



NEC Bridge Festival

Friday, February 10, 2012
Bulletin Number 4

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

China Geely Auto Tops Qualifiers for 2012 NEC Cup

At the end of Day 3 China Geely Auto (Gui Shengyue, Zhang Banxiang, Yang Lixin, Dai Jianming, Zhuang Zejun) stood atop the list of qualifiers with 220 VPs. In second place, just 2 VPs back with 218, was ONI-TAKA (Masayuki Ino, Takahiko Hirata, Masaaki Takayama, Kazuhiko Yamada, Takeshi Niekawa, Tadashi Teramoto). In third place with 214 VPs was Bulgarian All Stars (Valio Kovachev, Vladi Isporski, Manol Iliev, Hristo Hristov) while tied for fourth place, with 213 VPs, were China Women 2 (Wang Wenfei, Wang Ping, Wang Liping, Wu Shaohong) and NEDUK (David Bakhshi, David Gold, Louk Verhees, Ricco van Prooijen). The two Aussie teams, Oz Players (Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson) and Down Under (Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Martin Reid, Peter Newell), qualified sixth with 209 VPs and eighth with 200 VPs, respectively. And Stamatov (Julian Stefanov, Vladimir Mihov, Jerry Stamatov, Diyan Danailov), qualified seventh with 206 VPs. Notable non-qualifiers Hackett, Yeh Bros, Beijing Trinergy and China Women 1 were all within 10 VPs of the finish line. Below are the complete final rankings; individual match results for Matches 9-12 are on page 5.

NEC Cup: Final Standings (Twelve Matches)

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	China Geely Auto	220	17	PYON	182	32	LAS FLORES	169
2	ONI-TAKA	218	18	TAJIMA	181	33	Pretty Cats	167
3	Bulgarian All Stars	214	19-20	England Ladies	180	34-35	Iza Yokohama III	165
4-5	China Women 2	213	19-20	Jiuzhaigou	180	34-35	Oriental Angels	165
4-5	NEDUK	213	21	ashley6	179	36	JAPAN Senior	164
6	Oz Players	209	22	ESPERANZA	178	37	KANDM	161
7	Stamatov	206	23-24	Papa & the Rabbits	176	38	Blue Hawaii	159
8	Down Under	200	23-24	Aka Maru	176	39-40	Korea-Alpha	157
9-10	Syabas Indonesia	197	25	Kachofugetsu	175	39-40	Korea-Hammer	157
9-10	Beijing Trinergy	197	26-27	SKOTII	174	41	Friends	154
11	China Women 1	196	26-27	Fairy Tale	174	42	Goisagi	149
12-13	TANAKA	195	28	Abe Chan	173	43	Setsugekka	142
12-13	Strawberry Fields	195	29-30	NANIWADA	172	44	KATSUMATA	141
14	Yeh Bros	193	29-30	Con Brio	172	45	Yukihinata	136
15	Hackett	191	31	SHIROGANE	171	46	JAPAN Youth	112
16	YOKOI	189						

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 Geely Auto vs Down Under
and ONI-TAKA vs China Women 2**

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

Wednesday's Match Results

Team #	Match 9				Match 10				Match 11				Match 12			
	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP	Vs	imps	VP	C-VP
1	16	51	22	173	12	26	12	185	3	16	9	194	8	37	19	213
2	12	1	0	142	17	25	15	157	14	32	19	176	20	39	15	191
3	10	49	21	166	9	25	13	179	4	42	21	200	5	18	14	214
4	23	54	23	148	21	43	24	172	9	27	18	190	11	12	16	206
5	6	24	11	148	24	46	25	172	7	29	21	193	3	21	16	209
6	5	41	19	156	11	23	10	167	13	16	11	178	23	38	22	200
7	13	40	19	151	16	7	4	155	16	18	11	166	19	15	14	180
8	19	63	25	150	20	25	16	166	12	48	20	186	1	19	11	197
9	11	36	13	160	3	33	17	177	6	6	2	179	13	19	14	193
10	3	23	9	147	26	63	25	172	8	4	9	181	27	4	15	196
11	9	45	17	165	6	42	20	185	21	5	14	199	4	8	14	213
12	2	73	25	170	1	37	18	188	1	20	16	204	16	14	16	220
13	7	25	11	146	39	57	25	171	11	26	10	181	9	25	16	197
14	22	31	8	107	46	61	24	131	43	31	20	151	38	6	6	157
15	36	38	17	118	44	24	16	134	37	15	11	145	46	30	12	157
16	1	24	8	154	7	52	25	179	5	65	25	204	12	9	14	218
17	21	31	11	137	2	23	15	152	19	21	11	163	34	23	18	181
18	38	34	16	126	33	32	16	142	2	78	11	153	25	7	11	164
19	8	17	4	127	25	41	19	146	23	31	16	162	7	19	16	178
20	45	72	25	148	8	19	14	162	10	16	12	174	2	37	15	189
21	17	49	19	145	4	6	6	151	21	26	7	158	22	28	21	179
22	14	61	22	124	38	50	20	144	25	30	14	158	21	5	9	167
23	4	22	7	130	32	51	25	155	15	34	19	174	6	8	8	182
24	29	55	21	150	5	7	5	155	18	7	2	157	44	46	23	180
25	37	41	16	127	19	26	11	138	33	45	16	154	18	24	19	173
26	34	49	22	140	10	23	5	145	24	26	14	159	39	22	15	174
27	33	47	21	136	29	30	19	155	17	65	25	180	10	4	15	195
28	44	16	9	96	35	21	11	107	44	11	10	117	41	55	24	141
29	24	32	9	136	27	13	11	147	22	58	23	170	43	0	5	175
30	40	22	6	93	31	12	13	106	46	54	25	131	35	7	11	142
31	46	55	22	111	30	22	17	128	38	33	19	147	37	29	12	159
32	43	47	19	134	23	6	4	138	31	19	9	147	36	47	22	169
33	27	22	9	125	18	26	14	139	30	30	12	151	40	54	25	176
34	26	19	8	126	42	32	15	141	28	25	19	160	17	12	12	172
35	39	5	2	113	28	38	19	132	39	25	14	146	30	22	19	165
36	15	29	13	104	41	38	21	125	40	29	16	141	32	18	8	149
37	25	35	14	128	43	11	7	135	35	28	12	147	31	43	18	165
38	18	27	14	124	22	28	10	134	36	39	18	152	14	42	24	176
39	35	60	25	139	13	12	4	143	26	35	16	159	26	24	15	174
40	30	58	24	119	45	47	17	136	34	40	14	150	33	9	4	154
41	42	13	14	118	36	13	9	127	45	3	3	130	28	19	6	136
42	41	18	16	124	34	31	15	139	29	42	18	157	45	22	15	172
43	32	29	11	128	37	44	23	151	20	39	19	170	29	39	25	195
44	28	42	21	118	15	17	14	132	41	65	22	154	24	14	7	161
45	20	13	2	122	40	37	13	135	32	44	21	156	42	24	15	171
46	31	27	8	80	14	25	6	86	42	37	8	94	15	41	18	112

C-VP=Cumulative VPs

Notice from the JCBL

The 2012 NEC Bridge Festival proudly announces
A MIND SPORTS event: Open to the Public

When? Friday and Saturday, February 10-11 from 11:00 to 16:30

Where? Room 503

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

1. Play MIND SPORTS

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

Program:

- 1) BRIDGE: Mini Bridge lessons will be offered. Open for everyone.
- 2) GO
- 3) CHESS
- 4) DRAUGHTS/CHECKERS
- 5) XIANGQI (Chinese Chess)



* Anyone who tries all of the above games will be entered in a lottery for a chance at more souvenirs.

2. SPECIAL GAMES FOR CONTRACT BRIDGE BEGINNERS

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

February 10-11 from 13:00 to 16:30 in Room 503

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

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



The 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 Nine: Bulgarian All Stars vs China Women 1

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 1
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 10865
 ♥ A1096
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A873

West
 ♠ AQ4
 ♥ 84
 ♦ A843
 ♣ KJ104

East
 ♠ K972
 ♥ KJ53
 ♦ K765
 ♣ 6

South
 ♠ J3
 ♥ Q72
 ♦ QJ109
 ♣ Q952

Bd: 2
 Dlr: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ J1082
 ♥ AK1075
 ♦ Q95
 ♣ 4

West
 ♠ K53
 ♥ 984
 ♦ K
 ♣ A107532

East
 ♠ 4
 ♥ QJ2
 ♦ AJ10763
 ♣ Q98

South
 ♠ AQ976
 ♥ 63
 ♦ 842
 ♣ KJ6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	1♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

A quiet deal to start with. Iliev ducked the lead of the ♥9 altogether and Lu continued with a low heart (yes the ♥10 might have been better). Declarer ducked this too, then ducked the shift to the ♦Q. Eventually he set up a heart and threw North in with the fourth spade in a two-card ending to lead away from the ♣A. That meant three spades, two diamonds and one trick in the other suits for +90.

The Open Room played 1♠ on a diamond lead to the ace. Declarer guessed clubs but not hearts and ended up with two diamonds, one trick each in hearts and clubs, and four trump tricks for +90. First blood, if only a droplet, to China Women.

Both tables in the Australian internecine struggle (Oz Players vs Down Under) played 3NT. Each West received a helpful lead (Thompson a spade and Newell a club). With two diamond tricks, two club tricks and four spade tricks all either table needed was a good heart guess. Neither managed it and each N/S recorded +50 and a sigh of relief.

Five tables managed to bring home a game, four tables made 3NT and van Prooijen-Verhees brought home 4♠.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1NT	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
2♣	Pass	2♦(R)	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass

The 4♠ contract reached by Kovachev is easy to defeat with the sight of all 52 cards; as far as I know nobody actually managed to overtake the ♦K to give their partner a ruff. One would need *very* good eyesight to make that play. After the ♦K held Sun played a heart. Declarer won, finessed in clubs, then won the heart return and ruffed a heart. When the suit split he cashed the ace and played another spade with two discards coming for his diamond losers. That was +790 and 12 imps when 3♦ drifted down two, losing two hearts and a ruff and one trick in each of the other suits.

In the Australian match Klinger played 4♠ along recommended lines; but Nunn in 4♠x got a diamond lead and trump shift. He won cheaply in hand, ruffed out the hearts rather than taking the club finesse, then exited with the ♣K to West. Back came a low club. He ruffed in dummy, played a spade to the ace, and now could ruff a club but had lost his last entry to dummy. West could ruff the fourth heart and leave declarer with a losing diamond. Down one, 13 imps for Oz Players.

4♠ was attempted at somewhat fewer than half the tables and generally was brought home. Just for the

record, the deal was passed out at one table — well, we thought it was interesting.

Bd: 3	North		
Dlr: South	♠ A1062		
Vul: E/W	♥ ---		
	♦ 107643		
	♣ K932		
West		East	
♠ KJ53		♠ 97	
♥ 108532		♥ AJ6	
♦ Q2		♦ AKJ8	
♣ 85		♣ AQ104	
	South		
	♠ Q84		
	♥ KQ974		
	♦ 95		
	♣ J76		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)	1♥
Dbl	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)	1♥
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Gu's lead of the ♥Q did not paralyze declarer, who went after hearts. Gu won the second round and shifted to clubs, letting declarer guess spades (North ducking the ♠J) to emerge with one spade, four diamonds, three hearts and an endplay on Gu for a third club trick.

In the other room Kovachev's low diamond lead gave declarer an immediate problem. She won the queen, played a club to the ten, won the diamond return in hand, and led a spade to the eight, jack and two. When declarer repeated the club finesse and cashed the diamond winners she had seven tricks in the bag and the ♥A made eight. But when she played a second spade Kovachev unblocked the queen and North was waiting with spade, club and diamond winners to defeat the game.

For Down Under Sartaj Hans found the "automatic" 1♠ opener as North but his opponents still reached 3NT. On the low spade lead declarer played low from the board and Tony Nunn put in the eight (nicely done). Declarer played a heart up as North pitched

a diamond (gulp!). Then a diamond to hand and a club to the ten saw South win, cash his heart winners, and play the ♠Q for +200. Very nicely done.

In the other room Mullamphy as North also found an opening bid as North, choosing a pusillanimous 1♦ so now Klinger led a diamond against 3NT. Declarer won in hand and played the ♥A, ♥J. When Klinger ducked and won the next heart Mullamphy discarded diamonds and suggested a club shift. South led a club into the ace-queen for declarer to win and cash his three remaining diamonds. When he guessed spades he had his nine tricks and 13imps to level the match.

Two third of the field played 3NT; half made it, half went down. Kudos to the handful of declarers who managed to bring home 4♥ on a good spade guess and rather more besides.

Bd: 4	North
Dlr: West	♠ AJ63
Vul: Both	♥ 964
	♦ AQJ1042
	♣ ---

West	East
♠ 92	♠ K108
♥ A10	♥ QJ8752
♦ 753	♦ 96
♣ AQJ1095	♣ 87
	South
	♠ Q754
	♥ K3
	♦ K8
	♣ K6432

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
2♣	2♦	2♥	Dbl
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
2♣	2♦	2♥	Dbl
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both tables declared 4♠ on a top club lead by East. Both Norths ruffed the first trick. But Lu crossed to the ♦K to take a spade finesse and a second club back left her in poor shape. She ruffed, cashed the ♠A and tried to use the ♥K as her entry to dummy to draw trumps. But West won and returned the ♥10, then when left on lead by East played a diamond. Declarer won and led another diamond but East could ruff in and leave declarer locked in dummy for down two.

Isporski won the opening lead and played the ♠A, then ♠J, not caring if he lost a trump to West since in that case the heart finesse would be working. Hongli won the ♠K and shifted to the ♥Q, ducked, then another heart to the ace. Isporski ruffed the ♣A, crossed to the ♦K to draw the trump and claimed ten tricks for another 13 imps. It was 38-1 now.

Those interested in seeing blood all over the carpet should read on; those of you with delicate hearts or stomachs should look away till I tell you it's safe. In our Australian slugfest Hans played 4♠ as North when West had shown clubs and an opener and East had passed throughout. He ruffed the lead and, deciding to play West for a singleton spade, ran diamonds at once, pitching hearts from the board. West ruffed the fourth and played back a heart for declarer to ruff in dummy. A spade to the ace would still have left declarer in charge but he went after a crossruff and West could overruff dummy on the third heart and East had two trump tricks left. Down 200 — and lose how many imps?

Things at the other table were somewhat different. Newell opened 3♣ (8-12), Mullamphy bid 3♦, and Klinger closed proceedings with 3NT. Newell led out ace and another club, ducked, then a third club on which East pitched a heart, leaving declarer needing the spade finesse for his contract. When he finessed East won and played back a low heart. Declarer rose with the king, of course, and the defense cashed out. Down seven. Did we hear West berating East for pitching a heart, not a diamond, on the third club — or it would have been down 800? No we didn't.

Surprisingly, no one else duplicated this result. Twelve pairs went down in one game or another, twice as many collected 600 or better.

Bd: 5
 Dlr: North
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ 987
	♥ 976
	♦ 10986
	♣ K87

West	♠ J1065
	♥ 85
	♦ K5
	♣ AQ652

East	♠ AQ32
	♥ QJ43
	♦ A743
	♣ J

South	♠ K4
	♥ AK102
	♦ QJ2
	♣ 10943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣(SPL)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both tables declared 4♠, Sun on the friendly club lead, Iliev on a low heart lead. Sun won the ♣J, crossed to a diamond to lead a heart up, and then ruffed a diamond to make a second heart play. With all the critical suits not offering the defenders a chance of an over-ruff declarer could cross-ruff happily for ten tricks.

In the other room the heart lead let South win cheaply and shift to a club, but declarer went up with the ace and played hearts again. The cross-ruff yielded ten tricks here, too, since there was no entry to the North hand for a trump play.

Both tables went down in game here in the Australian match. Thompson in 3NT as West on a diamond lead, down two, Newell in 4♠ on the trump lead. It appears that you have very little chance after that start but in fact game was brought home on the spade lead twice. Well done Susan Stockdale and Robert Geller.

Bd: 6
 Dlr: East
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ K107
	♥ Q4
	♦ Q953
	♣ KQ86

West	♠ J963	East	♠ 85
	♥ A85		♥ K2
	♦ AK1082		♦ J6
	♣ 2		♣ AJ107543

South	♠ AQ42
	♥ J109763
	♦ 74
	♣ 9

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
		3♣	All Pass

Both tables played 3♣ on the lead of the ♥J. Hristov won in dummy to lead a club to the ten, then cashed the ♣A and claimed nine tricks. Hongli won the ♥A and played a club to the ace and a second club, then in desperation took the diamond finesse and went down two. I wonder whether a better approach than either of these is to win the ♥K and play three rounds of diamonds, planning to ruff low unless North follows with the nine on the third round when you pitch a spade. This way you can always take your decision in clubs later and might be able to single in your trumps on any normal lie of the cards, to negotiate bad trump breaks.

If you are going to play trumps at once, then low to the ten picks up three singletons in South, low to the ace only two. The 7 imps here made it 45-1.

About half the E/W pairs went minus here but quite a few were in higher contracts than 3♣. Martin Reid also went down two by duplicating Hongli's line.

Bd: 7 North
 Dlr: South ♠ QJ8743
 Vul: Both ♥ 5
 ♦ J9842
 ♣ 6

West
 ♠ ---
 ♥ AQ764
 ♦ AQ105
 ♣ J974

East
 ♠ A1092
 ♥ K92
 ♦ K3
 ♣ K1082

South
 ♠ K65
 ♥ J1083
 ♦ 76
 ♣ AQ53

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♥	Pass	2NT(♥)	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
1♥	2♠	Dbl	3♠
Dbl	All Pass		

A blood-thirsty decision by Hristov to pass out 3♠x instead of bidding 4♥ backfired here. He led a heart and the defenders continued the suit. Declarer ruffed, ducked a diamond to West, ruffed the next heart and ducked another diamond, West overtaking the king to play a fourth heart. Declarer ruffed high and East pitched a club, and now Lu cross-ruffed,

losing two further trump tricks at the end for -200.

The bad trump break did not bother Sun in 4♥. She ruffed the opening spade lead and played the ♥K, then the ♥A, and went after clubs. Kovachev won the ♣Q and played a top heart, then won the ♣A to lead another heart. But declarer had ten tricks. Only the singleton club lead sets the game. I suppose there is a case for it but it is easier to make that case with 20-20 hindsight.

For Down Under, Reid played 3NT as East on a diamond lead and went after clubs for his nine tricks. The defenders could play on spades but could not set up the suit and reach the winners. In the other room Hans sacrificed in 4♠ over 4♥ and got out for 500 and a 3-imp gain. Down Under led 30-11.

The datum score was +200 for E/W. A surprising percentage of the field got far too high on the E/W cards or went down in game.

Bd: 8 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 94
 Vul: None ♥ KJ975
 ♦ ---
 ♣ KQJ974

West
 ♠ KQ763
 ♥ A6
 ♦ KQJ10
 ♣ 86

East
 ♠ 852
 ♥ Q83
 ♦ 8543
 ♣ A102

South
 ♠ AJ10
 ♥ 1042
 ♦ A9762
 ♣ 53

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♠	2♠(1)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Michaels

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
1♠	2♠(1)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Michaels

4♥ is a trifle awkward to play on a diamond lead. Assuming you win in hand and pitch a spade, you'd better lead a heart to the king at trick two. If you take the finesse of the jack the defenders can tap you at every turn. While you can still technically survive by

playing on clubs to let West ruff in with his bare ♠A, it is a lot simpler to win the ♥K at trick two, then duck a heart, ruff a diamond, and play on clubs for the duration, letting East take his master trump when he likes.

Both tables brought home the game but Kovachev played a heart to the king at trick two. Gu ran the ♥10 and Hristov shifted to a spade, letting declarer gain an important tempo. She could win the ace and play a trump, then take a ruff and draw the last trump before knocking out the ♣A and claiming ten tricks. No swing.

Oz Players defeated 4♠x by 500, good for a 2-imp gain against 4♥ making 420. Seventy-five percent of the field brought home their heart game here. It was 30-15 now for Down Under (anyone for tennis?).

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ K72
 Vul: E/W ♥ K102
 ♦ 105
 ♣ 107643

West
 ♠ J83
 ♥ 965
 ♦ 94
 ♣ KQJ95

East
 ♠ A6
 ♥ J743
 ♦ AKQ86
 ♣ A2

South
 ♠ Q10954
 ♥ AQ8
 ♦ J732
 ♣ 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	Pass	1♣(STR)	1♠
Dbl	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
	Pass	1♣(STR)	1♠
Dbl	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠	Dbl	3NT	All Pass

Both tables played the excellent 3NT, but Kovachev had far less information on which to defend. Both Souths led an interior spade, and declarer won it (Hongli astutely putting up the jack at the first trick to cut the defenders' communications in the spade suit and winning the first spade to preserve an exit card) and ran clubs. Lu followed with her clubs up the line but Gu correctly kept her diamonds and threw two hearts and a spade. Now declarer had no chance. Kovachev saw Isporski follow 4, 6, 3 in clubs but on

the fourth club (declarer having discarded the ♠6 and an honest ♥3, not a more taxing ♦6 — after all, you only need four diamond tricks don't you?) South threw a diamond and declarer had ten tricks and 12imps. Had South reduced to three spades, one heart and four diamonds declarer might, if on good form, have taken only two diamonds and then exited in hearts to endplay South to lead diamonds at trick 12.

As to double-dummy play and defense, if East correctly keeps her ♠6 as an exit card and pitches a heart and diamond at tricks three and four South needs to be very careful (South to discard at trick five):

♠ 72		
♥ K102		
♦ 105		
♣ 10		
West		East
♠ 83		♠ 6
♥ 965		♥ J74
♦ 94		♦ AKQ8
♣ 9		♣ ---
	South	
	♠ Q95	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ J732	
	♣ ---	

If South discards the ♥Q the defense can no longer prevail; he needs to keep that card as an exit and pitch a spade instead, to leave North the option to overtake and cash the club for the defense's fifth trick. When South pitches his small spade, the best declarer can do is cash two diamonds and then exit with a low heart. South wins the ace and cashes two spades to squeeze East out of a heart (when North can overtake the ♥Q) or South can follow suit with the ♥Q to let North overtake and cash a club for South to discard a diamond, whereupon a second heart lets South cash out.

At any event China Women had 12imps and trailed 45-22.

In our Australian all-in affair Thompson-Jacobs had a negative double accident when West thought his hand merited such an action over Nunn's 1♠ overcall. Hans raised to 2♠ and Jacobs took a shot at 4♥. The defenders got their club ruffs (and then some) and collected 300. That was only worth 5imps though as Reid-Newell played 3♦ after a contested auction and the spade lead set up a fourth plain-suit winner to go with their trump trick. Datum score on the deal was exactly zero. Only six pairs bid and made game.

Bd: 10
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ K752
 ♥ KQ62
 ♦ 1098
 ♣ 97

West
 ♠ 643
 ♥ AJ84
 ♦ K75
 ♣ K85

East
 ♠ QJ8
 ♥ 105
 ♦ A43
 ♣ 106432

South
 ♠ A109
 ♥ 973
 ♦ QJ62
 ♣ AQJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
		Pass	1♦
Dbl	1♥	Pass	1NT

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
		Pass	1NT

All Pass

You cannot stop Sun, you can only hope to contain her. Here the take-out double of 1♦ is not to be recommended for those of a sensitive disposition, but her opponents simply bid on to 1NT rather than attempt to penalize her in 1NT or 2♣. The latter contract would surely have taken seven tricks, so there were not going to be too many imps at stake (but note that Hongli never bid her clubs at either her first or second turn). Maybe she has been there before. Sun led the ♠6, Iliev a small heart, and both declarers ended up taking two tricks in each suit. No swing, which was generally true around the room.

Bd: 11
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 10986
 ♥ QJ5
 ♦ A6
 ♣ Q952

West
 ♠ QJ
 ♥ K42
 ♦ J10943
 ♣ 743

East
 ♠ K7543
 ♥ 1097
 ♦ KQ5
 ♣ 86

South
 ♠ A2
 ♥ A863
 ♦ 872
 ♣ AKJ10

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Against 3NT both Sun and Iliev led the ♦J. When Gu ducked Hristov overtook with the queen and returned the ♦K. Declarer took a heart finesse and Iliev won and cashed out. Note that even if the heart finesse had, held declarer had only eight tricks.

Kovachev followed a better line, I think. He won the first diamond in dummy as Hongli dropped the king and crossed to a club honor to play a heart up. Sun ducked (was she worried her partner had ♦Kx?) and Kovachev won dummy's ♥Q and came back to hand to lead a heart up again, no doubt confident that diamonds were splitting. This time Sun won and led a low diamond to cash out for a flat board. Still 45-22 for the All Stars.

Most of the room did go down in 3NT when South was declarer. But Nunn-Hans, who play weak notrumps, started with 1♣ and played 3♣ when warned off notrump by the diamond overcall and raise. That was worth 5 imps to them, and they led 41-15. Five Souths made 3NT when East forgot to unblock a diamond honor at trick one. We'd tell you their names but we are bound by the oath of omerta – honor amongst thieves. Besides, we've made enough enemies accidentally so why deliberately add to the list?

Bd: 12
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 842
 ♥ K1053
 ♦ J54
 ♣ KJ2

West
 ♠ AKJ65
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ Q9
 ♣ Q975

East
 ♠ 10
 ♥ AJ2
 ♦ A10762
 ♣ 10843

South
 ♠ Q973
 ♥ 9864
 ♦ K83
 ♣ A6

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT(F)	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Sun tried her luck with another offbeat action, this time a 5-4-2-2 1NT opening, perhaps based on wanting to protect her red-suit queens (if we are being charitable — and there has to be a first time for everything). A Stayman auction got her to 2NT and on a low heart lead she won cheaply in hand, then passed the ♦Q, ducked. Kovachev won the second diamond and played a spade. Had Sun been in 3NT she would have been able to cash out but in 2NT simply played on the red suits without cashing the second spade and ended up with only eight tricks. In the other room in 2♣ on a heart lead declarer won in hand and repeated the heart finesse, pitching a diamond from hand to play a cross-ruff. That line produced a painless +130; no swing.

Both tables in the Australian melee played 2NT from the East seat on a heart lead and won to play on clubs. No luck there; down one in each room. It is supposed to be good bridge, we know, but we are reserving judgment this time.

Bd: 13	North
Dlr: North	♠ K96
Vul: Both	♥ 3
	♦ A10654
	♣ KJ82

West	East
♠ 85	♠ Q107
♥ AJ97	♥ Q1086
♦ Q98	♦ K32
♣ A1097	♣ 643

South
♠ AJ432
♥ K542
♦ J7
♣ Q5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Lu</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Gu</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Dbl	Rdbl(1)	2♥	2♠
All Pass			
(1) Support			

Gu's 2♠ bid in the Closed Room looks somewhat pessimistic to me. Would her partner have bid any differently had the ♦K been with North and not East? As it was the defense led a passive trump against her. Then, when they came in with the ♣A, they shifted to the ♦Q so she could set up her tenth trick painlessly enough in diamonds. In the other room the defenders led and continued trumps rather than broaching diamonds when in with the ♣A and nine tricks appear to be the limit now. That meant 1 imp to China Women, down 45-22.

Both N/S pairs in our Oz fracas bid unopposed: 1♦-1♠; 2♠-4♠. Nunn received the ♣A lead and a continuation, Klinger a trump. Both came to ten tricks, the latter rather more easily than the former; no swing. This would have been a very decent result on the Butler score, though. Game was rarely attempted and not always made.

Bd: 14	North
Dlr: East	♠ KQ76
Vul: None	♥ Q10953
	♦ A10
	♣ K6

West	East
♠ A853	♠ 9
♥ KJ2	♥ A64
♦ Q96	♦ K7543
♣ 1087	♣ AJ42
	South
	♠ J1042
	♥ 87
	♦ J82
	♣ Q953

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Hongli</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

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

It is somewhat ironic that both tables were unable to resist trying to play clubs on this deal. The table that could not resist temptation made more tricks in their 4-3 fit than their opponents.

In 3♦ Hongli won the heart lead in hand, misguessed diamonds by leading to the queen and ace, won the spade return in dummy, and made her second

misplay when she led the ♣10 from dummy — that one was fatal. She now lost two clubs, two diamonds, and one heart at the death. By contrast, in 3♣ Hristov won the heart lead in hand and played back a heart to the king. A diamond to the king and a diamond back, ducked, saw North win and play a third heart on which South chose to pitch a spade, not her diamond. Back came a spade. Hristov won the ace, ruffed a spade, and led a third diamond for North to ruff. Hristov ruffed the next spade, cashed the ♣A to drop the king, and could cross-ruff the rest, losing only to the ♣Q en route. That was 4 imps for the All Stars to win by 28, 21-9 in VPs.



Shake your boo-ty!

Down Under picked up a final small partscore swing to win 19-11.

Match Ten: NEDUK vs China Geely Auto

by Rich Colker

Bd: 17
 Dir: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ KQ10743
 ♥ 107
 ♦ A82
 ♣ A4

West
 ♠ J
 ♥ QJ54
 ♦ 10743
 ♣ K976

East
 ♠ 865
 ♥ AK2
 ♦ KQJ96
 ♣ J3

South
 ♠ A92
 ♥ 9863
 ♦ 5
 ♣ Q10852

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	1♠	2♦	2♠
4♦	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

With the club suit frozen and a trump lead ineffective to stop it, 4♠ looks cold to us. Gold-Bakhshi got there in three bids but Dai-Gui found the excellent save in 5♦; Gui's decision to bid on with weak spade length was certainly well judged. This sacrifice could have been defeated by two tricks had the defense simply

led trumps at every opportunity to prevent declarer from ruffing his two spade losers in dummy (a club can be pitched on dummy's fourth heart). However, Bakhshi led a club and now the fourth heart could be used to pitch a spade. Gui lost little time in claiming down one, -100.

In the Closed Room Zhang-Zhuang settled for 3♠. Van Prooijen led the ♦K. Zhang won the ace, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the ♣A, ruffed a second diamond, cashed the ♠A (noting the fall of the jack), and exited with a low club. Van Prooijen won the jack and tabled the ♦Q, at which point Zhang claimed ten tricks for +170 and a 2-imp pick-up for China Geely Auto; 2-0.

Game was bid and made at about half the tables.

Bd: 18
 Dir: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 102
 ♥ KQ843
 ♦ 10653
 ♣ AJ

West
 ♠ J
 ♥ A1092
 ♦ AK87
 ♣ KQ98

East
 ♠ AK986543
 ♥ J
 ♦ Q92
 ♣ 4

South
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ 765
 ♦ J4
 ♣ 1076532

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
		4♠	All Pass

With spades breaking 2-2 slam is laydown, though it is hard to imagine anyone being able to bid it scientifically with any degree of confidence. So it was here, with both tables languishing in game after East's 4♠ opening and of course emerging with 12 tricks for a push at 680. Still 2-0, Geely.

Curiously, almost as many pairs (three) went down in 6♠ as made +980 (four pairs in total).

Bd: 19	North
Dlr: South	♠ QJ53
Vul: E/W	♥ Q87
	♦ KQ1075
	♣ 2

West	East
♠ A10764	♠ K
♥ A103	♥ KJ65
♦ J42	♦ 86
♣ J10	♣ K97643

South
♠ 982
♥ 942
♦ A93
♣ AQ85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♣	Dbl
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
2♠	All Pass		

This deal reminds us of the saying, "I've got you right where you want me." It's not easy to apportion the blame for this Open-Room disaster between North and South, but if you're going to open hands like the defenseless North one perhaps discretion is the better part of valor — especially at a low level and after partner has limited his hand to less-than-invitational values. Could South have held three or four trump tricks and a useful side card? Of course, but that's not where the smart money should be placed. A diamond lead could have held the overtricks to one, but Bakhshi led a spade. Gui won

in hand, crossed to the ♥A, pitched a diamond on the ♠A and passed to ♣10 to the queen. Bakhshi switched to the ace and another diamond but Gui ruffed the second round and led a low club up. Once again Bakhshi had a chance to hold down the overtricks by rising with the ace to deny declarer a dummy entry with which to take the heart finesse. But he ducked, allowing Gui to pass the ♥10, play a third heart to the queen and king, and knock out the ♣A for a resounding +580.

Zhang led the ♦K against Verhees' 2♠ and switched to a low trump after seeing dummy and Zhuang's signal. Verhees exited with a diamond and the defense cashed two more of the suit and played a fourth round, Zhuang ruffing high in the hopes of promoting a trump trick, Verhees over-ruffing with the ten to pass the ♣10 to the queen. Zhuang fell from grace just a bit here by cashing his second club and leading a third, on which Verhees simply pitched a heart as Zhang ruffed with a natural trump trick. But the heart was not a loser as long as declarer plays opener for the ♥Q (after South passed in first seat and showed up with the ♣AQ and ♦A) and the defense eventually took their seven tricks for down two, -200. That was 13 more imps to Geely, whose lead was now 15-0.

Ohara-Okuno had the best result here; they were doubled in 3♣ and collected +870.

Bd: 20	North
Dlr: West	♠ K986
Vul: Both	♥ Q653
	♦ Q2
	♣ K64

West	East
♠ 4	♠ Q7532
♥ AJ98742	♥ ---
♦ ---	♦ KJ754
♣ Q9873	♣ 1052

South
♠ AJ10
♥ K10
♦ A109863
♣ AJ

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4♠	Dbl	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Gui's hand may not appear that robust to most of us, but he pressed what advantage he saw in it to the limit by using a red card at every opportunity. Against 5♦x Dai led the ♥A (Gui pitching a club) and continued with the "suit-preference" ♥2. Gui ruffed, returned the ♣10 to the jack, queen and king, and Bakhshi tried the ♦Q, covered by the king and ace. Gui subsequently scored just his king of trumps but that was one down, -200.

In the Closed Room Zhang chose to defend when 4♥x came around to him and that was a very good decision. He started with the ♦Q, K, A, ruff. Verhees passed the ♣9 to the jack at trick 2 and Zhuang now unblocked the ♣A, then played ♠A, ♠J. Verhees ruffed and exited with a club to the king as Zhuang pitched his last spade. Zhang got out with the ♠K. Verhees ruffed and played ace and a second heart to Zhang's king, who had nothing but diamonds to return. Verhees pitched a club as dummy won the ♦J, pitched his last club on the ♠Q, and split the last two tricks with Zhuang for down three, -800. Another 14 imps to Geely, ahead now 29-0.

In our other featured match ONI-TAKA collected the same 500 from 4♥x and 200 from 4♠x to lead 18-0. But that was not the best result here, which came from defending 4♠x — but played by E/W, not N/S. Lu and Gu got their revenge for the previous deal where they had conceded 870 in impressive style. 4♥x also went down 1100 a couple of times — a mere drop in the ocean.

It was about time for NEDUK to get off the "schneid."

Bd: 21
 Dlr: North
 Vul: N/S

North	♠ K1042
	♥ 52
	♦ KQ8
	♣ J983
West	♠ Q53
	♥ 87643
	♦ 1073
	♣ Q4
South	♠ J6
	♥ AJ10
	♦ A94
	♣ K10762

East

♠ A987
♥ KQ9
♦ J652
♣ A5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dai	Gold	Gui	Bakhshi
	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Zhang	v Prooijen	Zhuang
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	All Pass

No contract is a happy one for E/W here but at least both tables managed to stay at the one level. Bakhshi led the ♣6 against Gui's 1NT. This went to the queen and Gui used the entry to play a heart to the king and ace. Bakhshi switched to the ♦9 to Gold's queen and Gold returned the ♣8 to the ace. Next Gui tried a low spade to the queen but Gold won the king and the defense now cashed three clubs before Bakhshi exited with the ♥J. Gui won the queen, cashed the ♠A, but the defense had the rest for down three, -150.

1♠ proved to be a much better contract than 1NT. Zhuang got off to the ♠J lead, Q, K, A, and van Prooijen exited with a low diamond. Zhang won the queen, returned a spade to declarer's eight, won the next diamond, cashed the ♠10, led a heart to the king and ace, and Zhuang exited with the ♥J to the queen. Now van Prooijen could draw the last trump, knock out the ♦A (endplaying Zhuang in the process) and still had the ♣A entry to his good diamond. Had Zhang exited with a club after cashing his ♠10 the contract would have gone down two. As it was, van Prooijen managed seven tricks for +80 and a 6-imp gain for NEDUK, on the scoreboard now at 29-6.

If you are looking for impressive results, consider that for the Bulgarian All Stars Isporski reached 3NT as North and made it on a spade lead. Just bidding on an ill-fitting 22 HCP should be worthy of a mention.

Bd: 22
 Dlr: East
 Vul: E/W

North	♠ QJ53
	♥ 754
	♦ K96
	♣ 543
West	♠ K642
	♥ Q8
	♦ A843
	♣ AQ8
South	♠ A109
	♥ 1032
	♦ J72
	♣ K1096
East	♠ 87
	♥ AKJ96
	♦ Q105
	♣ J72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dai	Gold	Gui	Bakhshi
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Zhang	v Prooijen	Zhuang
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

On the lie of the cards almost any line would lead to nine tricks at notrump. In the Open Room Bakhshi led the ♣10, ducked to the jack, presenting declarer with a third club trick. Gui returned the favor by playing a diamond to the ace and a diamond to the ten. Bakhshi won the jack and tabled the ♠10, K, 3, 8. Now Gui cashed out with the help of the club finesse for +600.

In the Closed Room, where the contract was played from the other side, a low spade was led to the ace and the ♠10 returned followed by a third spade to the king. Verhees now ran his hearts (pitching diamonds from hand) and took the club finesse to also score up nine tricks and a push. Still 29-6, Geely.

This deal was flat around the room except for the pair who went down in 3NT by East after a club lead. Suggestions of the line that produced this result without a revoke will be considered with the rigor that such a task deserves.

Bd: 23 North
 Dlr: South ♠ 954
 Vul: Both ♥ J86
 ♦ KJ9843
 ♣ 10

West ♠ AJ86 ♥ KQ10 ♦ Q7 ♣ AJ63	East ♠ 732 ♥ A9752 ♦ 652 ♣ 52
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South
 ♠ KQ10
 ♥ 43
 ♦ A10
 ♣ KQ9874

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦

All Pass
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
2NT	Pass	3♦(♥)	2♣(♣)
3♥	All Pass		Pass

In the Open Room Bakhshi chose to open the South hand 1NT and Gold must have thought Christmas had come early when Bakhshi rebid 2♦ (though if 2♣ was Puppet, as we suspect, the odds are more in his favor) and the auction ended in a place that Voltaire might well have agreed was "the best of all possible worlds." Dai got the defense rolling with the king,

queen, and a third heart. Bakhshi ruffed and played the ♣Q to the ace and Dai got out with the ♦7 to the ace. Bakhshi ruffed a club, drew trumps, and gave up a spade for +110.

Against Verhees' 3♥ in the Closed Room Zhang led the ♣10 to the queen and ace. Verhees drew trumps in three rounds, ending in dummy, and played a second club up as Zhuang won the king and shifted to ace and a diamond. Zhang won, cashed a third diamond, and exited with another diamond, ruffed in dummy. At this point Verhees claimed nine tricks for +140 and 6 moreimps to NEDUK, to close to 29-12.

Bd: 24 North
 Dlr: West ♠ ---
 Vul: None ♥ AQ1054
 ♦ J752
 ♣ 9543

West ♠ J9652 ♥ K62 ♦ Q ♣ 10872	East ♠ 10843 ♥ 98 ♦ A104 ♣ AKQ6
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South
 ♠ AKQ7
 ♥ J73
 ♦ K9863
 ♣ J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbf
1♠	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♠	4♦	4♠	Dbf

All Pass
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Gold's 4♦ bid in the Open Room appears to have been an offer to play in a red suit while Bakhshi's double may best be described as "sporting." Gold led the ♦5 to the ace and Dai played a trump, getting the bad news when Gold showed out. Bakhshi returned a diamond, ruffed, and Dai tried to cash as many clubs as he could. That was one. Bakhshi ruffed the second round and switched to a heart, at which point declarer conceded down three, -500.

The 4♥ contract in the Closed Room could have been defeated by two diamond ruffs but it would not have been easy for van Prooijen to find the lead required (the ♦A), especially with such an enticing

club holding. (Briggida, goddess of bridge, does not deal you the ace-king-queen of a suit to have you lead something else — and *certainly* not an unsupported ace.) Van Prooijen led the ♣K, then switched to a spade. Zhuang took his three top spades, pitching his remaining clubs, then passed the ♥J and finished the trumps before leading a low diamond to the eight and queen, at which point 10 tricks were claimed for +420. That was 2imps to NEDUK, getting closer at 29-14.

In our second match ONI-TAKA made 4♦x in one room and were set 150 in 3♠ undoubled (looks like the red card could usefully have been transferred from one room to the other) to lead 28-0. About half the N/S field collected 300 in penalties or bid to 4♥.

Bd: 25 North
 Dir: North ♠ 9
 Vul: E/W ♥ 742
 ♦ KQ943
 ♣ KJ104

West
 ♠ A8
 ♥ AQJ96
 ♦ J10
 ♣ Q932

East
 ♠ Q652
 ♥ 108
 ♦ 87652
 ♣ 86

South
 ♠ KJ10743
 ♥ K53
 ♦ A
 ♣ A75

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	Dbl	Pass	3♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	2NT	Pass	3♣

All Pass

In retrospect, Bakhshi's 3♠ rebid may not have been the best action on this deal but there was no law that says Gold could not hold the ♠Jx and some useful side "fillers." In addition, one can sometimes rely on the opponents for what partner cannot provide. And so it was on this deal. Dai led the ♦J to the ace and Bakhshi craftily played a low spade to the nine and queen. Back came a diamond as Gui tried to give his partner a ruff — which in a way he did, though it was not the ruff the defense needed. Bakhshi won in dummy pitching a heart and cashed another diamond throwing a second heart. Dai ruffed with his side's only remaining trump winner and cashed the

♥A, but a moment later Bakhshi was claiming the rest for +170.

Zhuang's 3♣ contract in the Closed Room was no bed of roses but perhaps there were enough resources to compensate. Verhees led a club and Zhuang rose with the king to lead a spade up. When van Prooijen ducked he let the nine ride to the ace and Verhees switched to the ♦10. Zhuang won in hand, cashed the ♠K pitching a heart, and played the ♠J, ruffing when Verhees pitched the ♦J. Next he cashed dummy's ♦K, pitching a heart from hand as Verhees ruffed, and breathed a sigh of relief as Verhees cashed the ♥A and continued with the queen to his king. Another spade ruff was followed by a club to the ace, and now Zhuang could play on spades to score two of the last three tricks for +110. Another two 2imps to NEDUK; even closer at 29-16.

Bd: 26 North
 Dir: East ♠ A62
 Vul: Both ♥ Q753
 ♦ 972
 ♣ 1087

West
 ♠ KQJ1074
 ♥ J
 ♦ QJ54
 ♣ Q6

East
 ♠ 983
 ♥ K92
 ♦ A63
 ♣ KJ52

South
 ♠ 5
 ♥ A10864
 ♦ K108
 ♣ A943

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣(1)	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

(1) Invitational spade raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♥	3♠	All Pass

Do you believe in magic? In 3♠ there appear to be three aces to lose plus the ♦K, yet at both tables ten tricks were made. David Copperfield would be proud. The key was at trick one where both Norths led the ♥5 and both Souths inserted the eight when declarer played low from dummy. A push at +170. Still 29-16.

Even if you win the ♠A at trick one you still have to be careful to beat this hand. Either North must win his ♠A to lead diamonds through or the defenders must play three rounds of hearts as soon as possible to kill the potential Morton's fork coup that would arise if East could arrange to lead a small club towards the queen. Six E/W pairs found a way to make ten tricks in 4♠.

Bd: 27 North
 Dir: South ♠ 4
 Vul: None ♥ A1072
 ♦ KJ10
 ♣ AKJ84

West
 ♠ AK753
 ♥ KQJ83
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 97

East
 ♠ QJ106
 ♥ 65
 ♦ Q842
 ♣ 653

South
 ♠ 982
 ♥ 94
 ♦ A9653
 ♣ Q102

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1♠	Dbl	3♠	Pass
4♠	Dbl	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
1♥(1)	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
(1) Canape			

In the Open Room Gold and Bakhshi managed to find a making game despite the serious interference run by the Chinese. Against 5♦ Dai led the ♥K. Bakhshi won the ace, cashed the ♦K, then played the ♦J and let it ride. When Dai showed out he repeated the diamond finesse, crossed to hand with a club, drew the last trump, and claimed 11 trick via five in each minor plus the ♥A; a nice +400. How about if West leads a spade and continues the suit? Declarer ruffs, cashes the ♦K and finesses the ♦J through East, getting the bad news when West shows out. He then plays clubs. If East pitches South just keeps pitching major-suit losers while if East ruffs in at some point South simply over-ruffs, draws trumps, crosses back to the ♥A to cash any remaining clubs, and still emerges with 11 winners in the form of five trumps in hand, four clubs, a spade ruff and the ♥A. Easy game.

In the Closed Room Zhang-Zhuang played the hand in notrump when neither opponent bid spades. Bad idea. Van Prooijen led the ♠Q and continued the suit as the defenders took the first five tricks, declarer then claiming the rest for down one, -50. That was 10 moreimps to NEDUK, who had pulled to within 3 at 29-26.

England Ladies scored their first imps of the set, making 5♦ and going -100 in 4♠x. Still down 37-7.

Bd: 28 North
 Dir: West ♠ J9
 Vul: N/S ♥ KJ3
 ♦ A74
 ♣ 109732

West
 ♠ A
 ♥ A854
 ♦ J108
 ♣ KQ864

East
 ♠ 65
 ♥ Q1092
 ♦ Q9632
 ♣ AJ

South
 ♠ KQ1087432
 ♥ 76
 ♦ K5
 ♣ 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	4♠
5♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
1♦(1)	Pass	2♥	3♠
All Pass			
(1) Canape			

Gold-Bakhshi were cold for 4♠ but Dai-Gui found the good 5♥ save. The Brits could have taken four tricks against 5♥ but when Bakhshi led the ♠K they could no longer get their diamond ruff and so collected only 100.

When Zhang-Zhuang failed to bid game the Dutch were content to let them play in a partscore. Verhees led a club, declarer ruffing the second round and playing on trumps. Verhees won the ace, perforce, and tried a low heart. But Zhuang was not to be fooled. He rose with the king, ruffed a club high to hand, drew the last trump and claimed 10 tricks for +170; 2 imps back to Geely, leading 31-26.

On one of the wilder sets of results we've seen one-quarter of the field made 4♠, many doubled, and one quarter made 4♥. Pretty Cats made game in both rooms here, while ONI-TAKA picked up 12 imps in

our second match from 3♠ +170 and 4♥ +420.

Bd: 29 North
 Dlr: North ♠ QJ942
 Vul: Both ♥ AK
 ♦ 1094
 ♣ 1054

West
 ♠ K105
 ♥ J762
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q9762

East
 ♠ 8
 ♥ Q10954
 ♦ KQ863
 ♣ J8

South
 ♠ A763
 ♥ 83
 ♦ AJ75
 ♣ AK3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	Pass	2♥(♥+m)	Dbl
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣(STR)
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠

All Pass



QUIZ: Is this:

- (A) The thrill of victory, or
- (B) The agony of defeat?

The winner gets a free coupon for a pizza at Yokohama Mama's Pizza Palace. The runner-up gets two coupons.

Both tables played 4♠ and made five on the ♦K lead from East. Still 31-26 Geely. This was going to be a flat board round the room till the very last pair of results...when Onishi-Bando collected 1100 from 5♥x.

Bd: 30 North
 Dlr: East ♠ 92
 Vul: None ♥ A
 ♦ AJ874
 ♣ AK932

West
 ♠ 8764
 ♥ K72
 ♦ Q963
 ♣ 86

East
 ♠ KQJ3
 ♥ Q1065
 ♦ K5
 ♣ J75

South
 ♠ A105
 ♥ J9843
 ♦ 102
 ♣ Q104

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gui</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>

Auction and Play not Available

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Zhang</i>	<i>v Prooijen</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>
		1♦(1)	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

(1) Could be short

BBO did not collect the information from the Open Room so all we know (from JCBL records) is that Gold declared 3♣ and made five for +150. In the Closed Room Zhang-Zhuang tried 3NT on a spade lead. Zhuang won in hand and played the ♦10, letting it ride when Verhees ducked. Now the defense cashed their spades and got out with a heart but with clubs breaking declarer needed only to repeat the diamond finesse for his ninth trick; +400. That sent another 6imps back to China Geely Auto, who had withstood NEDUK's run and had won the match 37-26, 18-12 in VPs.

In our other match ONI-TAKA had severely dented the England Ladies chances of advancing by handing them a 25-4 beating.

The reason why some people appear bright until you hear them speak is that light travels faster than sound.

Match Eleven: Yeh Bros vs ONI-TAKA

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 1
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ 108732
 ♥ Q1086
 ♦ 74
 ♣ 97

West
 ♠ 64
 ♥ J9753
 ♦ KJ8
 ♣ A54

East
 ♠ AKQJ
 ♥ AK4
 ♦ A65
 ♣ Q86

South
 ♠ 95
 ♥ 2
 ♦ Q10932
 ♣ KJ1032

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
	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
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
	2♦	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♠	Dbl	All Pass

ONI-TAKA started off with a bang as the weak two-suited opening bid came a spectacular cropper. The defenders cashed two rounds of trumps and then shifted to diamonds. Yamada won his ♦J and played a low heart. Declarer guessed well to put in the eight, but misguessed clubs later on and was struggling to get out for down 1100 (if the defense cash out just right they can actually get 1400). Still, +1100 and +50 from 6♥ (which was by no means a terrible slam, needing no heart loser or the diamond finesse and one trump loser) meant 15 imps for ONI-TAKA.

Although Stamatov gained 12 imps in our secondary match it could have been more. In one room E/W for YOKOI had a bidding accident to play 5♣ after a quantitative 4NT was removed to 5♣ (ace-answering but misinterpreted). In the other room Stefanov, East, got to double 3♣ for penalties (which costs about 800) but his partner removed the double and they ended up quietly making 3NT for +460. Still, 12 imps is not to be sneezed at.

Some did better, many did far worse with the E/W cards. Of note was that Iizuka-Takeda collected 1100 against 5♣, while Ota-Miyakuni managed 1700

against 4♣. But more than half the field went down in slam as E/W.

Bd: 2
 Dlr: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 109754
 ♥ Q874
 ♦ 8
 ♣ KJ4

West
 ♠ A6
 ♥ 952
 ♦ AKJ5
 ♣ 10982

East
 ♠ 832
 ♥ AKJ103
 ♦ Q103
 ♣ Q3

South
 ♠ KQJ
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 97642
 ♣ A765

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
		1♥	Pass

1NT All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
		1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

4♥ seems to be fairly and squarely on the trump finesse, and that meant another 8 imps for ONI-TAKA when it worked. The semi-forcing notrump left Huang in a contract with seven top tricks. He could not afford to take the heart finesse and go down in his partscore so he cashed hearts from the top, which cost him a couple of imps in the process.

Curiously, more than half the field went down in 4♥. Indeed, one table in our second featured match went down in 4♥ and one in 3♥. They ruffed a spade, then cashed the ♥AK, hoping either to drop the doubleton queen or that the player with ♥Qxx had three or more diamonds. Our resident statistician tells us that these combined chances come to over fifty percent. Our resident result-merchant's response is "Nya-Nya and Yah boo sucks!"

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

Bd: 3
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ QJ8
 ♥ K7
 ♦ KQ102
 ♣ A974

West
 ♠ A5
 ♥ QJ953
 ♦ 953
 ♣ QJ6

East
 ♠ 109643
 ♥ A842
 ♦ 764
 ♣ 3

South
 ♠ K72
 ♥ 106
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ K10852

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Lin</i>
1♥	2♥	3♥	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	Pass

Both Easts obediently led a heart against 3NT (a spade would have worked just as well and I must admit I would have been tempted) and declarer had eight tricks but no more.

Both tables in Stamatov-YOKOI played 3NT on an unrevealing auction from North. Both Easts led a spade, of course; West won to shift to hearts and set the game two tricks. Almost everybody went down in 3NT here (and nobody in the top two-thirds of the field let this game through).

Bd: 4
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ 964
 ♥ 105
 ♦ J10532
 ♣ K32

West
 ♠ J1083
 ♥ K862
 ♦ 87
 ♣ 976

East
 ♠ Q
 ♥ A743
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ AJ10854

South
 ♠ AK752
 ♥ QJ9
 ♦ AK96
 ♣ Q

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♠
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Lin</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♠
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

In one room Ino was prepared to ignore his ♣K and treat his hand as a Yarborough. In the other Shih raised spades in a competitive auction and South awarded himself a fourth because of his club fit. Ino was rewarded, because in 4♠ even though the ♣A got away after West led a "helpful" ♣9 to deny an honor (a play that his partner interpreted as a doubleton) the bad trump break still meant 4♠ had to go one down. Meanwhile, 3♦ wrapped up an overtrick when declarer established a heart to pitch his spade loser. It was 29-0 now for ONI-TAKA.

Both pairs in YOKOI-Stamatov stopped at the two level, with the Bulgarians picking up an overtrick imp to lead 13-0. About a third of the field went overboard with the E/W cards. Nobody was allowed to make game here.

Bd: 5
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ KJ3
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ K10543
 ♣ J73

West
 ♠ AQ9
 ♥ AKJ10983
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A2

East
 ♠ 1084
 ♥ 654
 ♦ J86
 ♣ K1084

South
 ♠ 7652
 ♥ 7
 ♦ AQ97
 ♣ Q965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
2♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Lin</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♥	All Pass		

ONI-TAKA gifted Yeh Bros 6 imps when Yamada was unwilling to open the West hand with a forcing bid and Huang was not equally restrained. Ten tricks followed fast, and it was 29-6 now to ONI-TAKA.

One pair played 1♣ as West (all together now: “What was the auction?”) and three other pairs played 1♥. Our second match score remained 13-0.

Theimps returned to ONI-TAKA with interest on the following deal:

Bd: 6 North
 Dir: East ♠ 1032
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q4
 ♦ Q73
 ♣ AKQ93

West
 ♠ KJ64
 ♥ A82
 ♦ 9542
 ♣ 64

East
 ♠ A987
 ♥ J65
 ♦ 108
 ♣ 10872

South
 ♠ Q5
 ♥ K10973
 ♦ AKJ6
 ♣ J5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Paradoxically, it looks *more* attractive to me to lead spades in the Open Room than in the Closed Room, where you’d expect dummy to have one of the spade honors and declarer the other. Huang led a passive club, perhaps hoping declarer had a 3-5-4-1 pattern, but with the diamonds and hearts lying well for declarer was a passive defense ever going to get the job done? 10imps made it 39-6 for ONI-TAKA.

Tanaka-Yokoi benefitted from an over-intellectual West on lead as well. They too played 3NT (on the Closed Room auction) and made it on a club lead. But to no avail. Danailov-Stamatov bid 1♥-2♣; 2♦-2♠; 3♦-4♥. You may not agree with the 3♦ bid — I’m not sure I do myself — but chalk it up as 10imps into Danailov’s personal account. 14-0 for Stamatov.

Just under half the field went down in game. 4♥ was declared by about forty percent of the field (well bid) while 3NT made at another six tables.

Bd: 7 North
 Dir: South ♠ 64
 Vul: Both ♥ KJ43
 ♦ A6
 ♣ KQJ54

West
 ♠ K95
 ♥ 9875
 ♦ Q74
 ♣ A83

East
 ♠ AQ83
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K9853
 ♣ 1096

South
 ♠ J1072
 ♥ AQ102
 ♦ J102
 ♣ 72

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
All Pass		Pass	3♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dbl
2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	3♥	All Pass	

Ino’s strong notrump in third seat vulnerable seems distorted but I suppose he was trying to keep the opponents out. When vulnerable that’s a gutsy approach (we use different language if it doesn’t work). Against 3♥ Liu led the ♣10 and Huang ducked. Declarer won in hand and played two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, then led a second club up. Huang won and played back a third heart and declarer claimed his nine tricks.

In the other room declarer won the diamond lead (10, Q, A) and returned the suit. Hirata played a trump and declarer won in dummy and took his spade discard on the diamonds, then played a club to his hand, a second trump to dummy to find the bad break, and a second club. West won and played the king and another spade. Shih ruffed and played on clubs to pitch the last spade from dummy as West ruffed in for the defense’s fourth trick. No swing.

In our second match Stamatov declared 4♥ on a diamond lead. The defense took the ♣A, shifted to spades, and cashed out for one down to gain 6imps and get on the scoreboard. In the other room a strong notrump and Stayman sequence led to 3♥ making +140.

That the ♠Q had something against the Yeh Bros was evidenced not only on Boards 1 and 2 but on our next deal, too.

Bd: 8 North
 Dlr: West ♠ 10874
 Vul: None ♥ 1054
 ♦ A98
 ♣ KJ7

West
 ♠ Q96
 ♥ AK3
 ♦ 104
 ♣ AQ432

East
 ♠ AKJ53
 ♥ J9862
 ♦ KQ7
 ♣ ---

South
 ♠ 2
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ J6532
 ♣ 109865

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Lin</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Neither auction really came to grips with this challenging deal where 6♠ might make even when the ♠Q does not drop. 5♠ made six after the ♦A lead when declarer led hearts towards the ace-king twice. 6♥ simply needed the odds-against lie of the trump suit and was impossible to defeat. After eight deals ONI-TAKA led 50-6. But the location of the ♠Q had already swung 47 imps against Yeh.

This deal was also a huge swing in our other BBO match. Mihov-Stefanov had a transfer auction to 4♠ making +480. Mizuta-Takano bid: 1NT-2♥; 2♠-3♥; 3♠-4♣; 4♥-5♦; 6♥-6♠. Stamatov led the ♦9 (more traditional when playing against Scotsmen, since that card is known as the Curse of Scotland, but apparently the play worked just as well against Japanese declarers). Mizuta won the ♦K as South followed with an honest "upside-down" six. Now Mizuta played the ♥J, covered all around. Having spurned his best chance in hearts declarer was still in good shape if he played a diamond at once, since he could still arrange to ruff the third heart in hand. But he drew two rounds of trumps before leading a

diamond up and North won his ace and played back a third spade. Declarer now had to lose a trick to the ♥10 since he had no trumps left. Down one, and a huge momentum swing of 11 imps to Stamatov instead of 11 the other way.

Eleven pairs bid to 6♠ (hurrah!) while the same number of pairs bid to 6♥ (boo!) or even 6NT (hmm).

Bd: 9 North
 Dlr: North ♠ K102
 Vul: E/W ♥ 97
 ♦ 962
 ♣ J10973

West
 ♠ J9753
 ♥ AK63
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ 52

East
 ♠ AQ864
 ♥ J4
 ♦ Q1087
 ♣ Q6

South
 ♠ ---
 ♥ Q10852
 ♦ K543
 ♣ AK84

Open and Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Huang</i>	<i>Ino</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
<i>Yamada</i>	<i>Shih</i>	<i>Hirata</i>	<i>Lin</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both tables reached 4♠ on the lead of the ♥9 and played a trump to the ace. Now they needed the diamond finesse and no heart ruff, but fortunately the cards forgave them and they each collected +620.

A few pairs found the save in clubs that cost very little, relatively speaking. Both pairs in our second match made +680 in spades.

Bd: 10 North
 Dlr: East ♠ K5
 Vul: Both ♥ 73
 ♦ Q10863
 ♣ A874

West
 ♠ 10973
 ♥ KQJ
 ♦ AK4
 ♣ KQJ

East
 ♠ J6
 ♥ A109862
 ♦ 975
 ♣ 32

South
 ♠ AQ842
 ♥ 54
 ♦ J2
 ♣ 10965

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
DbI	Rdbl	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Both Easts found themselves in 4♥ when their partner showed 18-19. Ten tricks were a formality as partner produced the perfect mesh of high-cards. No swing; still 50-6.

In what was almost the flattest board of the event only two pairs missed game — and one played 5♥ down 100.

Bd: 11	North
Dlr: South	♠ KQ95
Vul: None	♥ J65
	♦ AK
	♣ AK73

West
♠ AJ63
♥ ---
♦ 10987432
♣ 95

East
♠ 84
♥ K108732
♦ J
♣ 8642

South
♠ 1072
♥ AQ94
♦ Q65
♣ QJ10

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

Both tables avoided the poor but (as the cards lay) cold slam. On a heart lead both declarers did not need to do anything but build a spade winner for their twelfth trick.

The Bulgarian All Stars bid the notrump slam and

made it, one of only six pairs to find their way there and bring it home. Four other pairs played in sillier and less successful spots.

Bd: 12	North
Dlr: West	♠ J986
Vul: N/S	♥ K9873
	♦ 1065
	♣ K

West
♠ 52
♥ QJ1054
♦ Q93
♣ A83

East
♠ K1074
♥ A
♦ AJ82
♣ Q1092

South
♠ AQ3
♥ 62
♦ K74
♣ J7654

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Ino led a practical if unimaginative small heart against 1NT. Huang won and advanced the ♦J, which held, then a low diamond to South's king. Back came a heart to Ino who now turned his imagination on to full blast and shifted to the ♠J, covered all around. A low club to North's king for a continuation of the ♠9 held declarer to +90. Nicely done.

In the other room Shih (who knew that his opponent knew that the ♣K is always singleton) thought he might as well lead it. Declarer won and took the losing diamond finesse and Lin played a heart to the ace. Declarer cleared the clubs, letting South play a heart through for the spade shift, but when South exited passively with a club declarer claimed the balance; +150 and 2imps. The lead was 52-6 now.



"Are we playing Gazzilli?"

Bd: 13
 Dlr: North
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ AQJ7
 ♥ 10964
 ♦ 10
 ♣ KJ97

West
 ♠ K653
 ♥ AQJ
 ♦ AQ932
 ♣ 5

East
 ♠ 94
 ♥ 853
 ♦ K7
 ♣ Q106432

South
 ♠ 1082
 ♥ K72
 ♦ J8654
 ♣ A8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Dbl	1♥	Pass	1NT

All Pass
 Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
	1♣	Pass	1♠(1)
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

(1) No major

Against 1NT Huang led a low diamond and the defenders played five rounds of the suit. South won and ran the ♠10, ducked all around, then repeated the spade finesse and used the ♣A as the entry for a third finesse. That was seven tricks.

Yamada gave 2♦ the old college try after a helpful heart lead to the king and ace. He ducked a spade, and Shih won his jack to play the ♦10. Declarer rose with the king, finessed the nine, and found the good/bad news. He exited with a club and ducked in dummy but South overtook his partner's card to play the ♠10 through and declarer had to lose four spades, a club and a trump.

In our second match Hiroki Yokoi played 1NTx when Mihov (West) could double for penalties, suggesting a diamond stack. Right hand, wrong day. Mihov led a spade. Declarer won in hand, repeated the finesse, then advanced the ♦10, ducked around to West. Back came a club. Declarer won in hand, repeated the spade finesse, cashed the ♠A, pitching a diamond, and ran the ♥10 to West. That player exited with a low diamond to his partner's king and a heart back let West cash two more tricks in that suit. But now West had to lead from his ♦A and South scored a diamond and a club at the end for +180. In the other room the final contract was also 1NT by South on a diamond lead. But there declarer played on clubs, not spades, and finished two down for 9 imps to YOKOI, trailing 25-16 now.

Small penalties were the order of the day here. N/S could make 2♥ but no other contract was made with any regularity by either side.

Bd: 14
 Dlr: East
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ AKQ7
 ♥ A843
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K1076

West
 ♠ 85432
 ♥ J1072
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AJ3

East
 ♠ J106
 ♥ 9
 ♦ KJ9872
 ♣ Q94

South
 ♠ 9
 ♥ KQ65
 ♦ A10653
 ♣ 852

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Huang	Ino	Liu	Teramoto
		2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yamada	Shih	Hirata	Lin
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Yet again the ONI-TAKA team judged a slam deal to perfection, collecting 500 from 2♦x and doubling their opponents in an optimistic slam. Against 2♦x Teramoto cashed the ♥K and shifted to the ♣8, ducked around to declarer's nine when Ino could not read the spot card. Declarer cashed the ♣A before the rats got at it and collected three trump tricks from his solid intermediates later on. If North had taken his ♣K at once the defenders might have managed a trump promotion for 800. Not that it mattered today. 6♥x on repeated club leads might have got out for down one but declarer did not play to ruff his losers in hand and ended up -300. An excellent if slightly fortunate performance by ONI-TAKA meant a whitewash for them and the end of Yeh Bros' chances of qualifying.

Again, elsewhere small, medium, large and very large penalties were the order of the day. The West cards looked like a 3♦ preempt to quite a lot of the field, especially those playing a Multi 2♦ or the like. That resulted in many 500s, a few 800s, a +110 by Hans-Nunn and pride of place going to Tsubaki-Miyata who doubled 3♦ and collected 1700. We could tell you how, but then we'd have to kill you.

Match Twelve: Oz Players vs Bulgarian All Stars

by Barry Rigal

Bd: 17
 Dlr: North
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ J654
 ♥ K732
 ♦ A95
 ♣ 109

West
 ♠ KQ98
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 642
 ♣ AQ832

East
 ♠ A1032
 ♥ AQJ854
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ 7

South
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 96
 ♦ K10873
 ♣ KJ654

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
	Pass	1♥	2NT
Dbl	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Mullamphy played 4♠ after Klinger had shown a spade raise with short clubs. Alas for the Australians, this had tipped Isporski off to the diamond lead. The defenders played three rounds of the suit and Mullamphy could do little except play for a trump break. He led a low heart from dummy to his ten and I suppose if trumps had been breaking North would have ducked. As it was, North won and shifted to a club. Should Mullamphy have got this right? North "knows" South does not have the ♣A. So why didn't North play a fourth diamond? Because he hasn't got one. So the trumps not breaking becomes more and more likely. Mullamphy played trumps from the top and went down one. That meant 8 imps for the Bulgarians when 3♦x went down 300 at the other table after a club to the queen, the ♥10 holding the next trick, followed by a club ruff. Hristov cashed the major-suit aces and led a third heart and declarer now tried to ruff a club without drawing one more round of trumps, so he lost a trick to the bare ♦Q.

Both tables in Syabas Indonesia-NEDUK reached 4♠ but the Indonesians had telegraphed the diamond lead while van Prooijen had opened a canape 1♠.

Accordingly, Bakhshi led a diamond for NEDUK and set the game while Tueje led a heart and NEDUK made 11 tricks. 11-0 for NEDUK.

Around the room very few tables defeated 4♠ by West. North's likely lead is a club and now declarer is a step ahead of the defense.

Bd: 18
 Dlr: East
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ A
 ♥ K54
 ♦ J742
 ♣ K9842

West
 ♠ 3
 ♥ AQJ973
 ♦ A1098
 ♣ A7

East
 ♠ QJ1098654
 ♥ 102
 ♦ K6
 ♣ 3

South
 ♠ K72
 ♥ 86
 ♦ Q53
 ♣ QJ1065

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mullamphy Isporski</i>		<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
		4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
		3♠	All Pass

The bulletin is not into charitable explanations for bids with which they do not agree. At favorable vulnerability can East have miscounted his spades? One needs eight fingers and toes to add up a suit that long — plus the light may not have been that good. Even so, the spade contracts came home with ten tricks and Oz Players had 6 imps to trail 8-6.

Only four pairs missed game here; three climbed to the five level or beyond and paid for their optimism.



Bless the beasts and the children

Bd: 19
 Dir: South
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ K98753
 ♥ 1042
 ♦ 9
 ♣ AQ10

West
 ♠ J
 ♥ AQ8
 ♦ J6543
 ♣ J953

East
 ♠ A10642
 ♥ 753
 ♦ K7
 ♣ 872

South
 ♠ Q
 ♥ KJ96
 ♦ AQ1082
 ♣ K64

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Both tables played 2♠, a contract that East might have had hopes of defeating. The bad trump break meant that the defense had two hearts and two trump tricks and declarer's play for the overtrick would require him to neutralize the ♠6. Isporski found a way to promote that card for the defense, Jacobs avoided doing so and Oz Players had an imp to trail 8-7.

In Indonesia-NEDUK Bakhshi opened the South hand 1NT and Gold transferred to 4♠, the sort of thing you deserve to have happen to you when you open 1NT with a singleton. Down one, and the running score was 11-4 for NEDUK.

Three pairs found a way to make 3NT on the N/S cards; one North brought home 4♠ (no mean feat). Congratulations to Noriko Akira.



"Who are you... and what have you done with my partner?"

Bd: 20
 Dir: West
 Vul: Both

North
 ♠ J754
 ♥ 62
 ♦ Q1073
 ♣ KQ9

West
 ♠ K1096
 ♥ 53
 ♦ K65
 ♣ 8432

East
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ AJ74
 ♦ AJ82
 ♣ AJ10

South
 ♠ A82
 ♥ KQ1098
 ♦ 94
 ♣ 765

Open/Closed Rooms

West	North	East	South
<i>Mullamphy Isporski</i>	<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass

On what appeared to be one of the less dramatic deals of the event both Easts opened 1NT and ducked the top heart lead. Kovachev gave up the eighth trick at once by leading back a heart. Thompson shifted to diamonds and set up that suit for declarer. Plus 120 for East; no swing.

Murniati, however opened the East cards a strong club and got to 2NT. After a top heart lead, ducked, and a shift to the ♦9 which went around to the jack, Murniati advanced the ♠Q. Bakhshi ducked smoothly so declarer misguessed and when a second heart came back declarer was dead. Well defended. 5 imps to NEDUK, leading 16-4.

Bd: 21
 Dir: North
 Vul: N/S

North
 ♠ 832
 ♥ AK1076
 ♦ A742
 ♣ 3

West
 ♠ 74
 ♥ QJ83
 ♦ K85
 ♣ Q974

East
 ♠ AKJ10
 ♥ 952
 ♦ Q9
 ♣ J1062

South
 ♠ Q965
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J1063
 ♣ AK85

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mullamphy Isporski</i>		<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1NT	1♥	1♠	Pass
All Pass	Pass	Pass	Dbl

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
	2♥(1)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Klinger's overcall got Mullamphy to an inelegant spot. Had Isporski led a diamond declarer would surely have been held to five tricks but on a spade lead declarer won and set about clubs. When North pitched a diamond on the second round South played a heart through. It was still not too late for a diamond play but Isporski pressed on with spades. Mullamphy finessed and managed to take three spades, two clubs and a diamond and escape for down one. Since the spade ruff got away against 3♦ (East led a top spade but could not read the count in that suit) declarer played a cross-ruff and lost just two trumps and two spades. No swing; still 8-7 for All Stars.

Plus 110 was the commonest N/S result here, since even if the defenders take their spade ruff declarer can split out the remaining diamonds.

Bd: 22	North
Dir: East	♠ K1095
Vul: E/W	♥ J73
	♦ K972
	♣ 105

West	East
♠ A832	♠ QJ64
♥ 1092	♥ KQ64
♦ A108	♦ 43
♣ Q94	♣ AJ7
South	
♠ 7	
♥ A85	
♦ QJ65	
♣ K8632	

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
		1♦	2♣
Dbl	Pass	2♥	All Pass

For those of you who find Ben Thompson's two-level overcall as repulsive as I do, it should be pointed out that had he not bid he was going to be defending 2♠, not 2♥, and that therefore the overcall gained 5 imps. All well and good, but I'd rather be right than

president. And when you get to the Pearly gates and Saint Peter opens the book to present you with a list of your bridge sins, do you really want to have to mount the defense of "Well, it worked *this time*"?

Despite the 4-1 trump break 2♠ came home after a diamond lead when Klinger led up to his ♠QJ rather than running the ten from hand. He gave up a trick to the ♣K and in the end lost one trick in each side-suit and two trumps. 2♥ on a spade lead saw Jacobs win the king and shift to a club. Declarer had to lose one natural trick in each suit and two ruffs. 5 imps to Oz Players, now leading 12-8.

Bd: 23	North
Dir: South	♠ J863
Vul: Both	♥ J
	♦ J10976
	♣ J42

West	East
♠ 42	♠ AK
♥ A10843	♥ Q7652
♦ AK8	♦ Q32
♣ KQ8	♣ 1065

South
♠ Q10975
♥ K9
♦ 54
♣ A973

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
1♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The Klinger-Mullamphy auction featured a transfer, a transfer break, a re-transfer, an acceptance, and game. The Bulgarian auction presumably saw East show a balanced intermediate hand with hearts. Whether or not that was so, West's jump to 4♥ suggests it cannot be far from that meaning.

Both Norths led the ♦J against 4♥, after which it looks normal to safety-play hearts by leading to the ten. Mullamphy laid down the ♥A at trick two and was not punished, though he did misguess clubs when South got in with the ♥K and led a low one. One imp to All Stars, down 12-9.

Only two pairs climbed to slam missing two key-cards; neither of them guessed the trump position.

Bd: 24
 Dir: West
 Vul: None

North
 ♠ J853
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ A43
 ♣ QJ86

West
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 9762
 ♦ KQ7
 ♣ A10753

East
 ♠ AK1074
 ♥ 1054
 ♦ 9862
 ♣ 4

South
 ♠ 962
 ♥ AKJ8
 ♦ J105
 ♣ K92

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mullamphy Isporski</i>		<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

One of your Editors is old enough to remember a day when it was normal to pass the West hand. The other Editor is old enough to remember the days when it was normal to pass both the East and the West hands. Yes, I know what you are saying: We don't look our ages. Neither of us would be quite old enough to remember the days when South would pass *his* hand.

Be that as it may, Mullamphy reached 1NT and the defenders took four hearts three clubs and the ♦A after a spade lead. Iliev reached 2♣ on an auction I haven't seen for a long while, and he too went two down, losing the same tricks — but one fewer heart. Since N/S were destined to make 120 or so in 1NT the only thing gained from the deal was to make the Editors feel even more out of touch with reality than they did before.

Bd: 25
 Dir: North
 Vul: E/W

North
 ♠ 7654
 ♥ AQ964
 ♦ K
 ♣ J65

West
 ♠ QJ8
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A732
 ♣ KQ743

East
 ♠ K
 ♥ KJ875
 ♦ 109865
 ♣ A8

South
 ♠ A10932
 ♥ 32
 ♦ QJ4
 ♣ 1092

Open Room

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

All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
	Pass	1♥	1♠
3NT	4♠	Dbl	All Pass

If the Editors didn't feel as if they were out of touch in the modern world already, the indelicacy of the auction from the Open Room (East's opening bid being the least of our concerns) would make us feel like a visitor from outer space. That 1♠ overcall; that 3NT bid. Sam Lev would be proud. And of course +500 was a very nice reward, though as Iliev would point out 3NT was going to make with the clubs breaking if declarer guessed to play a heart before testing diamonds. The defenders led a heart against 4♠ but when declarer played a trump to the ace and a diamond up West erred by winning and playing a top club, not a small one. Now the clubs blocked and declarer escaped for -500.

In the Open Room it could be argued that Mullamphy maybe overdid the delicacy a little, though in his defense it is hard to see nine tricks materializing facing a minimum opening bid and a singleton spade. Plus 150 from 3♠ still cost Oz Players 8 imps and they now trailed 12-17.

On this deal (after Gold had opened the North hand) Murniati played 4♦x, losing two aces and two trump tricks for -200. Not a great result, but there again van Prooijen played 5♦ as East after having shown the red suits. Tueje led a club. Declarer played three rounds of the suit to discard his spade, then led a heart to North's ace. He ruffed the spade return and advanced the ten, and when South split her honors he had a miraculous 600 and 13 imps to lead 35-9.

Only four pairs made 3NT here. It is a tough hand to guess out and the percentages surely favor playing on diamonds.



"Now, would you like to see my angry face?"

Bd: 26
 Dir: East
 Vul: Both

West
 ♠ A732
 ♥ 106
 ♦ 107543
 ♣ Q5

North
 ♠ J965
 ♥ AJ987
 ♦ ---
 ♣ J972

East
 ♠ KQ84
 ♥ K43
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ AK64

South
 ♠ 10
 ♥ Q52
 ♦ KQ9862
 ♣ 1083

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
		1♣	2♦
DbI	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

After Kovachev's lead of the ♦K (North pitching an encouraging heart) Klinger won and cashed the ♠K, then three top clubs discarding a heart from dummy, and exited with the ♦J. Kovachev led a heart to his partner's ace but the defenders now had just one trump trick to come.

After the same lead Hristov won and cashed the ♠KQ, then exited with a diamond, North letting go a club. Had Jacobs not discarded a club, and won a heart to play a third trump, declarer still had just enough firepower, thanks to the ♦10 in dummy. But it's a closer run thing.

The spade game made at all but six tables.

Bd: 27
 Dir: South
 Vul: None

West
 ♠ 864
 ♥ J6
 ♦ A943
 ♣ A943

North
 ♠ J52
 ♥ KQ853
 ♦ 65
 ♣ J75

East
 ♠ Q93
 ♥ A1092
 ♦ QJ1072
 ♣ 8

South
 ♠ AK107
 ♥ 74
 ♦ K8
 ♣ KQ1062

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mullamphy Isporski</i>		<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
Pass	1♦(♥)	DbI(♦)	1♣
2♦	Pass	Pass	DbI
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♦(♥)	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

A sharp contrast in aggression between the actions by the two Easts. Against 2♣ the defenders led hearts and took their two diamond tricks and the ♣A later on. But with spades behaving that was it. By contrast, 3♦ handled like a dream. With trumps lying in such friendly fashion and the heart honors inside Klinger wrapped up 10 tricks and gave his team back the lead at 18-17.

It is delightful to see that so many people opened the South cards 1NT and ended up down 50 in 2♥. If that isn't justice, poetic or otherwise, I don't know what is. Mind you, the pair (Yang and Zhuang) who played 3NT as N/S on a spade lead, then knocked out the ♣A and got a diamond shift probably aren't talking too much about justice right now.

Bd: 28
 Dir: West
 Vul: N/S

West
 ♠ A62
 ♥ J52
 ♦ K107
 ♣ 10972

North
 ♠ Q95
 ♥ A1063
 ♦ 86
 ♣ A854

East
 ♠ 8743
 ♥ K87
 ♦ AJ54
 ♣ J6

South
 ♠ KJ10
 ♥ Q94
 ♦ Q932
 ♣ KQ3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mullamphy Isporski</i>		<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT

Kovachev's decision to pass out the aceless South hand is interesting. Admittedly he was facing a light

opener, albeit one at unfavorable vulnerability. One Editor would pass as South, the other would always open here because the opponents have not acted at favorable colors while partner might have had a close hand which he deemed not worthy of an opening. The bottom line was that 1NT made +120 when declarer guessed hearts, and added 3 imps to the lead; 21-17.

Almost every pair played a small partscore for N/S making around +110 or +120.

Bd: 29 North
 Dir: North ♠ J73
 Vul: Both ♥ A2
 ♦ K54
 ♣ KJ1094

West
 ♠ AQ942
 ♥ KQJ105
 ♦ ---
 ♣ A86

East
 ♠ K105
 ♥ 7
 ♦ Q9763
 ♣ Q752

South
 ♠ 86
 ♥ 98643
 ♦ AJ1082
 ♣ 3

Open Room

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Iliev</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Hristov</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

In the Open Room there was apparently some confusion as to the two suits West showed — or was supposed to show. They finished in a sensible enough strain but had missed an excellent game. After a club lead from South Klinger went up with the ♣A and held his losses to two clubs and a heart.

Iliev's decision to stay silent meant that he could collect vulnerable undertricks against 2♥. Had East led a spade declarer would not have done at all well. But a diamond lead set up declarer's side suit and reduced West's trumps, and the defenders had to settle for +200 and an imp. The final score was 21-18, enough for both teams to go through — and to meet again in the quarter-finals.

Game was bid and made at virtually every other table but Verhees-van Prooijen also missed game to make the final margin a 19-11 win for NEDUK. That eliminated the Syabas team, who it turns out had needed 4 more VPs to make it through.



"So I threw him an uppercut and said, "That'll teach you to psych against me!"

17th NEC Bridge Festival Daily Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
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