and Matsubara overtook Sango's queen with the ace to lead a spade through. Sango won the queen with the king, cashed his hearts, and declarer claimed the last three tricks for down one, -50.

In the Closed Room the play went the same way through the first three tricks. At trick four, after winning the ♥K, Ichihashi played ♦A followed by the ♦10 to the jack and king, then a club to the king followed by a low club. Again South overtook North's queen to shift to a spade. But this time declarer rose with the ace and played a third club, allowing Ping to win her jack as Wu pitched the losing spade and the defense cashed out for down two, -100, for another 2 imps to the Women, leading now 44-5/6.

BBO did not report the results (no bidding or play records) for the final two deals, so we'll present only the final contracts and scores as reported by JCBL.

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: North	♠ ---
Vul: Both	♥ AQ107
	♦ QJ987
	♣ J1095

West	East
♠ QJ1082	♠ AK953
♥ 983	♥ K
♦ K102	♦ A43
♣ Q4	♣ AK62

South
♠ 764
♥ J6542
♦ 65
♣ 873

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
No Auction or Play			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
No Auction or Play			

In the Open Room Liping-Wenfei bid the E/W cards to 4♠, making the obvious 12 tricks for +680. In the Closed Room Ichihashi-Kimura reached the excellent spade slam and made it for +1430 and 13 imps, closing the margin to 44-18/19.

In standard methods this looks to be a tough hand to

bid to slam: the West had is extremely unsuitable for slam but as it turns out the two minor-suit cards are working overtime facing short hearts. Less than half the field managed to get to slam here.

Bd: 30
 Dir: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 104
 ♥ Q107
 ♦ J765
 ♣ K873

West
 ♠ Q5
 ♥ J954
 ♦ AQ42
 ♣ Q96

East
 ♠ KJ87632
 ♥ A8
 ♦ K
 ♣ J105

South
 ♠ A9
 ♥ K632
 ♦ 10983
 ♣ A42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liping</i>	<i>Sango</i>	<i>Wenfei</i>	<i>Matsubara</i>
No Auction or Play			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ichihashi</i>	<i>Wu</i>	<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Ping</i>
No Auction or Play			

In both rooms E/W bid 4♠ and made it for a push at +420, making the final match score 44-18 (or 19) for China Women 2. In either case this was 21-9 in VPs.



"Look, there's a sale at Takashimaya."

Round Three: Strawberry Fields vs England Ladies

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 1
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ A832
 ♥ 8632
 ♦ Q64
 ♣ 65

West
 ♠ KQ1064
 ♥ K4
 ♦ J10952
 ♣ Q

East
 ♠ J
 ♥ AQJ1097
 ♦ A7
 ♣ AKJ8

South
 ♠ 975
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K83
 ♣ 1097432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
		6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
		6♥	All Pass

Both tables reached slam — a 75 percent contract in the sense that it is cold on three leads out of four, but the killing lead is the unbid suit. I'm not sure how to interpret the statistic that one table out of two avoided the diamond lead; maybe that makes it a 50 percent slam. For England Heather Dhondy led a diamond, for Strawberry Fields the lead was the ♠9. Maybe I'm not supposed to sympathize with the failure to lead a diamond but on the given auction it did sound as if declarer was prepared for that lead. 14-0 to England.

Half the field bid and made slam, while ten pairs found the diamond lead against 6♥.

In our other featured match it pains the Editors to

intrude on private grief but we feel obliged to tell you that Hanlon-McGann went down in slam. Our sympathies would normally be extended to them were it not for the fact that they were playing 6♣, after a 2♦ opening by North to show the majors. Yeh Bros led 12-0 after one deal.

Trick 1 had already proved itself to be a stumbling block for Strawberry Fields and the trend continued on deal two...

Bd: 2 North
 Dlr: East ♠ Q765
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ63
 ♦ 9
 ♣ QJ65

West
 ♠ A92
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K854
 ♣ K9872

East
 ♠ 4
 ♥ AJ92
 ♦ QJ10632
 ♣ 43

South
 ♠ KJ1083
 ♥ 10754
 ♦ A7
 ♣ A10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	3♣(1)	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

(1) Bergen
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
Pass	3♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Senior accepted her own game-try (normally she does not bother to issue them) and the defenders led a heart to the king and ace and shifted to diamonds. Declarer won and passed the ♠10, ruffed a diamond, and took the losing club finesse. Even had the defenders played ace and another spade declarer would have had ten tricks. In the Closed Room Fiona Brown allowed the ♥K to hold the lead. Of course taking the ruff would have defeated the contract but that was just too hard to do here. Declarer played on trumps and Susan Stockdale won the first spade (an error) and shifted to diamonds. Shintaro Sentsui won and continued the sequence of mistakes by drawing all the trumps before taking a club finesse. West won and played back a diamond leaving the clubs blocked. With no entry to dummy declarer had to lead hearts and ended up two down. If declarer ruffs

a diamond before drawing any more trumps there is nothing the defense can do. However, ducking the first trump would have given declarer losing options. If West wins the second trump to shift to diamonds declarer will have to reject the club finesse or E/W can successfully exploit the club blockage by leading diamonds at the critical moment.

In Yeh Bros vs Hackett Hanlon-McGann recovered all the lost imps and some of their dignity by reaching 5♦x on the E/W cards. Hanlon could double a Bergen 3♦ raise and McGann bid 4NT over 4♠ to get both minors into play. With the ♣A onside there were 11 top tricks, which went very nicely with +650 from 4♠ recorded by Justin Hackett. More than half the field made game in one direction or the other (more on the N/S cards). By my calculation, in eight matches 15 imps were won or lost on the double-game pick-up.

Bd: 3 North
 Dlr: South ♠ AK6543
 Vul: E/W ♥ A1096
 ♦ 109
 ♣ Q

West
 ♠ 1092
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ K7542
 ♣ AJ10

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ KJ83
 ♦ Q63
 ♣ K8432

South
 ♠ QJ7
 ♥ 742
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ 9765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass			4♠

Whether the defenders led hearts (Brown did) or clubs (Ito's choice), game had no play today. One down and no swing; still 27-0 for England.

Only a diamond lead and no club shift seems to give declarer much chance of coming to ten tricks. Hence it is a wee bit surprising that seven pairs brought the game home. Having said that, all those results came in tables in the bottom half of the draw.

Why do feet smell and noses run?

Bd: 4 North
 Dir: West ♠ J10982
 Vul: Both ♥ J93
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K654

West
 ♠ AQ53
 ♥ 74
 ♦ K98542
 ♣ 8

East
 ♠ ---
 ♥ KQ6
 ♦ Q1073
 ♣ AQ10973

South
 ♠ K764
 ♥ A10852
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ J2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Dbf	2♥	All Pass	

With E/W cold for 5♦ and even 3NT it was not a disgrace to be defending 2♥ — but it was no triumph either. Yanagida led her singleton and the defenders cashed the two top clubs and played a third. Dhondy ruffed with the ♥8, which held of course. Then she ruffed a diamond to dummy to take the trump finesse and ended up scrambling a seventh trick with the ♣K at the death.

Brown won the first club and returned a low club to kill the discards. The defenders now played on spades and ended up collecting 200 when declarer lost five tricks in the black suits and two trumps.

This was a very honorable flat board in our other featured match, where Hanlon-McGann and Huang-Liu bid to 5♦. This flat board was also achieved in Bulgarian All Stars vs Down Under, and Stamatov vs Beijing Trinerly.

Strawberry Fields got on the scorecard on the next deal when a four-card major worked to preempt the opponents, though it was not without risk as the cards lay.



“I use it to ‘twang’ my partner in the nose when he gets too frisky.”

Bd: 5 North
 Dir: North ♠ A1073
 Vul: N/S ♥ A63
 ♦ K64
 ♣ Q106

West
 ♠ K
 ♥ KQJ842
 ♦ J109
 ♣ A92

South
 ♠ 962
 ♥ 1097
 ♦ AQ875
 ♣ K7

East
 ♠ QJ854
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 32
 ♣ J8543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♥	Dbl(Supp)	Pass	2♦
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

In 3♥ Stockdale was treated to a low club lead and could hardly do anything else but play on trumps. The defenders took the ♥A on the second round and shifted to diamonds, then took their club ruff for two down. 3♦ did not look hopeless. Dhondy started out with eight winners and needed the ♣J inside. So she won the heart lead and led a club to the king and ace. the defenders cashed their hearts, played the ♠K, ducked, then shifted to a club, collecting the ♣J when Dhondy finessed plus a spade ruff for down 200. 8imps to Strawberry Fields and a running score of 30-8.

This does not look like an easy board on which to register a big number, but Keisuke Akama and Yoko Maruyama got to 3NT from the North seat and East led a low club (yes, a top spade might have been just as bad) and now declarer had nine — count them — nine tricks and +600. Not only were they the only pair to make 3NT, they were the only pair to attempt it. Well, I suppose you can see why.

Why do doctors call what they do “practice”?

Bd: 6
 Dir: East
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ 1097
	♥ KQJ2
	♦ J1072
	♣ Q7

West	♠ QJ42
	♥ 107
	♦ Q9865
	♣ 85

East	♠ AK53
	♥ 86
	♦ AK3
	♣ J1064

South	♠ 86
	♥ A9543
	♦ 4
	♣ AK932

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

(1) Hearts and another
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
Pass	2♥	1♣	1♥
2♠	3♥	Dbl	Pass
		All Pass	

This deal presents an interesting contrast in aggression. Dhondy's jump to game looks excessive, even if 2♥ was constructive. Shintaro's failure to compete further in the Closed Room looks pessimistic and Stockdale also did well in a sense not to bid any more than she did. With both trumps and clubs behaving in normal fashion 4♥ racked up ten tricks without any pain; 36-8 now for England.

Rather fewer than half the field reached game here, perhaps a tribute to the respect granted the strong notrump. It puts its socks on one at a time, just like you and me, you know.

Bd: 7
 Dir: South
 Vul: Both

North	♠ Q5432
	♥ K
	♦ KJ63
	♣ A65

West	♠ 9
	♥ 10832
	♦ Q8542
	♣ K43

East	♠ J1087
	♥ AQ96
	♦ 9
	♣ QJ97

South	♠ AK6
	♥ J754
	♦ A107
	♣ 1082

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣(R)	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

4♠ is certainly not hopeless in the abstract; you need to find spades splitting and a favorable diamond position with an outside chance of developing a heart trick, I suppose. In both rooms the spade game lost two clubs and one trick in both spades and diamonds when neither suit behaved. No swing; still 36-8.

Very few pairs brought home a game here. One of those that did were the Hacketts, who bid unopposed 1♥-1♠; 1NT-3NT. On a diamond lead declarer had four diamond tricks and could give up a spade and claim nine tricks a few seconds later.

Bulgarian All Stars and Down Under found another great push when both N/S pairs bid and made 3NT. Again, well done gentlemen.

Bd: 8
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North	♠ 9542
	♥ 86
	♦ A10753
	♣ J2

West	♠ AQ876
	♥ Q972
	♦ ---
	♣ K643

East	♠ K
	♥ KJ10
	♦ KQ86
	♣ AQ985

South	♠ J103
	♥ A543
	♦ J942
	♣ 107

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Why does night fall but day breaks?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
1♠	Pass	2♣(R)	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT(KC)	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

It is never easy to reach a slam in a minor when you are missing two aces and one of them is in partner's void. It helped that here E/W have so many cards that both hands had slam interest. The net result was an honorable push.

Not everybody did as well. For example, both pairs missed slam in our other featured match while exactly half the field either played game or, in three cases, 6NT.

Bd: 9	North
Dlr: North	♠ K982
Vul: E/W	♥ 10732
	♦ KQ
	♣ 1097

West
♠ J3
♥ AKQ98
♦ 103
♣ J652

East
♠ 104
♥ 64
♦ 9842
♣ AKQ84

South
♠ AQ765
♥ J5
♦ AJ765
♣ 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣(♠)	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♣	3♦
3♥	4♠	All Pass	

The Editors, to a man, like the auction from the Open Room and would have bid the same way. As to the auction from the Closed Room, we like the first and last bids but not much in between. The final contract was of course the same anyway, so who's complaining? (We are.) An overtrick materialized for England when the defenders did not cash out accurately. It was 37-8 now.

N/S missed game on a few occasions but in the

biggest example of larceny since the Great Train Robbery we have to tip our caps to Tanaka-Mizuta on the YOKOI team who bought the hand as E/W in 4♣ and wrapped up an impressive +130 on a trump lead.

Bd: 10	North
Dlr: East	♠ 10854
Vul: Both	♥ K2

♦ Q753
♣ Q43

West
♠ 62
♥ 987
♦ A108
♣ A10872

East
♠ QJ97
♥ AQ65
♦ J96
♣ K5

South
♠ AK3
♥ J1043
♦ K42
♣ J96

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
		1♦	Pass

1NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
		1NT	Dbl
Rdbl(♣)	Pass	2♣	All Pass

Yet again we admire the beautiful elegance of the Open Room auction to the best partscore. 1NT finished with eight tricks when declarer could establish the clubs. (After a spade to the jack and king and a low diamond back to the queen declarer has to preserve the diamond entries to hand by unblocking the jack on the first or second round of the suit.) 1NT made +120, while in the other room N/S managed to avoid catastrophe after a somewhat risky double of 1NT by South. Against 2♣ the top spade lead and trump shift let Brown wrap up +130 for no swing on the deal.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ K975
Vul: None	♥ K82

♦ 653
♣ 1086

West
♠ A4
♥ QJ1074
♦ K8
♣ J732

East
♠ QJ2
♥ A53
♦ AQ92
♣ K54

South
♠ 10863
♥ 96
♦ J1074
♣ AQ9

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣(R)	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both tables reached 4♥ on a diamond lead. Both declarers won in hand, drew trumps (North ducking twice), and then had to set up spades. Stockdale played ace and another, ensuring her contract. Yanagida lived dangerously, taking an early spade finesse. Now a diamond back would block the suits. But declarer would have survived anyway if she was careful. In fact Senior shifted to the ♣10 in an attempt to beat the contract legitimately and all that England gained was an overtrick.

Three N/S pairs beat 4♥ — or was it that declarer beat himself? Maybe the line of play outlined above after an early spade finesse would give declarer a chance to do something silly later on.

Bd: 12 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 5
 Vul: N/S ♥ J964
 ♦ AQ9753
 ♣ 52

West
 ♠ AJ42
 ♥ Q732
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A963

East
 ♠ K973
 ♥ AK8
 ♦ KJ102
 ♣ 108

South
 ♠ Q1086
 ♥ 105
 ♦ 86
 ♣ KQJ74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
1♣	1♦	1♥(♠)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

It is certainly hard to argue with West's decision to revert to 4♠ in the Closed Room, but 3NT might have had some slim chances of success. Equally, though, 4♠ looks easy until the 4-1 trump break made it more challenging than might have been expected. Still, the contract should probably have been made after the top club lead in the Open Room. Ito won, drew two rounds of trumps with the king and jack, and then knocked out the ♦A. Senior won and led a second club to Dhondy, who played a third spade. Declarer could ruff one club and pitch one on the ♦K but was out of trumps now. With the hearts not breaking declarer has only nine tricks. The mistake was not to play a diamond up at trick 2.

Stockdale played 4♠ on a heart lead. She won in dummy to lead a spade to the ace and a diamond up. North won and continued diamonds. Stockdale finessed, cashed the ♠K to find the bad news, and had reached this ending.

	♠ ---	
	♥ J96	
	♦ Q97	
	♣ 52	
♠ J4		♠ 97
♥ Q73		♥ A8
♦ ---		♦ KJ
♣ A96		♣ 108
	♠ Q10	
	♥ 10	
	♦ ---	
	♣ KQJ74	

Declarer led the ♦K as South pitched his heart, so Stockdale discarded a second club and led a trump. South could win the ♠Q and play back a top club, but Stockdale ducked, won the next club and then played the last trump to squeeze North in the red suits. A nice recovery.

In the diagramed position it would have been better to play a second trump at once — not the ♦K, since South can defeat the game now by pitching a club — then winning the ♠Q and playing a heart back. But after a trump is played in the diagramed ending it does South no good to win (North pitching another diamond) and return a spade, as North is squeezed down to just one club. Then North can be thrown in with the fourth heart to play diamonds in the two-card ending. You will note, though, that if West sets about his endplay but does not lead the ♥7 to the ace, then North unblocks his nine and jack of hearts under the ace and queen and now West's ♥7 is a winner and she must concede the last two tricks to South.

Let's go back to when South wins the ♠Q. Can he do any better? A heart return by South lets declarer win

in hand and draw the last trump, again squeezing North down to one club after which he can be endplayed in hearts again. So it looks as if there is nothing the defenders can do. In any event, the bottom line was 10 imps to England, up 47-8.

Tom Hanlon went down in 4♠ as East after North had overcalled by winning the opening club lead (which marked South with ♣KQJ) and leading a trump to the ace. He tried to ruff two diamonds in dummy, in essence playing for an even spade break, and lost two trumps and two aces. Just over half the field bid and made 4♠ here.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ A93
 Vul: Both ♡ AJ62
 ♢ J6
 ♣ 9764

West ♠ KJ85 ♡ KQ87 ♢ 108 ♣ K53	East ♠ 762 ♡ 109 ♢ 9432 ♣ AQJ2
South ♠ Q104 ♡ 543 ♢ AKQ75 ♣ 108	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbl.	1♡	2♣	Dbl.(supp)
Pass	2♡	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbl.	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

After 1♦ was redoubled in the Closed Room Stockdale-Brown tiptoed out of trouble and Hiroko Sentsui retreated to 1NT where she took five diamond tricks and two aces. By contrast Dhondy as South for England felt obliged to make a support double. (I think even if playing mandatory support doubles the South hand fails to qualify since it is not an opening bid, but maybe I'm old-fashioned.) 2♡ went down on repeated spade leads when the fourth spade promoted a trump for East. 47-13 to England now.

The biggest result on the deal came when Tony Nunn and Sartaj Hans were South and North,

respectively. After 1♦-(x)-xx-(2♣); Pass-(Pass)-Dbl-All Pass Nunn led a small club, not his diamond sequence. After all, anyone can lead from AKQ! Declarer won in hand, led a heart to the king, then played a diamond to South who returned a trump. A heart to the jack saw North play a third trump, won in dummy, and the ruffing finesse in hearts set up the ♡8 but ran East out of trumps. Now declarer naturally misguessed diamonds since South had shown only a queen till now. Hans could win the ♠A, unblock diamonds, then cross to his partner's ♠Q for three more diamond winners and +800. Very nice.

Bd: 14 North
 Dir: East ♠ Q108
 Vul: None ♡ 63
 ♢ AQ642
 ♣ AQ6

West ♠ 7654 ♡ Q95 ♢ J83 ♣ KJ8	East ♠ AJ32 ♡ KJ72 ♢ K9 ♣ 1043	South ♠ K9 ♡ A1084 ♢ 1075 ♣ 9752
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yanagida</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Ito</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Stockdale</i>	<i>Sentsui H</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sentsui S</i>
		1NT	All Pass

1NT went down two when the defenders eventually got around to diamonds, which meant Senior had to make 3♦ to flatten the board. She won the heart lead, played on spades to get her ruff, then guessed trumps by ducking an early round. She eventually emerged with nine tricks and +110, leaving England winners by 23-7.

Hackett also picked up a small swing here when they stole the hand in 1♠ after a negative 1♦ response by West froze his opponents out of the bidding. A small plus score in both rooms gave Hackett an 18-12 win.

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Round Four: Oz Players vs Stamatov

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 17
Dlr: North
Vul: None

West
♠ 1082
♥ J9
♦ AJ32
♣ QJ84

North
♠ A95
♥ KQ72
♦ 854
♣ K107

East
♠ KQ6
♥ A106
♦ K1096
♣ 652

South
♠ J743
♥ 8543
♦ Q7
♣ A93

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	1♣	Dbl.	1♦(♥)
1NT	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass

In 2♥, the eight-card trump fit, Oz Players could only manage six tricks. The defenders led clubs taking a trick in clubs and two in each of the other suits. In 2♠, the six-card trump fit, Jacobs won the heart lead and led a club up. North won and shifted to a low spade to the king. Declarer played a second club, won by South for a heart to the king and ace and another trump. Declarer won and played king and another diamond, knowing that if North had held the ♦Q he would have opened 1NT. Since he held the master heart all the defense could score was their trump trick; +140, and 1 imp. "Trumps, we don't need no stinkin' trumps!"

Bd: 18
Dlr: East
Vul: N/S

West
♠ Q5
♥ 87654
♦ Q75
♣ 862

North
♠ 107
♥ K102
♦ AJ1042
♣ J107

East
♠ AJ6432
♥ A9
♦ 93
♣ A95

South
♠ K98
♥ QJ3
♦ K86
♣ KQ43

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		1♠	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
		2♠(1)	All Pass

(1) 10-13

No one did anything silly but the absence of quick tricks in the South hand meant 3NT was three down after a spade lead. Had the ♣A and ♣K been switched there would have been no defense to the game. Since 2♠ on a top heart lead had only seven tricks, Stamatov had 8 imp and led 8-1.

The most popular contract here was 3NT down anywhere between -200 and -400. I guess this was just a bad hand for the 2♠ opening.

Bd: 19
Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

West
♠ AJ8
♥ K1064
♦ Q
♣ A7642

North
♠ 10543
♥ Q87
♦ AK1063
♣ 10

East
♠ KQ2
♥ J932
♦ 952
♣ QJ5

South
♠ 976
♥ A5
♦ J874
♣ K983

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		3♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	All Pass	Pass
Pass	3♦		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
			Pass
1♣	1♦	Dbl	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Again the Australians played the contract in both room and again they did not enjoy it. Klinger received

the ♣Q lead against 3♦. He covered and the defense won and shifted to the ♠J, making sure to collect their three spades and one heart in due course. Meanwhile, 4♥ on a top diamond lead and spade shift was not without play till the ♥Q was offside. The defenders scored their four top tricks and Stamatov had 4 imps to lead 12-1.

In Shirogane vs Yeh Bros Satoki Takizawa bid and made 4♥ after a diamond lead. An impressive result but we suspect the defense won't win any awards.

Bd: 20 North
 Dlr: West ♠ K954
 Vul: Both ♥ Q10
 ♦ J54
 ♣ J975

West
 ♠ AQ3
 ♥ 72
 ♦ AQ962
 ♣ 1086

East
 ♠ J7
 ♥ 953
 ♦ K1073
 ♣ AK32

South
 ♠ 10862
 ♥ AKJ864
 ♦ 8
 ♣ Q4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
1♦	Pass	1NT	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣(MAJs)
Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♦	3♠	All Pass	

Both E/W pairs handled this deal well, since it would have been easy to go overboard in notrumps here. Stefanov's 1NT rebid was up to 11 HCP and his double was simply cards, letting West retreat to 3♦. This handled quite comfortably, losing two hearts and one trick in each black suit.

In the other room Danailov as South got his side to spades by treating his hand as the majors — an interesting choice. And when Stamatov competed to 3♠ over 3♦, no one could double that. Down one meant an imp for Stamatov, leading 13-1 now.

It is easy to get into trouble with the E/W cards here but Hans-Nunn for Down Under found the route to success with an auction of 1NT-3NT. South did not double so North led a fourth-highest spade. That was

nine painless tricks and 10 imps.

Meanwhile, sitting N/S Miyazaki-Okamoto were allowed to bring home 3♠x when a defensive trump trick vanished into the ether.

Bd: 21 North
 Dlr: North ♠ Q75
 Vul: N/S ♥ 108
 ♦ K87
 ♣ K9542

West
 ♠ 43
 ♥ Q642
 ♦ J96543
 ♣ Q

East
 ♠ A1092
 ♥ J73
 ♦ Q102
 ♣ J108

South
 ♠ KJ86
 ♥ AK95
 ♦ A
 ♣ A763

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♦	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)
Dbl	2♣	Pass	3♦(SPL)
Dbl	5♣	All Pass	

The strong club auction got N/S to 5♣ when Stamatov jumped to game as his most discouraging option (would 3NT have meant something else?). I'm not sure that South would have bid any differently without the ♠J, when the minor-suit game would have been considerably inferior to 3NT. As it was, 5♣ was easy and in 3NT Klinger needed to find the long clubs with East, not West. All was well and Oz Players gained an imp to make it 13-2.

Three N/S pairs found the below-par slam and regretted it. One N/S pair played a partscore. No names, no packdrill.



"It hurts back here every time I lose a finesse."

Bd: 22 North
 Dir: East ♠ J852
 Vul: E/W ♥ J92
 ♦ K9842
 ♣ J

West
 ♠ KQ43
 ♥ AK10643
 ♦ A3
 ♣ 5

East
 ♠ 10
 ♥ Q87
 ♦ QJ76
 ♣ AK632

South
 ♠ A976
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 105
 ♣ Q109874

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

(1) No major

Both tables reached the moderate slam. It may not have two quick losers but it also does not have anything approaching 12 winners. Klinger led a club and declarer won in dummy to play a spade. Mullamphy took his ace, returned a club, and declarer made his best play, in theory, when he pitched a diamond, letting Klinger ruff in for down one. In the other room the initial diamond lead saw declarer try to cash two rounds of clubs at once. North ruffed in and played a spade for down one and no swing.

Jacobs played slam on the lead of the ♦10. He rose with the ♦A to go after the diamond discard on the clubs; one down and no swing.

Slam made precisely four times. By a curious coincidence it happened twice in Las Flores vs China Geely Auto. There must have been two disappointed E/W pairs — and two relieved N/S pairs.

Bd: 23 North
 Dir: South ♠ KQ932
 Vul: Both ♥ Q4
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ K987

West
 ♠ A7
 ♥ 9753
 ♦ 8764
 ♣ Q62

East
 ♠ 10864
 ♥ AJ108
 ♦ K
 ♣ AJ105

South
 ♠ J5
 ♥ K62
 ♦ Q109532
 ♣ 43

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass		Pass	2♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	2♠(1)
All Pass			3♦

(1) One or both minors

The Editors have set aside a special circle of Hell for those people who open 1NT with 5-4 shape long in a major. They would be prepared to relax their opposition if they could impose a 9-imp penalty for such actions. Certainly Stamatov's bid could have worked but it seems highly insulting to Briggida, the goddess of the game, to flout her by treating the North hand as balanced. Where Klinger respected the dictum that 5-4-2-2 is a suit distribution, 2♦ by South on a club lead and spade shift was in no danger. Mullamphy speeded up play by ruffing the third club low and leading a trump to the ace. That meant he could put +110 in the bank.

Thompson led a heart against 3♦ and declarer won in hand and attacked spades. Thompson won and shifted to the ♣Q and the defenders played three rounds of the suit after taking the ♥A. South carefully ruffed the third club high and led a diamond to the jack and king. Now the fourth club *did* arrange a trump promotion and when declarer ruffed high West could pitch his spade. A trump to the ace saw declarer try to discard his third heart but West could ruff the second spade and cash the long heart for three down; 9 imps to Oz, down 13-11.

After an undramatic game and a quiet 1NT contract had seen an overtrick imp accrue to Stamatov, both N/S pairs handled a competitive deal competently.

Bd: 26
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ KQ6
 ♥ 96
 ♦ AK74
 ♣ K986

West
 ♠ 98
 ♥ AJ10852
 ♦ Q108
 ♣ 54

East
 ♠ J42
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ 93
 ♣ QJ10732

South
 ♠ A10753
 ♥ 743
 ♦ J652
 ♣ A

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♦(1)	2♥(2)	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Multi
 (2) T/O of ♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♥	Dbl	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Let's see how well you can gauge the strength of the field. How many of the 46 N/S pairs bid to 4♠ here? The answer is that six pairs missed game, falling by the wayside in unpredictable fashion, while two pairs went down in game (perhaps by mishandling the trump suit after three rounds of hearts).

Bd: 27
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AQ96
 ♥ J2
 ♦ Q75
 ♣ 7653

West
 ♠ K10874
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ K
 ♣ Q10982

East
 ♠ 532
 ♥ K985
 ♦ J1084
 ♣ J4

South
 ♠ J
 ♥ A10763
 ♦ A9632
 ♣ AK

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		1♥	2♦
1♠	1NT	Pass	
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
			1♣
1♦(♠)	Dbl	Pass	1♥
2♣	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3NT on a club lead saw declarer lead a diamond toward the queen early. He could take two spades, two clubs and three diamonds but could not establish a heart trick without letting West in to cash clubs. That all led to one down, with the quiet 2♥ in the other room fetching +140 when Mullamphy could score all six of his plain winners and then take three of his five trumps in the ending.

After the club lead 3NT looks impossible but on the spade lead, found at least as often as the club lead, game is quite straightforward. Even 4♥ is not without play — at least with the sight of all 52 cards. After a spade lead won in South you cash the clubs and play a low heart toward the jack. As the cards lie you can then lead toward the ♥J later and arrange to use the ♦Q to endplay West to lead spades in a two-card ending. Not a line you'd find at the table, I suspect.

Bd: 28
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ K10853
 ♥ 103
 ♦ 642
 ♣ J62

West
 ♠ J72
 ♥ AQ97654
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 75

East
 ♠ A94
 ♥ 82
 ♦ A973
 ♣ KQ104

South
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ KQJ85
 ♣ A983

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		Pass	3NT
3♥	Pass	Pass	All Pass
Pass	Pass	Dbl	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
4♥	All Pass		

Mullamphy's quite reasonable (but catastrophic) decision to bid 3NT over 3♥ would have been fine had the East and North hands been switched. And had he not done so we'd all be smirking and calling him a yellow-bellied sap-sucker. You just can't win with the Editors. As it was, Stefanov stuck a red card on the 3NT bid and right he was. Notice that on a club lead 3NTx is down seven in top tricks and might even go down eight! I suppose one could regard -1400 as a victory on a spade lead, but very much a pyrrhic one. 4♥ making in the other room held the loss to just 14 imps; 27-16, Stamatov.

Just for the record, the only other pair to collect a telephone number were Wang Wenfei and Wang Liping against England.

Oz got it all back and more on the very next deal.

Bd: 29	North
Dlr: North	♠ 107653
Vul: Both	♥ ---
	♦ QJ62
	♣ J854

West
♠ 982
♥ AKJ4
♦ A974
♣ Q9

East
♠ AQ4
♥ Q1096
♦ K
♣ AK632

South
♠ KJ
♥ 87532
♦ 10853
♣ 107

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
		1♣	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

7♥ is not the worst contract you've ever seen but it needs a little luck in the round suits and/or the spade finesse — but it gets absolutely none at all. In fact, when Ron Klinger led a spade declarer decided to finesse, unable to bear it if he had been psyched out of a finesse he might need if a suit was breaking badly. Probably a wise move in the abstract.

Jacobs played 6♥ as East on a diamond lead and in essence tested trumps, then embarked on a cross-ruff. South had to ruff in on the clubs twice, and when he did declarer could over-ruff and draw trumps with the clubs now established. Nicely done; 17 imps, making it 33-26.

15 pairs bid and made the small slam, with half the field going down in the small or grand slam.

Bd: 30	North
Dlr: East	♠ 87653
Vul: None	♥ KJ92
	♦ 2
	♣ 976

West
♠ AKQJ
♥ 1064
♦ KJ10954
♣ ---

East
♠ 1042
♥ AQ53
♦ A86
♣ J102

South
♠ 9
♥ 87
♦ Q73
♣ AKQ8543

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		1♦	3♣
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
		Pass	3♠(1)
Dbl	4♣	Dbl	Pass
5♦	All Pass		
(1) Solid minor			

Both E/W pairs coped extremely well with the problems on this deal. They played 5♦ and wrapped up +400 to leave Oz Players winners, 16-14 in VP.

The field managed to get to game by one route or another but this was symbolic of a generally exciting and well-played match.

17th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday (Feb. 8)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (5)	416, 417, 418, 419
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (6)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (7)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (8)	
Thursday (Feb. 9)	10:00-12:00	NEC Cup Swiss (9)	416, 417, 418, 419
	12:20-14:20	NEC Cup Swiss (10)	
	14:20-15:30	Lunch Break	
	15:30-17:30	NEC Cup Swiss (11)	
	17:50-19:50	NEC Cup Swiss (12)	
Friday (Feb. 10)	10:00-12:15	NEC Cup Quarter-Final (1)	416, 417
	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)	416, 417
	18:35-20:50	NEC Cup Semi-Final (2)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama IMP Pairs	501
Saturday (Feb. 11)	10:00-12:15	NEC Cup Final (1)	416, 417
	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)	501, 502
	18:35-20:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams	
10:00-17:00	Asuka Cup (Open Pairs)	501, 502	
18:00-20:00	Closing Ceremony		503

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

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

NEC Cup Final: four 16-board segments

