



# NEC Bridge Festival

Thursday, February 9, 2012  
Bulletin Number 3

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

## NEDUK Leads the 2012 NEC Cup After Day Two

At the end of Day 2 last year's champions, NEDUK (David Bakhshi, David Gold, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen), with 151 VPs, have wrested the lead from China Women 2 (Wang Wenfei, Wang Ping, Wang Liping, Wu Shaohong), who fell to second place with 148 VPs. Yeh Bros (Chen Yeh, JuiYiu Shih, ChiMou Lin, Herstein Liu, Patrick Huang, Grace Lin) moved up from fourth to third with 147 VPs while ONI-TAKA (Masayuki Ino, Takahiko Hirata, Masaaki Takayama, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takeshi Niekawa, Tadashi Teramoto) climbed all the way from 21<sup>st</sup> to 4-5<sup>th</sup> place with 146 VPs. But the biggest move was by China Geely Auto (Gui Shengyue, Zhang Banxiang, Yang Lixin, Dai Jianming, Zhuang Zejun), who came from 30-31<sup>st</sup> place to 4-5<sup>th</sup>. Hackett (Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann) and China Women 1 (Sun Ming, Wang Hongli, Gu Ling, Lu Yan) round out the top eight with 142 and 138 VPs, respectively. The complete Day Two rankings are shown below; individual match results for Matches 5-8 may be found on page 5.

### NEC Cup: Standings After Day Two (Eight Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	NEDUK	151	17-18	Syabas Indonesia	125	31-32	Oriental Angels	111
2	China Women 2	148	17-18	Stamatov	125	33-34	Papa & the Rabbits	110
3	Yeh Bros	147	19-21	ESPERANZA	123	33-34	JAPAN Senior	110
4	ONI-TAKA	146	19-21	PYON	123	35	Con Brio	108
5-6	China Geely Auto	145	19-21	YOKOI	123	36	Yukihinata	104
5-6	Bulgarian All Stars	145	22	SHIROGANE	120	37	Pretty Cats	102
7	Hackett	142	23-24	NANIWADA	118	38	Korea-Hammer	101
8	China Women 1	138	23-24	Fairy Tale	118	39	Korea-Alpha	99
9-10	Oz Players	137	25	Strawberry Fields	117	40	KANDM	97
9-10	Down Under	137	26	Aka Maru	116	41	Friends	95
11	Beijing Trinergy	135	27-28	LAS FLORES	115	42	Goisagi	91
12	England Ladies	132	27-28	TANAKA	115	43	Blue Hawaii	89
13	Jiuzhaigou	129	29-30	Iza Yokohama III	114	44-45	Setsugekka	87
14	Kachofugetsu	127	29-30	SKOTII	114	44-45	KATSUMATA	87
15-16	TAJIMA	126	31-32	Abe Chan	111	46	JAPAN Youth	72
15-16	ashley6	126						

### NEC Cup Bridge Festival on the Web

Follow the action at the 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> will have their choice of the remaining teams from the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> group. The team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> will then have their choice of the remaining teams. In addition, before the start of the Knockout Phase and after all quarter-final draws have been determined, the team that finishes 1<sup>st</sup> in the Swiss chooses their semi-final opponent from any of the other three quarter-final matches.

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

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

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

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

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

## Team Rosters: 17<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> VuGraph Matches will feature Bulgarian All Stars vs China Women 1  
and Oz Players vs Down Under**

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>- or 4<sup>th</sup>-seat major-suit opener asking the quality of the opening bid.
- Single or higher jump shifts (including into notrump) to indicate a raise or to force to game.
- All responses to;
  - artificial strong opening bids with 15 HCP or more.
  - opening bids of 2♣ or higher (weak 2s must guarantee 10 opening points: opening points=HCP + number of cards in longest suit).

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

### Competitive Bids

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

### Carding

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

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

Category 3 of WBF Systems Policy applies

## Wednesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 5				Match 6				Match 7				Match 8			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	5	48	24	100	9	16	14	114	2	31	15	129	6	44	22	151
2	34	52	23	96	11	26	15	111	1	30	15	126	13	25	16	142
3	17	35	22	92	7	50	23	115	11	23	16	131	12	24	14	145
4	6	28	16	88	10	34	15	103	8	27	20	123	9	17	2	125
5	1	12	6	82	13	31	11	93	38	56	25	118	17	42	19	137
6	4	25	14	87	38	55	23	110	9	36	19	129	1	17	8	137
7	9	20	12	93	3	18	7	100	17	18	10	110	34	42	22	132
8	11	22	8	88	26	18	14	102	4	7	10	112	24	32	13	125
9	7	32	18	95	1	22	16	111	6	8	11	122	4	75	25	147
10	19	56	25	90	4	36	15	105	16	7	10	115	45	42	23	138
11	8	50	22	105	2	24	15	120	3	19	14	134	16	34	14	148
12	33	62	25	79	25	70	25	104	26	61	25	129	3	30	16	145
13	41	49	25	83	5	48	19	102	45	31	19	121	2	19	14	135
14	24	49	11	67	41	29	16	83	27	30	16	99	23	11	0	99
15	21	27	13	65	22	32	14	79	18	2	8	87	41	37	14	101
16	43	54	23	85	42	50	25	110	10	26	20	130	11	41	16	146
17	3	7	8	79	39	36	16	95	7	37	20	115	5	26	11	126
18	26	14	7	72	29	8	8	80	15	30	22	102	20	17	8	110
19	10	13	5	71	37	14	16	87	42	18	16	103	39	34	20	123
20	42	30	10	74	24	13	12	86	37	25	15	101	18	46	22	123
21	15	36	17	68	44	52	24	92	24	24	10	102	42	61	24	126
22	25	29	9	62	15	36	16	78	33	20	8	86	35	38	16	102
23	27	52	18	62	33	18	11	73	44	65	25	98	14	78	25	123
24	14	65	19	74	20	27	18	92	21	44	20	112	8	40	17	129
25	22	54	21	75	12	16	3	78	32	20	8	86	28	59	25	111
26	18	47	23	88	8	23	16	104	12	6	2	106	29	12	12	118
27	23	38	12	59	31	71	25	84	14	25	14	98	38	31	17	115
28	37	13	0	44	46	28	18	62	30	38	22	84	25	8	3	87
29	38	15	7	70	18	35	22	92	39	30	17	109	26	25	18	127
30	36	19	14	57	32	17	10	67	28	10	8	75	46	32	12	87
31	39	24	6	59	27	10	1	60	36	21	16	76	40	22	13	89
32	46	82	25	58	30	36	20	78	25	50	22	100	37	21	15	115
33	12	19	5	60	23	33	19	79	22	47	22	101	43	32	15	116
34	2	18	7	81	45	33	10	91	43	51	19	110	7	13	8	118
35	45	35	10	69	43	19	8	77	41	48	20	97	22	35	14	111
36	30	22	16	53	40	24	15	68	31	16	14	82	44	16	9	91
37	28	88	25	70	19	11	14	84	20	23	15	99	32	20	15	114
38	29	49	23	86	6	24	7	93	5	8	4	97	27	22	13	110
39	31	62	24	77	17	32	14	91	29	20	13	104	19	13	10	114
40	44	21	5	47	36	22	15	62	46	31	16	78	31	30	17	95
41	13	10	5	64	14	25	14	78	35	29	10	88	15	42	16	104
42	20	52	20	84	16	6	4	88	19	14	14	102	21	23	6	108
43	16	22	7	69	35	49	22	91	34	33	11	102	33	34	15	117
44	40	60	25	68	21	16	6	74	23	9	2	76	36	40	21	97
45	35	56	20	82	34	52	20	102	13	13	11	113	10	11	7	120
46	32	3	0	28	28	14	12	40	40	26	14	54	30	46	18	72

C-VP=Cumulative VPs



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



*August 25<sup>th</sup> - September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup> APBF Congress, now an OPEN event similar to the European Open Championships, which will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from August 25<sup>th</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto:apbf2012@jcbl.or.jp)

## Provisional Program

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

DATE	APBF Congress Championships		Side-Games	
	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 Five: TAJIMA vs Bulgarian All Stars

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 1  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ Q743  
 ♥ KJ109832  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ 108

West  
 ♠ 92  
 ♥ Q6  
 ♦ KQJ2  
 ♣ AQ654

East  
 ♠ AK1085  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ A5  
 ♣ K9732

South  
 ♠ J6  
 ♥ A75  
 ♦ 10987643  
 ♣ J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
	3♥	3♠	4♥

4♠ All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
	3♥	3♠	5♥

Dbf All Pass

4♠ played easily enough for +450 – but note that 6♣ can be thrown against the proverbial wall — unless the defenders have a ruff. In the other room the defenders to 5♥x did even worse. One could argue that East should lead a trump against this auction regardless of his hand but Furuta cashed two spades and played a club. Now surely Kovachev should escape for down one: ruff a diamond at trick four, ruff a club, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade high and lead a trump to the eight, going down 500 against a stiff ♥Q but getting out for –100 against the other two 2-1 heart breaks. Instead he lost a trick to the ♥Q, ensuring –300 and, as it transpired, a 4-imp gain.

Would you say that China Women 2 were very lucky or very unlucky here against Syabas Indonesia? In one room North (Bojoh) passed throughout. Wenfei Wang (East) opened 1♠ and heard 3♦ on her left and 3NT from partner. She bid 4♣ and when raised to 5♣ bid 6♣. South cashed the ♥A and on receiving discouragement shifted to a diamond; down one. In the other room Wu opened 3♥ and the auction proceeded 3♠-4♥-Dbf-All Pass. The defenders did not lead trumps. Instead Murniati cashed a spade and shifted to clubs. Back came a second spade and a third spade which Wu ruffed high, then ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, and finessed in trumps for +590 and 11 imps. The best N/S scores were +590

(achieved three times: here and by Fu-Zhang and Miyakuni-Tokunaga). E/W were allowed to make 6♣ only twice: Yasuhara-Tanaka and Zhao-Jiang managed this feat (the latter declaring the hand from West on a spade lead, the former on a trump lead from North).

Bd: 2  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: N/S

North  
 ♠ 852  
 ♥ A8  
 ♦ Q32  
 ♣ AJ1063

West  
 ♠ KQ7  
 ♥ 975  
 ♦ AJ8  
 ♣ KQ52

East  
 ♠ AJ1094  
 ♥ Q643  
 ♦ K5  
 ♣ 97

South  
 ♠ 63  
 ♥ KJ102  
 ♦ 109764  
 ♣ 84

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
		1♠	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

(1) Limit+, ♠

Both tables opened the miserable East hand, using the time-honored excuse of having thought one of their threes was an ace, no doubt. West drove to game and the defenders in one case led a heart, in the other the ♦10, but managed to cash out in short order for down one. Sadder but no wiser both E/W pairs moved on to the next deal.

Incidentally, four of the five E/W pairs who bid 3NT made it; only one declarer brought home 4♠. Well done Kazuhiko Yamada, who made it as West on a club lead.

Which is better, a genuine imitation or an authentic replica?



Bd: 3 North  
 Dir: South ♠ J432  
 Vul: E/W ♥ J73  
 ♦ QJ86  
 ♣ 54

West  
 ♠ Q985  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ K74  
 ♣ KJ96

East  
 ♠ A106  
 ♥ AK1096  
 ♦ 532  
 ♣ A3

South  
 ♠ K7  
 ♥ Q42  
 ♦ A109  
 ♣ Q10872

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
Pass	Pass	Dbl	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
Pass	1♥(♠)	2♥	1♣
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The E/W pairs at both tables dealt with South's opening easily enough and reached 3NT. Where Iliev was declaring Tobing led the ♦Q and when it held he shifted to a spade to the king, facilitating declarer's task. The defenders had two diamonds and one trick in each minor.

Chen won the apparently friendly club lead in his hand and made the mistake of passing the ♠Q. Now Isporski got the first half of the defense right when he shifted to the ♦10, and when this was ducked he continued with the ♦A and ♦9. Declarer won and took a spade finesse, then played hearts from the top. When South did not unblock (it was 10:30 am after all) declarer had his contract and North had a scowl. Still 4-0 for the All Stars.

In the Indonesia-China match both E/W pairs had an unopposed sequence but when Wenfei Wang opened the East cards 1♥ and rebid 1NT over 1♠ her partner passed, obviously not expecting such a good hand for this sequence. Since game was bid and made in the other room it was 13-10 for China now.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

Bd: 4 North  
 Dir: West ♠ AKJ  
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ9  
 ♦ AQ10  
 ♣ 10973

West  
 ♠ 54  
 ♥ Q1064  
 ♦ K653  
 ♣ AJ2

East  
 ♠ 96  
 ♥ A732  
 ♦ J42  
 ♣ KQ84

South  
 ♠ Q108732  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ 987  
 ♣ 65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥(♠)
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

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

(1) 18-20

Both pairs handled this treacherous deal well (in the old days pairs would play 1♣ or game) with Asbi having a delayed transfer to get to stop in 3♠ and the Bulgarians doing even better. Both pairs came to their contract easily enough, Kovachev being gifted an overtrick when East shifted to the ace and another heart early on in the play.

China Women 2 gained 7 imps when Bojoh-Tueje could not stop below game, while elsewhere 3NT was far harder to defeat than 4♠ (an initial heart lead makes declarer's task very easy). Four tables out of five brought home this game.

Bd: 5 North  
 Dir: North ♠ A5  
 Vul: N/S ♥ QJ9853  
 ♦ J53  
 ♣ 107

West  
 ♠ 72  
 ♥ AK1042  
 ♦ 1042  
 ♣ 852

East  
 ♠ KJ83  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ Q987  
 ♣ Q943

South  
 ♠ Q10964  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ AK6  
 ♣ AKJ6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
	2♦	Pass	2♥

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦(1)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

2♥ handled beautifully. On an opening club lead declarer passed the ♥7 and eventually scored three clubs, one spade, two diamonds and four hearts. Against 4♠ Chen led a top heart and shifted to a trump. Well done. Isporski won the ♠A and passed the ♣10, covered by East. Now declarer had a diamond and a club loser and could not trump them both in dummy, so he had to lose four tricks. There was no endplay to force East to lead diamonds.

While you could collect a large number by bidding and making game on the N/S cards there were more enjoyable and profitable ways to collect a big score. For example, when Oz Players took on NEDUK Bill Jacobs as East heard a multi 2♦ on his right and 2♥ on his left. He balanced with a double and after a redouble his side was scrambling for their smallest minus score. When his partner got to 2NT doubled he redoubled for rescue...and he's still waiting. That cost 1000, but elsewhere Maeda-Hayashi persuaded their opponents to play 3♠x and collected 1100, and very nice, too.

In our other featured match Ping-Wu played 3♥ for +140 while Liping Wang found the diamond lead as West to defeat 3NT. China Women 2 led 28-10.

Bd: 6	North
Dlr: East	♠ J1092
Vul: E/W	♥ A65
	♦ J73
	♣ K82
West	East
♠ 7	♠ AK85
♥ K8432	♥ 107
♦ KQ64	♦ A1082
♣ A53	♣ Q64
	South
	♠ Q643
	♥ QJ9
	♦ 95
	♣ J1097

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

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

Asbi led a top club and Tobing won to shift to a top spade. So far, so good. When declarer won and ran his four diamonds South had to make two discards. A small spade was easy enough but the second discard was more awkward. South pitched a low heart and now declarer could lead a heart to the king and ace. North returned a high spade so declarer rose with the king to block the suit. But even if North had played back a low spade declarer could simply have ducked it. To defeat the game South must pitch clubs — easier said than done.

In the other room a spade lead by North sank the contract immediately. Declarer played on hearts and the defenders took three hearts and two spades without raising a sweat.

Dewi-Murniati played 5♦ as E/W here; not hopeless, but not making today. This was a flat board since Wenfei-Liping played 3NT, down on accurate defense. About one third of the field did bring home 3NT from the East seat.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ 65
Vul: Both	♥ AJ10742
	♦ 83
	♣ Q102
West	East
♠ Q1097	♠ KJ8432
♥ 5	♥ KQ8
♦ Q10764	♦ 5
♣ J64	♣ K75
	South
	♠ A
	♥ 963
	♦ AKJ92
	♣ A983

Why, when the stars are out, can they be seen but when the lights are out they cannot?

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	Dbl(Supp.)
2♠	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
All Pass			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
			1♦
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
All Pass			

Tobing and Asbi had the sort of accident you'd think everyone runs into from time to time when North tried to steal a hand by showing extras and South took him seriously. It is hard to cast the first stone and say you wouldn't or mightn't have done the same thing from either side of the table. Given that Isporski had not found the early club shift to set 4♠x 500, this was an extremely expensive decision by N/S in the Open Room, turning a 10-imp gain into a 7-imp loss when 5♥ ran into an unlucky trump break — not that you're a shoo-in even if trumps behave but you'd like your chances. Still, the good news from N/S's perspective was that this scenario would never come up again. It was 24-7 now to the All Stars.

In the Women's match Ping-Wu played 4♥ after a strong club auction and negotiated +620 (East might have saved but no doubt had hopes of defeating the game). Wenfei saved in 4♠. In the other room the defenders cashed the pointed aces and shifted to a low heart to the ace. Now declarer could pitch two clubs on the hearts and escape for down 200 and 9 imps to make it 37-10. By contrast, in this precise position in another match Tony Nunn shifted to the ♥9 and Sartaj Hans ducked. Declarer might still have arranged an endplay for down one but he didn't — and I say N/S deserved 500.

At yet a third table Justin Hackett won his high diamond at trick one and shifted to a low club, thereby achieving 500 legitimately. *Bien joue*, we'd say, but we think Justin's linguistic capabilities might not extend to French. *Gut gespieled* maybe.

The sacrifice was generally found but 200 was the normal result on defense.

If no man is an island, where does that leave the Isle of Man?
--

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ 532
Vul: None	♥ 9
	♦ Q764
	♣ K10976
<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ 97	♠ K86
♥ AKJ1072	♥ Q8543
♦ 108	♦ 5
♣ 854	♣ AQJ2
<b>South</b>	
♠ AQJ104	
♥ 6	
♦ AKJ932	
♣ 3	

Open Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
Pass(!)	Pass	1♥	2♥
4♥	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
All Pass			
Closed Room			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
2♦	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	5♦
5♥	5♠	All Pass	

Board 8 was an eerie repeat of Board 7 as the Indonesians pushed themselves to the five level. The good news is that West might have gone on to 5♥ had Asbi not tried for slam. In 5♠ the defenders cashed their winners and exited in diamonds to leave declarer with only one entry to dummy and two finesses to take. No swing when N/S in the other room went to 5♠ over 5♥, a contract that would be set by one trick at most.

Both Chinese pairs in China-Indonesia bought the hand. Liping saved in 6♥ over 6♦ but since East was declarer it was down only 100 when South cashed out. By contrast, against Ping's 5♠ Dewi as West led the ♥K and...shifted to a trump. Not unreasonable but extremely unsuccessful. 8 imps to China, up now 45-10.



"How do they get so many hands into the bulletin?"

Bd: 9  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ 964  
 ♥ 1095  
 ♦ 74  
 ♣ J9732

West  
 ♠ AQ87  
 ♥ KQ73  
 ♦ AQJ10  
 ♣ K

East  
 ♠ 32  
 ♥ A62  
 ♦ K93  
 ♣ AQ864

South  
 ♠ KJ105  
 ♥ J84  
 ♦ 8652  
 ♣ 105

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♦(♥)	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦( R)	Pass	2NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Both tables reached 6NT, a contract best played by West but attempted by East in both rooms. On a neutral lead best play is to test clubs, preparing to give up a trick in that suit if they split 4-3. When that fails you test hearts, again prepared to claim if they break. If that too fails you take the spade finesse, all of which equates to a roughly 90% line. Both declarers followed this approach and brought home the slam. No swing.

It's perhaps worth noting that in Naniwada-Hackett the board was virtually flat in the grand slam making. We'd attribute it to the luck of the Irish but there are no Irish on the Naniwada team.



"What have I done?"

Bd: 10  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ AJ109872  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ Q103

West  
 ♠ J3  
 ♥ Q654  
 ♦ 98  
 ♣ AJ985

East  
 ♠ K72  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ AKJ742  
 ♣ K72

South  
 ♠ AQ109654  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ Q63  
 ♣ 64

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
		1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥	2♠	3♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

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

Another unlucky hand for the Indonesians in a sense when Asbi started low but got too high. The defenders could cash two clubs, two diamonds and score the ♠J via an over-ruff. Then they could sit back and wait for the ♠K for their sixth trick. This happened in both rooms, so at least the cost was just a 3-imp undertrick.

There were very few making contracts here but we should give credit to Shi-Ju of Beijing Trinergy and Zhao-Jiang of Jiuzhaigou for bringing home an unlikely 3NT contract from the East seat — albeit with some defensive help, we'd wager.

Bd: 11  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ Q107  
 ♥ A732  
 ♦ Q104  
 ♣ K86

West  
 ♠ A3  
 ♥ K86  
 ♦ AK8765  
 ♣ 104

East  
 ♠ J852  
 ♥ QJ95  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ QJ92

South  
 ♠ K964  
 ♥ 104  
 ♦ J32  
 ♣ A753

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Furuta</i>	<i>Isporski</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Not for the first time in this match both E/W pairs climbed to a level one higher than they needed to and went minus instead of plus. Note that South might well have balanced over 2♦ with a double and now E/W might have played 2♥. On a spade lead both defenses cashed their five winners painlessly. No swing; still 24-7 All Stars.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ A85
Vul: N/S	♥ KQ83
	♦ 106
	♣ AQ74

West  
 ♠ K72  
 ♥ 7652  
 ♦ AQJ94  
 ♣ 3

East  
 ♠ J109  
 ♥ A109  
 ♦ 7532  
 ♣ J102

South  
 ♠ Q643  
 ♥ J4  
 ♦ K8  
 ♣ K9865

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

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

It must have felt good to Chen to steal the hand in 3♦ and bring the partscore home on a trump lead (it is not so easy on any other lead given the paucity of entries to dummy). But +110 was not enough since 3NT on a diamond lead was down 200 before declarer got to win a trick. 3 moreimps to All Stars, up 27-7.

3NT by North came home rather more often than you'd expect with North declaring. On the ♠J lead does West really want to encourage his partner to continue or would he prefer him to shift?

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ AJ10
Vul: Both	♥ 3
	♦ A10765
	♣ J652

West  
 ♠ 9743  
 ♥ KJ94  
 ♦ K94  
 ♣ Q9

East  
 ♠ K8  
 ♥ Q862  
 ♦ J83  
 ♣ AK103

South  
 ♠ Q652  
 ♥ A1075  
 ♦ Q2  
 ♣ 874

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Closed Room

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

The Indonesians were having a frustrating set, which no doubt influenced Tobing into making quite a reasonable balancing double. Alas for him he caught not only a minimum hand opposite but a bad lie of the cards and a hot defense. On West's trump lead to the king and a trump return declarer tried a diamond towards his queen. West won and played a third spade. Declarer crossed to hand with the ♥A, drew the last trump, tried a diamond to the ten and jack and now the defense had the rest for down four. That meant the fate of 2♥ was almost irrelevant, but Chen brought home +140 to hold the damage to 6imps; 33-7 now.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ A873
Vul: None	♥ 109
	♦ K7
	♣ KJ654

West  
 ♠ K964  
 ♥ KJ74  
 ♦ 52  
 ♣ Q97

East  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ A632  
 ♦ QJ1086  
 ♣ 1032

South  
 ♠ Q1052  
 ♥ Q85  
 ♦ A943  
 ♣ A8



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Tobing</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Asbi</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

Closed Room

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

Both Souths admitted to holding a balanced 12-14 with four spades and that was enough for North to drive them to what was a fairly sketchy game. Both Wests led a diamond and the paths diverged at trick 1. Isporski won in dummy (East following with the queen) to lead a trump to the jack, queen and king. A heart switch now would have left declarer needing to pick up trumps and find the ♣Q in the pocket, as it was. But on the diamond continuation declarer instead won in hand and led a spade to the seven. Now came three rounds of clubs, ruffing high, and a spade to the eight to draw the last trump with the ♠A and concede the last two hearts.

Asbi won the diamond lead in hand, led a spade to the ace and now the 4-1 split left him with four top losers. However, when Iliev ducked the second spade Asbi turned his attention to clubs, running the suit with the aid of the finesse and thus pitching two of his heart losers before West could ruff in. Oops. It is hard to say that Asbi's line was wrong since it guarded against West having a singleton spade honor while Isporski's line protected against East's singleton jack. My sympathies are with the unsuccessful declarer; more declarers went down than made game.

The Bulgarian All Stars had a 35-7 win, leaving them with 22 VPs, and well in the hunt for qualifying. Meanwhile, China Women 2 lost 10 imps on this final deal when Indonesia defeated 4♠ in one room and made it in the other. That held the loss to 22-8, but left China top of the table.



"...and turn left at Tokyo."

## Match Six: NEDUK vs Yeh Bros

by Rich Colker

Bd: 17  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ Q10753  
 ♥ Q73  
 ♦ KQ5  
 ♣ 84

West  
 ♠ J862  
 ♥ 10864  
 ♦ A98  
 ♣ J6

East  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ AJ9  
 ♦ 107632  
 ♣ AK93

South  
 ♠ AK9  
 ♥ K52  
 ♦ J4  
 ♣ Q10752

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Lin</i>
1♥	Pass	1♦	Dbl
	2♠	All Pass	

In the Open Room Liu led the ♣A, then shrewdly switched to the ♥J. Gold couldn't work out the heart position (as few of us would) and went up with dummy's king, which held. Gold cashed the ♠AK and seeing the 4-1 break finessed the ♠10. He drew the last trump (pitching a heart from dummy as Liu undid his good work at trick 2 by pitching the ♥A), then led a club up. Liu committed his second error on the deal when he ducked the club in tempo. Gold rose with dummy's queen, ruffed a club back to hand, played the ♦K, which held, then a low diamond to the jack and ace. Huang exited with a heart to the queen and Gold eventually lost the final heart trick to Huang's ten for an impressive two overtricks; +170.

The auction in the two rooms were identical, and the defenses were similar as well. In the Closed Room van Prooijen also led the ♣A, then made a less inspired switch to the ♠4, 9, J, Q. Shin now played a club and, like Liu at the other table, van Prooijen ducked. Not to be outdone Shin, like Gold in the other room, rose with the queen, then played the ♦J, which held, and a second diamond. Verhees won the

ace (king from Shin) and got out with a trump to the ace as van Prooijen pitched a diamond. Shin called for the ♥K, ducked around, then cashed the ♠K (van Prooijen pitching a club), ruffed a club to hand, drew the last trump and conceded the last two heart tricks for +140. Impressive, but still 1 imp to NEDUK; 1-0.

In the match between Down Under and Papa & the Rabbits the latter team bought the contract in both rooms, playing 3♦ down one and losing 50, but gaining 3 imps from +140 in the other room. It is not that easy to beat 3NT, especially on the ♣K lead as Nakatani-Iemori proved. Not only were they the only pair to make game here, they were the only pair to attempt it. Just goes to show you, "no guts, no glory."

Bd: 18 North  
 Dir: East ♠ 10952  
 Vul: N/S ♥ K5

♦ KJ43  
 ♣ K32

West  
 ♠ K74  
 ♥ J982  
 ♦ 762  
 ♣ Q109

East  
 ♠ Q6  
 ♥ Q643  
 ♦ AQ985  
 ♣ 54

South  
 ♠ AJ83  
 ♥ A107  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ AJ876

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♠	1♠(1)	3♠
Pass	Pass	All Pass	Pass

(1) Two-suited T/O

Again similar auctions. Liu led the ♥3 to the king against Gold's 4♠. Gold led a low trump to the eight and king, won the heart return in dummy, ruffed the ♥10 to hand, then played the ♠10, Q, A, 4. A low trump to the nine cleared the suit and the ♣K followed by a losing club finesse left the defense with just one diamond to cash; +620.

The contract was played the other way around in the Closed Room and Verhees led the heart this time, Shih rising with the king to lead a low spade from hand. Verhees won the jack with the king and

switched to a middle diamond, ducked to van Prooijen's queen, and when the ♦A was placed on the table Shih's hand started to look better. He ruffed, played a club to the king, then led a second spade up. When the ♠Q appeared there was only a club left to lose for a push at +620. Still NEDUK 1-0.

The field bid game; only a couple of pairs missed it but that was in our second featured match. Sartaj Hans opened the East cards 1♦ and when South doubled North bid only 1NT rather than 2♣. Not absurd, of course, but unsuccessful today. Down Under led 10-3 now.

Bd: 19 North  
 Dir: South ♠ 98  
 Vul: E/W ♥ AK93

♦ AK1043  
 ♣ A7

West  
 ♠ 102  
 ♥ Q7542  
 ♦ QJ865  
 ♣ J

East  
 ♠ QJ76543  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ Q984

South  
 ♠ AK  
 ♥ J86  
 ♦ 97  
 ♣ K106532

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
Pass	1♦	2♠	1♣
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	All Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
Pass	1♦	3♠	1♣
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3NT
All Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Gold-Bakhshi sniffed at slam in the Open Room but eventually settled for game-plus-one. Huang dutifully led the ♠10 to declarer's king. When a low club from hand produced the jack from Huang, Bakhshi won the ace and took the safety-play/finesse on the way back. When that held he knocked out the ♣Q and a moment later was claiming on a red-suit squeeze against West (based on East's 2♠ preempt). Twelve tricks, +690.

The play was almost identical in the Closed Room except that Lin actually played the hand out just a bit

further, not claiming until trick 9. Twelve tricks and another push; still 1-0.

Ito-Jomura bid slam for Papa & the Rabbits to retake the lead against Down Under 13-3. Heather Dhondy also reached 6♣ after a preempt from East; she won the spade lead and safety-played clubs, then threw East in with the fourth club, having come down to the following position:

<p>♠ 9 ♥ AK ♦ A1042 ♣ ---</p> <p>♠ --- ♥ Q75 ♦ QJ86 ♣ ---</p> <p>♠ K ♥ J86 ♦ 9 ♣ 65</p>	<p>♠ QJ7654 ♥ 10 ♦ --- ♣ ----</p>	
---	---	--

East exited with a heart and Dhondy came to hand with a spade, West pitching a diamond, and cashed another trump. West chose to come down to only two hearts, so Dhondy could unblock that suit and take her ♥J in hand at the end. Had West kept two hearts and two diamonds that suit would have been sure to ruff out. In a sense it is just a simple squeeze but playing it as a ruffing squeeze is more elegant and covers all the possible bases.

Just for the record, the best N/S performance here went to Toyofuko-Sato who had the pleasure of defending 4♦x down 2000. We heard muttering that this should have been 2300 but we'll ignore those carpers.

<p>Bd: 20 Dir: West Vul: Both</p>	<p>North ♠ QJ10654 ♥ A86 ♦ Q5 ♣ 97</p>	<p>East ♠ 97 ♥ J932 ♦ A10764 ♣ 105</p>
<p>West ♠ A83 ♥ 1075 ♦ KJ92 ♣ Q43</p>	<p>South ♠ K2 ♥ KQ4 ♦ 83 ♣ AKJ862</p>	

Why do slow down and slow up mean the same thing?

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	4♣(2)
Pass	4♥(♠)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

(1) Multi

(2) Asking to be transferred to the M

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♥(♠)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Two oddly-similar auctions to 4♠ from the South seat. In the Open Room Huang led the ♦2 to the queen and ace and Liu switched to the ♣10. Bakhshi rose with the ace and played the ♠K, which held, then a second spade to the ace. Huang cashed the ♦K, got count from Liu, and switched to...the ♣Q. Bakhshi won, ruffed a club high, drew the last trump and claimed ten tricks for +620.

In the Closed Room Verhees got off to the less successful lead of the ♣3, declarer winning East's ten with the jack and placed the ♠K on the table. Verhees rose with the ace and switched to a heart, hoping declarer's red-suit values were in diamonds rather than hearts. But now Lin could simply draw trumps and claim twelve tricks for +680. 2 imps to Yeh Bros, taking the lead 2-1.

Just two pairs missed the target here, one played 3NT and one 3♣.

<p>Bd: 21 Dir: North Vul: N/S</p>	<p>North ♠ J9 ♥ AJ84 ♦ Q7 ♣ AK1064</p>	<p>East ♠ 52 ♥ 10763 ♦ J52 ♣ QJ93</p>
<p>West ♠ AK108764 ♥ --- ♦ K1043 ♣ 52</p>	<p>South ♠ Q3 ♥ KQ952 ♦ A986 ♣ 87</p>	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
3♠	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass
All Pass	Pass	4♠	5♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

The two West offered slightly different opinions of their hand after the strong notrump opening behind them. Your Editors find either action reasonable, though as we shall see the less aggressive one bore fruit in an odd way. Huang initially took the low road and bid only 3♠, but when 4♥ came back around to him he must have realized that in light of the opponents' now known 9+-card heart fit 4♠ might still be a viable contract if his partner could produce even a bit of help in diamonds and some spade tolerance. He carefully doubled in case partner was inclined to defend and his decision bore fruit when Liu's weak hearts and general lack of defense encouraged him to pull to 4♠. Now Bakhshi, in light of his partner's 4♥ bid and in spite of the danger suggested by his spade holding, ill-advisedly pressed on to the five level. Liu led the ♣Q, taken by the ace, and Gold set about drawing trumps, leading the four to the king. When Huang pitched a spade Gold switched back to clubs, playing to the king and ruffing the third round. After a trump to the jack and a second club ruff in dummy Gold called for a low diamond. Huang went up with the king and quickly cashed the ♠AK for down one, -100 for N/S.

In the Closed Room Verhees' 4♠ bid bought the contract and Shih began the defense with the ace-king followed by a third club, ruffed with the ♠Q and over-ruffed. Verhees cashed his other top spade, then placed the ♦K on the table and eventually lost a trump and two diamonds in addition to the earlier two clubs for down two, -300. 9imps to Yeh Bros, now ahead 11-1.

Papa's lead multiplied (what else would you expect from Rabbits) when they bought the hand in 4♠x in one room after a "strong" club left N/S unable to find the heart fit. In the other room Tony Nunn preempted with 3♠ and did not bid again over 4♥. It was 24-10 now.

Three E/W pairs actually made 4♠x, after some ill-advised activities in the diamond suit. Meanwhile, just six N/S pairs were allowed to play 4♥; +100 for N/S was the most common result.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Bd: 22	North
Dlr: East	♠ 54
Vul: E/W	♥ AK109
	♦ J62
	♣ K864

West	East
♠ KQ6	♠ A932
♥ 874	♥ 5
♦ K54	♦ A109873
♣ J975	♣ A2
South	
♠ J1087	
♥ QJ632	
♦ Q	
♣ Q103	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
		1♦	1♥
Dbl	2NT	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(1)	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♥
2♠	Pass	3♦	3♥

All Pass  
(1) Canape

Against 3♠ in the Open Room Bakhshi led the ♥Q. Gold overtook and returned the ♥10 as Liu pitched a club. When Gold played a third heart Liu pitched the ♦7, won the club switch, cashed dummy's two top trumps, then played the ♦K and a low diamond to the eight. Bakhshi could ruff, but now Liu was in control. He could win any return, draw the last trump, and his diamonds were all good. An instructive +140, and a lesson on how to handle the Moysian (4-3) fit.

In the Closed Room the Dutch pair sold out to 3♥ when 3♠ and 5♦(!) could both be made. It remained to be seen how many imps they could salvage defending 3♥. Verhees got off to the best lead of a trump, gaining a tempo and preventing Lin from ruffing two spades in dummy. Lin won in dummy, played a spade to the eight and king, won the second trump in dummy and played a second spade to the seven and queen. Back came a third trump. It appeared that declarer was slated to go two down. But when Lin led a low diamond from dummy van Prooijen fell from grace and rose with the ace and returned a second diamond. Now Lin could discard a club and the ♦J would provide a parking place for the fourth spade. Down one, -50, and 3 more imps to Yeh Bros, who had scored 14 straight imps to lead 14-1.

A few tables made 5♦ with the E/W cards. In fact, on two rounds of hearts declarer can ruff, pick up trumps, then lead ace and another club. He can then ruff out the club honor in South or pin the ten as appropriate. It doesn't seem that even a spade lead will affect the entry position so long as South is careful. Wang Hongli and Kristina Murniati brought home the game on very similar lines to this.

Bd: 23 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ AJ106  
 Vul: Both ♥ J872  
 ♦ J6  
 ♣ AK5

West  
 ♠ Q752  
 ♥ KQ9  
 ♦ 1073  
 ♣ Q92

East  
 ♠ K8  
 ♥ 654  
 ♦ 9842  
 ♣ 7643

South  
 ♠ 943  
 ♥ A103  
 ♦ AKQ5  
 ♣ J108

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥(♠)	Pass	3NT

All Pass  
 (1) Could be short  
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables duly arrived in 3NT. Huang led the ♥K, giving declarer three tricks in the suit. Bakhshi set about attacking spades and was soon claiming eleven tricks via the double spade finesse with two spades, three hearts, four diamonds and two clubs. In the other room Verhees led a spade, which Lin ducked, eventually scoring three tricks in the suit via the double finesse. Van Prooijen won the ♠K and promptly switched to a club so Lin could claim 11 tricks via three spades, one heart, four diamonds, and three clubs. No swing, here (or indeed anywhere!) still 14-1.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

Bd: 24 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ A4  
 Vul: None ♥ 8732  
 ♦ AJ1097  
 ♣ J5

West  
 ♠ J3  
 ♥ AQ1064  
 ♦ K63  
 ♣ 942

East  
 ♠ 97652  
 ♥ KJ5  
 ♦ 842  
 ♣ K7

South  
 ♠ KQ108  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ Q5  
 ♣ AQ10863

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	2♦	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	2♦	2♥	3♣
All Pass			

Both tables missed the good 5♣ game, which appears to need little more than the diamond finesse or the ♣K onside at most third. Lin made thirteen tricks (+190) in the Closed Room when the minor suits behaved while Bakhshi needlessly held himself to twelve tricks (he played East to have ducked the ♦Q holding king fourth). 1 frivolous imp to Yeh Bros, leading now 15-1.

You will be surprised to hear that no one bid slam here. All right, maybe you won't. But in our other featured match Tony Nunn opened the West cards with a weak 2♥, raised to 3♥ by Sartaj Hans. South doubled and North bid 5♦, a contract that cannot be brought home on repeated heart leads. A big 6 imps to Down Under, trailing 20-24.



"This Sudoku is really hard."



Bd: 25 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ QJ72  
 Vul: E/W ♥ 109  
 ♦ AQ85  
 ♣ AJ3

West  
 ♠ A4  
 ♥ KQ8764  
 ♦ 642  
 ♣ 75

East  
 ♠ 1096  
 ♥ A32  
 ♦ KJ1097  
 ♣ K4

South  
 ♠ K853  
 ♥ J5  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ Q109862

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
	1NT	Pass	2NT(♣)
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Gold's "strong" notrump opening seems to have blown Huang-Liu clear out of the water on this one. Can you spell C-O-N-S-E-R-V-A-T-I-V-E? 4♥ needs little more than the ♣A and ♦Q onside — not unlikely given North's opening — plus no trump loser and no diamond ruff (or the opponents not finding it if there is one, as here). Allowed to play in 3♣ (3♠ plays okay, too) Gold lost the obvious four tricks for +110.

Verhees and van Prooijen displayed no timidity and duly landed in 4♥ (although 4♠ by N/S needs little more than the club finesse or a helpful diamond lead and 3-2 trumps). Shih got off to the ♠Q lead (so no diamond ruff) and it was clear sailing from there. Plus 620 and 12 imps to NEDUK, trailing now by just 2 at 15-13.

Down Under made a partscore in both rooms to take the lead 27-20, while elsewhere we should congratulate both E/W pairs in Pyon-Aka Maru for pushing the deal at +620 in 4♥.



"May I leave the room, now?"

Bd: 26 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ K6  
 Vul: Both ♥ 85432  
 ♦ Q752  
 ♣ 53

West  
 ♠ 53  
 ♥ AKQ10  
 ♦ K3  
 ♣ KQ962

East  
 ♠ QJ98  
 ♥ J97  
 ♦ J86  
 ♣ J84

South  
 ♠ A10742  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ A1094  
 ♣ A107

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	Pass	1NT	Pass

3NT All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin
		Pass	1♠
1NT(1)	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	All Pass

(1) Four hearts and a longer minor

Huang may have expected slightly more from Liu for his 1NT response, but as we've always maintained, one must bid what one must with the cards one is dealt. Bakhshi led a small spade to the king, won the ♠Q on the return with the ace, and shifted accurately to the ♦10. Liu ducked to Gold's queen, won the diamond return in dummy, cashed three hearts ending in hand and led a club up. Bakhshi wasted no time in rising with the ace and cashing his side's diamonds for down two, +200.

In the Closed Room Verhees showed his shape, then his good hearts and extra values, but van Prooijen was having none of it. Lin led his singleton and Shih alertly played a suit-preference ♥8 under dummy's ace. Lin ducked the ♣K, won the jack, and played the ♦A to see what partner would do. Shih, still alert, dropped the ♦Q and now Lin played the ♠A and a spade to the king to get his heart ruff for down one; +100. Smartly done, but still, 3 imps to NEDUK, who regained the lead for the first time since they led 1-0 (Board 19); 16-15.

Are you surprised to see no fewer than 10 pairs bring home 3NT with the E/W cards? We are, but we always think highly of our fellow man/woman and expect them to defend better than they do.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ K84  
 Vul: None ♥ 1075  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ AJ9865

West  
 ♠ AJ10752  
 ♥ 86  
 ♦ Q8  
 ♣ 1043

East  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ AK9  
 ♦ 1096432  
 ♣ Q72

South  
 ♠ Q93  
 ♥ QJ432  
 ♦ AJ75  
 ♣ K

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
2♠	3♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♦

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Lin</i>
2♠	Dbl	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♦
All Pass			4♥

Both N/S pairs reached the ill-fated heart game and both went down one quickly on a heart ruff. Matching -50s for no swing; still 16-15.

It was much harder to defend the game with North the declarer. Newell-Reid play a strong club that starts at 14 and North could show clubs and South transferred to hearts. When the first spade went to the jack and king the hand was over. Down Under had 10 imps to lead 37-24, having trailed by 14 a few minutes earlier.

Eight pairs made game here; a couple in 3NT, which at least has the merit of not being down in top tricks.

Bd: 28 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ 65  
 Vul: N/S ♥ A2  
 ♦ 109532  
 ♣ J532

West  
 ♠ J97  
 ♥ J10876  
 ♦ A74  
 ♣ 98

East  
 ♠ K83  
 ♥ K943  
 ♦ J6  
 ♣ KQ76

South  
 ♠ AQ1042  
 ♥ Q5  
 ♦ KQ8  
 ♣ A104

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

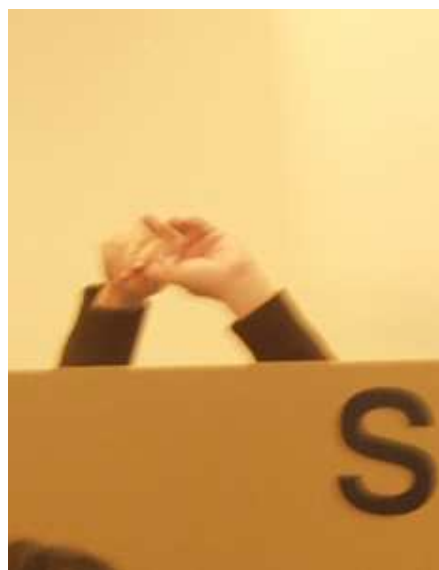
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Lin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	2♥	2♠
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

2NT was not a happy contract for Gold in the Open Room but Liu's ♣K lead did not exactly strike terror in his heart. He won the ace, then played the king, queen, and a third diamond to Huang's ace as Liu discarded a spade. Gold ducked the heart return and apparently resigned himself to the worst when Liu won the king and returned the suit. Gold could have made his contract via the spade finesse now but after cashing his good diamonds (and seeing Huang discard the ♠7 and ♠9) he simply led to the ♠A, threw Liu in with the ♣Q, and the defense cashed out for down one, -100. Nerves of steel, that Patrick.

In the Closed Room Lin ducked Verhees' ♥J lead to the king, won the heart return, played a spade to the queen, cashed the ♠A, and was happy to see the suit split 3-3 on the third round. Van Prooijen got out with a heart, ruffed by Lin, who then played diamonds from the top, Verhees winning the third round and getting out with a fourth heart. Lin ruffed, played a low club to the jack and queen, and finessed the ♣10 on the forced club return to make his contract; +140. Nicely done. 6 imps to Yeh Bros who regained the lead at 21-16.

Down Under added to their lead by defeating 4♠ and making 1NT to go up by 45-24.



"We are the champions... of the world."

Once again the BBO record ends with Board 28 so our report of the final two deals is based on JCBL's records, containing only final contracts and scores.

Bd: 29 North  
 Dlr: North ♠ Q4  
 Vul: Both ♥ Q10  
 ♦ Q1085  
 ♣ AK1076

West  
 ♠ A8  
 ♥ A87  
 ♦ A96  
 ♣ Q8542

East  
 ♠ K10753  
 ♥ KJ3  
 ♦ KJ4  
 ♣ 93

South  
 ♠ J962  
 ♥ 96542  
 ♦ 732  
 ♣ J

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi

No Auction or Play

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin

No Auction or Play

Here both tables reached 3NT from the West seat. Verhees in the Closed Room made nine tricks as one might expect (give up two spades to establish the long spade for the ninth trick, while taking both red-suit finesses) for +600, but Huang performed some sort of magic and emerged with a tenth trick for +630, and 1 implausible imp to Yeh Bros, now ahead 22-16.

Game is nothing to write home about, but Down Under bid it and made it, Papa & the Rabbits did not, and suddenly Down Under had a 23-7 near blitz. Roughly half the field bid and made game.

Bd: 30 North  
 Dlr: East ♠ Q  
 Vul: None ♥ KQJ7  
 ♦ J10986  
 ♣ QJ8

West  
 ♠ 96543  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ A542  
 ♣ 1063

East  
 ♠ KJ107  
 ♥ A62  
 ♦ Q3  
 ♣ 9752

South  
 ♠ A82  
 ♥ 109853  
 ♦ K7  
 ♣ AK4

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Huang	Gold	Liu	Bakhshi

No Auction or Play

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Verhees	Shih	v Prooijen	Lin

No Auction or Play

On the final board South declared 4♥ at both tables and apparently guessed the diamonds correctly to make eleven tricks for a push at +450. The match ended 22-16 in favor of Yeh Bros, 16-14 in VPs.

## Such a simple game



# Match Seven: Fairy Tale vs China Geely Auto

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 1  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ Q76  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ J1097642

West  
 ♠ A52  
 ♥ K952  
 ♦ Q1073  
 ♣ Q8

East  
 ♠ J10864  
 ♥ J843  
 ♦ 52  
 ♣ K3

South  
 ♠ KQ97  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ A9864  
 ♣ A5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

The bidding “accident” from the Closed Room got N/S to a game that could have been set had Dai led a heart — and shouldn’t a spade be the expected lead if the double calls for an unusual one? After the spade to the queen and ace Gui shifted to a diamond. Fu put in the jack and passed the ♣9. A heart return would have left declarer with a guess but on the diamond play Fu could set up diamonds without a guess and had +550. Since 3NT had made +460 on friendly defense that was just 3 imps to Fairy Tale, but these are the sort of imps that are doubly sweet, given how many might have been lost under different circumstances.

In our other match South treated his control rich 5-4 17-count as a 1NT opening (it looks closer to a 2NT bid to me) and was transferred to 3♣ for +130. That lost him 7 imps, which seems entirely just and reasonable when 3NT made +430 in the other room.

A quiet partscore followed in our featured match, but Shirogane overbid to as game on a finesse for the trump queen and needing to generate an extra trick

from two small facing AQ10x. Takano found the missing queen but the KJ lay offside in the critical suit and Beijing Trinergy had their 7 imps back.

Bd: 3  
 Dir: South  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ AJ107  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ K1082  
 ♣ Q82

West  
 ♠ K8  
 ♥ 964  
 ♦ Q976  
 ♣ KJ74

East  
 ♠ 9  
 ♥ AKQ10852  
 ♦ 43  
 ♣ 653

South  
 ♠ Q65432  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ AJ5  
 ♣ A109

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
Pass	3♦(1)	3♥	4♠

(1) Bergen: four spades, limit

One of the strengths of Precision is that facing a limited opening bid one can jump to game on almost anything in the 11-15 range, balanced or unbalanced, and let the opponents guess if you have values or just trumps. Here Ohara (which I had always thought of as being an Irish name) guessed wrong and went for 800 despite buying an apparently loaded dummy. This cost 8 imps against the 450 collected in more decorous fashion in the other room. This accident happened three other times around the room. I guess it’s just bad luck to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.



“Weapon? That’s no weapon but I do call it the “Equilizer’.”

Bd: 4  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: Both

North
♠ KQJ5
♥ J1062
♦ Q8
♣ A98

West
♠ 864
♥ A4
♦ 7643
♣ K1062

East
♠ 97
♥ Q98753
♦ K2
♣ Q74

South
♠ A1032
♥ K
♦ AJ1095
♣ J53

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Both tables played 4♠ but Yang received a trump lead from East and simply drew trumps, then set up diamonds, emerging with a twelfth trick from the heart ruffing finesse. Zhang received the lead of the ace and another heart, ducked a club immediately, pitching his second club loser when East won the ♣Q and played a third heart, and now needed the diamond finesse to even make his game. Perhaps the price of 2 imps was a small one to pay.

Only one pair varied the script here, going two down in 4♠. Let's charitably assume a revoke.

Bd: 5  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: N/S

North
♠ AKJ3
♥ 1065
♦ 943
♣ AK9

West
♠ 1075
♥ 82
♦ Q6
♣ Q87652

East
♠ Q9
♥ AKQ973
♦ KJ5
♣ J4

South
♠ 8642
♥ J4
♦ A10872
♣ 103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	1NT	2♦(1 MAJ)	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
	1NT	Dbl	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Both defenses got the point of the deal, which was to cash the four black-suit winners before playing a third club to promote a trump. Zhang led the ♣10 to facilitate the task, whereas Yang cashed two spades and played a diamond and South won to play a club through. One down is supposed to be good bridge and on this occasion it actually was.

That this was so can be demonstrated by the fact that 2♥ made at both tables of our other featured match, and at rather more than half the tables around the room.

The most excitement on this deal certainly came when East doubled 1NT for penalties and sat for it when redoubled. The first six tricks were easy to predict, but what should West discard? Hands up anyone who would not pitch a spade; remember, let he who is without sin cast the first stone. In real life Takahiro Kamiyo brought home 1NTxx for +760 and a moment to remember.

Bd: 6  
 Dir: East  
 Vul: E/W

North
♠ K932
♥ 7
♦ 97
♣ KQ10943

West
♠ AQJ108
♥ J1085
♦ KJ3
♣ 8

East
♠ ---
♥ AK964
♦ AQ1064
♣ AJ5

South
♠ 7654
♥ Q32
♦ 852
♣ 762

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
		1♣(STR)	Pass
1♠(1)	2♣	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT(DI)	Pass
6♥	Pass	7♥	All Pass

(1) Three controls



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
		1♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass

7♥ is just about with the odds here since you can pick up 4-0 trumps onside to give you about a 55% chance for the grand slam. But not today. There was an inevitable trump loser and China Geely Auto had 17 imps to lead 27-3. One must have sympathy with both East and West here — was it too much for East to expect the ♥Q opposite and didn't West have the extras he was being asked about? By contrast, the auction from the Closed Room looks a little abrupt, but maybe Dai had a train to catch.

Twelve tables attempted the grand slam and at none of them did South feel obliged to make the book lead of a trump. That's a relief, I guess.

Bd: 7	North
Dlr: South	♠ 942
Vul: Both	♥ A1054
	♦ J6
	♣ A942

West
♠ Q765
♥ Q72
♦ Q83
♣ 1053

East
♠ AK108
♥ 6
♦ K10752
♣ KQJ

South
♠ J3
♥ KJ983
♦ A94
♣ 876

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Things went from bad to worse for Fairy Tale when they had a quite reasonable auction to stay out of the 4♠ contract that is considerably worse than a finesse for the ♦J; bad trump or diamond breaks would doom you and even on repeated heart leads you have quite a lot of work (maybe too much) to do. But against 4♠

Fu led a trump and declarer was able to draw trumps and set up diamonds easily enough. 10 more imps and a 36-3 lead for China Geely Auto. Both tables played in partscores in our other match, while around the room game was defeated almost as often as it made.

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ 1086
Vul: None	♥ 97

♦ A1095
♣ AKQ3

West
♠ A743
♥ 102
♦ K843
♣ 984

East
♠ KJ52
♥ 654
♦ QJ
♣ J652

South
♠ Q9
♥ AKQJ83
♦ 762
♣ 107

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♦(♥)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(GF)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Zhang took a good view in my opinion to play 3NT and not 4♥ here (make partner's ♣Q the ♠J to see why). As it was it lost him an overtrick but it was an excellent investment. The deal was not quite flat around the room. At one table E/W committed themselves to 3♠ and N/S committed them to -800. Well done Dawei-Tajima. That'll teach them to try and screw with you.



"Someone's mask runneth over."

Bd: 9  
 Dlr: North  
 Vul: E/W

North  
 ♠ Q3  
 ♥ AQ842  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ 10832

West  
 ♠ A94  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ KQJ974  
 ♣ J94

East  
 ♠ K762  
 ♥ 9763  
 ♦ 632  
 ♣ A5

South  
 ♠ J1085  
 ♥ J105  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ KQ76

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♥
3♦	Pass	4♦	All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♥
3♦	All Pass		

Another 5 imps went to China Geely Auto when Ohara went chasing rainbows and ended up -100 in 4♦ while 3♦ was easy enough to bring home. East's decision to bid on may have been caused by the state of the match I suppose. As against that, for game to make (even if partner's ♥K and ♣J were switched) you'd need a very good hand opposite.

In our second match Yanhong as South for Beijing Trinergy responded 1♠ to 1♥, which looks strange but worked very well. When West came in with 2♦ that let him balance with 2♥ and no one else had anything to say (yes, where was East?). 2♥ made +110 which went well with 3♦ making +110 from the other room. Trinergy led 14-7 now.

Bd: 10  
 Dlr: East  
 Vul: Both

North  
 ♠ A9  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ AKQ8643  
 ♣ Q82

West  
 ♠ J84  
 ♥ K965  
 ♦ 109  
 ♣ AJ73

East  
 ♠ Q5  
 ♥ AQJ1042  
 ♦ J7  
 ♣ 1095

South  
 ♠ K107632  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ 52  
 ♣ K64

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
		2♥	Pass
3♥	4♦	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
		1♥	Pass
3♣(1)	3♦	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Dbl	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

The best defense to 4♠ with the sight of all four hands is easy to find: two rounds of hearts locks declarer in dummy and it may be hard to escape for down one. Ohara shifted to the ♣10 at trick 2 and now when West took the ace the hand was over. Another 13 imps sank into the China coffers and the situation was getting desperate for Fairy Tale, down 55-3.

Both tables in Shirogane-Trinergy played 4♥ down two. 4♠ was, however, allowed to make at about one of every three tables. It is strange how difficult it is to find the winning defense here.

Bd: 11  
 Dlr: South  
 Vul: None

North  
 ♠ 106  
 ♥ J9  
 ♦ K10652  
 ♣ Q1042

West  
 ♠ KQ95  
 ♥ K106  
 ♦ AQ4  
 ♣ 865

East  
 ♠ J7  
 ♥ 87532  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ AJ97

South  
 ♠ A8432  
 ♥ AQ4  
 ♦ 973  
 ♣ K3

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
			1NT
Dbl	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
			1♠
1NT	All Pass		

Gui's hungry 1NT bid did not rebound on him when

East had enough to help his partner out in 1NT but not enough to take him too high. On the ♠10 lead Gui took three spade tricks, two diamonds and one trick in each of the other suits.

2♥ looked a somewhat delicate spot with five top losers and work to do. The defenders led a diamond to the king and shifted to a club. So far so good, in that if South was allowed to win the club he could shift to spades and threaten a trump promotion. But North chose the ♣Q, playing for the kibitzers and BBO perhaps. When Ohara won the ♣A Zhuang unblocked the king, and all of a sudden we had a suit that would play for no losers. Plus 140 meant 2imps for Fairy Tale.

An overtrick in a quiet 3NT contract gave Fairy Tale 1 more imp; down 55-6. Then came an opportunity for elegant play and defense

Bd: 13      North  
 Dlr: North    ♠ KJ4  
 Vul: Both    ♥ Q  
               ♦ KJ9853  
               ♣ A103

West  
 ♠ AQ9532  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ AQ74  
 ♣ 74

East  
 ♠ 87  
 ♥ 109432  
 ♦ 62  
 ♣ KJ86

South  
 ♠ 106  
 ♥ KJ8765  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ Q952

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Okuno</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Ohara</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dbl.	2♦	Pass	2♥
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gui</i>	<i>Fu</i>	<i>Dai</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	2♥
2♠	All Pass		

Both tables played 2♠ on the singleton heart lead from North and both declarers guessed clubs — but only one made his contract. While Okuno lost three diamonds, two spades and a club, Gui won the heart lead, led a club to the king, and then played ace and another spade. Fu as North cashed his long spade and exited with ace and another club but Gui simply ruffed and led a low diamond from hand to South. That player led another club and declarer ruffed and

led another small diamond to endplay Fu to lead into the diamond tenace. It was 61-6 now. That ended the scoring for the match, a 25-2 win for China Geely Auto.

In our other match Ju Chuangcheng for Beijing Trinergy did something similar: He won the heart lead and led a club to the king and a club to North's ten. When North played a third club he pitched his small diamond, leaving North on lead to open up diamonds or spades for declarer's eighth trick. 2♠ made around the room about half the time it was played.

Bd: 14      North  
 Dlr: East    ♠ A6  
 Vul: None    ♥ J53  
               ♦ AJ43  
               ♣ AJ53

West  
 ♠ 843  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ KQ86  
 ♣ 109862

East  
 ♠ QJ72  
 ♥ KQ1072  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ 74

South  
 ♠ K1095  
 ♥ A984  
 ♦ 972  
 ♣ KQ

The last board of our match featured what might look like a dull 3NT; indeed it made exactly or with overtricks at 45 of the 46 tables in play. But at the 46<sup>th</sup> table Shi Zhengjun opened 2♦ to show the majors as East. Ju bid 2♠ and North doubled, for take-out. Now what should North do? The winning action is to pass; trump leads hold declarer to maybe three tricks. Takano bid 2NT, maybe intending it as natural, and when Shirogane bid 3♣, corrected to 3♦. That drifted down one and Beijing Trinergy had a 19-11 win.



My Favorite Martin

# Match Eight: NEDUK vs Down Under

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 17  
Dlr: North  
Vul: None

North  
♠ AQ104  
♥ K1032  
♦ QJ5  
♣ Q3

West  
♠ 965  
♥ 8654  
♦ A762  
♣ 54

East  
♠ 872  
♥ Q9  
♦ 43  
♣ AKJ1072

South  
♠ KJ3  
♥ AJ7  
♦ K1098  
♣ 986

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

The 14-17 notrump did not show to best effect here. Both Norths conceded the first seven tricks to their opponents' minor-suit winners and muttered something philosophical about omelets and eggs. More interesting would be whether N/S can come to ten tricks in any of their seven-card fits.

In our secondary match, China Women 2 vs ONI-TAKA, one table played 3NT for -150 but Ino-Teramoto played 3♦ and took the club ruff in the short hand. West had no clubs left to force declarer so Ino emerged with +130 and 7 imps.

Three tables made 3NT (once on the ♣J lead, once on the ♣A lead and a shift to a spade followed by less than optimal defense, and once from the South seat after a heart lead and a duck of the ♦A). 4♠ was played successfully three times. Minus 50 for E/W was approximately the datum score here.

Bd: 18  
Dlr: East  
Vul: N/S

North  
♠ ---  
♥ KQ932  
♦ AK72  
♣ J986

West  
♠ AKJ9876  
♥ A  
♦ J1064  
♣ K

East  
♠ 10  
♥ J76  
♦ 9853  
♣ AQ743

South  
♠ Q5432  
♥ 10854  
♦ Q  
♣ 1052

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
		Pass	Pass
4♠	Dbl	All Pass	

It looks normal enough, if unsuccessful, to open the West hand 4♠ at favorable vulnerability, to make life hard for your opponents. Sure, you might miss a slam but so many things could go wrong that if you allowed for them all you'd never leave the house.

Both defenses took their three top tricks and a ruff. In the ONI-TAKA-China Women 2 match 4♠ was played undoubled down one to give ONI-TAKA a 9-0 lead.

As you'd expect, a board like this was bound to throw up outlying results. Two tables played 4♥ for +620 (par on the hand is to defeat 4♥ by a trick or two) while successful doubled spade contracts were recorded at the two-, three- and four levels.

Bd: 19  
Dlr: South  
Vul: E/W

North  
♠ 654  
♥ KQJ3  
♦ J6  
♣ 8754

West  
♠ AJ2  
♥ 109  
♦ A1095  
♣ QJ96

East  
♠ Q1073  
♥ A75  
♦ KQ72  
♣ A2

South  
♠ K98  
♥ 8642  
♦ 843  
♣ K103

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
			Pass
1♦	1♥	Dbl	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

The two auctions may not appear to come from the

same deal, but no great excitement resulted when 5♦ came in on one of two finesses while 3NT came down to needing a heart split or the spade finesse. An imp to Down Under.

Only three tables varied the script, going minus in 6♦, 4♠, and 3NT. Again you'd probably rather not know how that happened — you have to sleep tonight, after all and we don't want to keep you awake with nightmares.

Bd: 20            North  
 Dlr: West       ♠ Q4  
 Vul: Both       ♥ 10862  
                    ♦ KJ973  
                    ♣ 97

West  
 ♠ K7  
 ♥ AKQ7  
 ♦ Q652  
 ♣ K54

East  
 ♠ 10632  
 ♥ 954  
 ♦ A84  
 ♣ J63

South  
 ♠ AJ985  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ AQ1082

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♣

2NT    All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠(1)

All Pass

(1) Spades and a minor

The weak notrump left Hans-Nunn in a silly contract when Hans was obliged to bid again after intervention. The club lead set up the defender's suit and declarer scored just his ♠K and his five plain winners.

Equally, 2♠ in the other room was no fun at all. Verhees cashed two hearts, shifted to diamonds and a third heart back started the force on declarer. Newell eventually lost his four plain-suit losers and two trump tricks and it was 7-12 to NEDUK.

In our second match Ping was able to overcall 1♠ as South and buy it there for +80 while 2♠ went two down in the other room. ONI-TAKA led 10-7 now.

Bd: 21            North  
 Dlr: North       ♠ A7532  
 Vul: N/S         ♥ AJ82  
                    ♦ Q7  
                    ♣ A9

West  
 ♠ KJ1086  
 ♥ Q3  
 ♦ AK94  
 ♣ Q6

East  
 ♠ Q  
 ♥ K954  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ KJ85432

South  
 ♠ 94  
 ♥ 1076  
 ♦ J86532  
 ♣ 107

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	1♠	4♣	All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
	1♣(STR)	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♦

David Gold judged very well to let 4♣ go; his club ace suggested that his partner did not have a trump stack but you can easily imagine a hand with six hearts to the king queen and a singleton spade making 4♥ cold his way. The defenders took their three aces against 4♣, but that was all. It was still worth 2 imps since 3♦ went down 200, losing three trumps and a trick in each of the other suits. 3NT was bid and made by nearly half the E/W field so both these results were better than par for N/S — but NEDUK had the imps and led 9-1.

With penalties all over the place, the largest number went to China Geely Auto who got 800 from 4♦x.

Bd: 22            North  
 Dlr: East       ♠ J10983  
 Vul: E/W       ♥ ---  
                    ♦ 92  
                    ♣ AQJ1072

West  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ Q98  
 ♦ AQJ76  
 ♣ K943

East  
 ♠ AKQ4  
 ♥ KJ1073  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ 86

South  
 ♠ 762  
 ♥ A6542  
 ♦ K1084  
 ♣ 5

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♦	2♥	Pass	2♠
4♥	All Pass		

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
2♦	3♣	1♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	3♥(1)	Pass
All Pass		Pass	Dbl
(1) Canape			

Both defenses led and continued clubs against 4♥. East had to ruff in and South got to discard his second spade. At this point it was understandable if inferior for Nunn to play a trump; but van Prooijen really should have known better; what else could the double be but five trumps? Just finesse in diamonds, cash the ♠A and then merrily cross-ruff till the cows come home and all South gets is his one trump trick. Both declarers recorded one down disconsolately, and Down Under had 3 imps to trail 9-4.

For ONI-TAKA Ino-Teramoto played 4♠x down 500 and Hirata also went down in 4♥ to put China Women 2 in front 22-10. A quarter of the field made 4♥ many doubled, and another quarter collected penalties ranging up to 1100 from 6♣x. Grant Baze's motto "Six-five come alive" has a lot to answer for.

Bd: 23	North
Dlr: South	♠ AKQ873
Vul: Both	♥ A53
	♦ 62
	♣ A4

West
♠ 9
♥ 1097
♦ KQ53
♣ Q9762

East
♠ J65
♥ QJ
♦ AJ87
♣ K1085

South
♠ 1042
♥ K8642
♦ 1094
♣ J3

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
Pass	1♣(STR)	Pass	1♦(WK)
Pass	1♥(v.STR)	Pass	1♠(v. WK)
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

4♠ is a horrible contract on anything but a major-suit lead. Alas for Down Under, Hans had been dealt a hand where neither minor-suit was at all attractive. He led a top heart and declarer drew trump and claimed when hearts behaved. That meant that the restrained 2♥ contract reached by Reid was

rewarded in theory but not in practice. Virtue is its own reward, they say, but frankly I'd rather have the imps today and the infernal punishment tomorrow.

ONI-TAKA recorded virtually the same pick-up as NEDUK, playing 4♠ on a trump lead here and defending 2♠. It was 22-20 now for China Women 2.

More than 50% of the field bid and made game here, the solitary minus score for N/S coming when Ohara for Fairy Tale led a club against 4♠. Well done.

Bd: 25	North
Dlr: North	♠ 92
Vul: E/W	♥ KQ109732
	♦ A7
	♣ 104

West
♠ K5
♥ 8
♦ 6542
♣ AQJ975

East
♠ AQ10843
♥ 4
♦ QJ83
♣ 83

South
♠ J76
♥ AJ65
♦ K109
♣ K62

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Dbl	4♥	4♠	5♥

All Pass

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
5♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

A huge swing came when Newell's undisciplined 6♥ bid turned a small plus into a large minus. He was playing partner for the perfect hand with spade shortage, of course, but we all know that never happens — don't we?! While 5♥x escaped for down one on a top diamond lead, 6♥x cost 500 and another 9 imps went into NEDUK's coffers. In China-ONI-TAKA neither East risked a 4♠ bid — and can you blame them? Hirata led a club, Wenfei a disastrous but normal ♦Q to concede +420 and 10 imps. ONI-TAKA led 30-22.

4♥ making 420 was the most common result so all credit to Hirata here.

Bd: 26	North
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Dlr: East ♠ J74  
 Vul: Both ♥ 862  
 ♦ QJ8754  
 ♣ 2

West  
 ♠ A52  
 ♥ 1073  
 ♦ AK6  
 ♣ 10873

East  
 ♠ 10963  
 ♥ K54  
 ♦ 932  
 ♣ KQ9

South  
 ♠ KQ8  
 ♥ AQJ9  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ AJ654

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
All Pass		Pass	1♥

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Reid</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Newell</i>
Pass	1♦(WK)	Pass	1♣(STR)
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

The natural auction got Bakhshi to a comfortably low spot. On a trump lead he managed an impressive +170 but it was only worth an imp since 3♦, reached after South could not show his hand pattern following the strong club opening, also handled well, losing two trumps and an ace. The favorable lie of the cards meant almost everyone made what they bid.

Bd: 27 North  
 Dlr: South ♠ A872  
 Vul: None ♥ J1083  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ AKJ3

West  
 ♠ 53  
 ♥ Q64  
 ♦ AKQJ962  
 ♣ 7

East  
 ♠ KQ106  
 ♥ 52  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ 108542

South  
 ♠ J94  
 ♥ AK97  
 ♦ 1043  
 ♣ Q96

Open Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1♦	Dbl	1♠	Dbl
2♦	Dbl	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

We lose the action from the Closed Room from here

on in, so all we know is that E/W played 4♦ down one. Meanwhile 4♥ by Gold on a diamond lead and spade switch handled pretty well. Gold ducked, the key decision, ruffed the next diamond, and passed the ♥10. West could win but could not prevent declarer from ruffing a third diamond in hand and pitching dummy's spade on the long club. The NEDUK lead was up to 32 imps now.

In China Women 2-ONI-TAKA the two results probably don't bear repeating but we focus on all the news that's fit to print — and then some. After a club lead 4♥ went down when played by North in one room while in the other room West was allowed to play 3NT down 150 for a total of 5 imps to ONI-TAKA, up 36-22 now.

4♥ was bid and made about a quarter of the time, while it went down rather less frequently.

Bd: 28 North  
 Dlr: West ♠ A74  
 Vul: N/S ♥ AKQ  
 ♦ AQ  
 ♣ AK964

West  
 ♠ Q865  
 ♥ J6  
 ♦ 109864  
 ♣ Q7

East  
 ♠ KJ932  
 ♥ 10972  
 ♦ K53  
 ♣ J

South  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ 8543  
 ♦ J72  
 ♣ 108532

How are you supposed to reach 6♣ here under your own steam? I don't think you are. North can show a balanced game-force, using the invention of our esteemed editor emeritus Eric Kokish. But even then you can't sensibly advance beyond 3NT as South. The secret is to open a strong club and have the opponents bid and raise spades. When North doubles for take-out and finds a real club suit opposite he can just take a shot at 6♣, a far better spot than 3NT today although both make. Wu and Ping for China Women 2 and Newell-Reid for Down Under both had the right tools at their disposal and both recorded 12-imp pick-ups. Only five pairs bid the slam.



"Maybe you should try boxing instead of Tai chi."

Bd: 29  
Dir: North  
Vul: Both

North  
♠ AKJ2  
♥ 9632  
♦ J8  
♣ AJ5

West  
♠ 86  
♥ 84  
♦ AQ104  
♣ K10843

East  
♠ Q109  
♥ AK7  
♦ 97653  
♣ 92

South  
♠ 7543  
♥ QJ105  
♦ K2  
♣ Q76

David Gold had learned his lesson from the first deal of the set and opened 1♣ instead of 1♥, thus getting to the heart partscore and not playing 1NT. Mind you, 2♥ was not exactly straightforward on a spade lead. The best line is to play trump, but East can win and shift to a diamond for a second spade through dummy's tenace. After that start the defenders have the upper hand. However, when West was in with the first diamond winner he shifted to the ♣10, the best way to get your name in the bulletin when partner has ♣Qx but not today. That meant a pick-up of 7imps for NEDUK, since Reid's 1NT went down two on a diamond lead. The match ended 44-17.

ONI-TAKA picked up the same swing to edge out a 16-14 win in VPs. That meant the Women were edged into second place with a day of qualifying to go.

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## A Director's job is never done



"Not now honey, I'm busy!"



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

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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)	
	18:35-20:50	NEC Cup Final (4)	
	10:00-17:00	Yokohama Swiss Teams	501, 502
Sunday (Feb. 12)	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

